

Ketton History Group Meeting 8 August 2019

This month's subject was a continuation of the education theme discussed in the 11 July meeting. We discussed Ragged Schools.

The beginnings of these schools is attributed to John Pounds. He was a Portsmouth shoemaker, originally a shipwright he became crippled as a result of falling into the dry dock and was forced to take up other employment. His shop was in the poorer district of Portsmouth and he actively recruited poor children from the streets. These children had no education other than that which John Pound's delivered. He walked the streets and quays of Portsmouth and recruited the children sometimes using bribery of food and clothes. Many of the children were homeless and would sleep on the floor of the shop, it wasn't long before Pounds had a class of 40. Apart from teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, he also gave lessons in cookery, carpentry and shoemaking.

Charles Dickens visited a ragged school in London in 1843 and it inspired him to write a Christmas Carol, initially he was going to write a pamphlet about the schools, but soon realised that a story would have more impact. Lord Shaftesbury took up the cause of the ragged schools and became chairman for 39 years, this most certainly would have helped bring the funds to assist in the running of these establishments.

Many schools could claim to be of the ragged variety it is possible that Ketton may have had it's own, described as a Dame School, they were aimed largely at the poor working class group of children who did not have the means to pay for education. Gradually these schools were absorbed into the emerging elementary education services provided by the National Society

Meetings for 2019

Meetings are planned for 12 Sept, 10 Oct, 14 Nov 2019. All meetings will be in the Parish Office starting and 7pm.