

Report on the Ketton History Group Meeting on 10 July 2018

There was lively discussion on a number of topics beginning with District Nursing in our area. For much of the 20th Century, district nurses were usually unmarried women who lived in nurses' homes provided by local nursing associations all over the country.



In earlier years these were usually converted houses, varying in size according to the financial resources of different areas and number of nurses that had to be accommodated. In rural areas were usually small cottages. However, in the 1930s, district nursing associations began to build modern bespoke nurses' homes, designed for comfort, space and clinical needs. This trend was taken up again after the War. In the Queen's Nurses Magazine of March 1950, an article written with the help of an anonymous member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, described a model nurses' home. The design given was a 'single cottage capable of accommodating one or two nurses, with a relief nurse occasionally.

Memories were shared of the work of District Nurses in Ketton.

This was followed by discussion and memories of old houses in the village which were previously used for business e.g. the old fish and chip shop and the greengrocers at the top of Bull Lane, former public houses – the Stamford Arms, the Exeter Arms and the White Hart.

A number of other topics were raised which will be of use in subsequent KHG meetings, e.g. the impact of the Molesworth family on the village, Arthur Capendale and other families who had lived in the village over the centuries. There is useful information on this topic on the Ketton History website. David Naylor said that the Ketton Burial Records (held in the Parish Office) were helpful in tracing previous residents of the village. The initial transcription onto an excel spreadsheet of burial plots is almost complete. Much further work is needed to include all data e.g. age at death and date of death.

The final topic was discussion on how to gather oral histories of the village and it was agreed that a ready source was the discussion which took place at the KHG meetings. It was decided that KHG future meetings would be recorded to capture this information.

The next Meeting is at 7.00 pm 13 Aug 2018 at the Parish Office.

Meetings for the remainder of the year are on 11 Sep, 9 Oct, 12 Nov 2018.