

Ketton History Group Meeting 10th October 2019

Following on from last meeting's discussion on archives we have been gifted an archive which was found in an attic in a dwelling on The Green, possibly 13. After discussion it was thought that it may have belonged to a previous owner, Jack Greetham, who was known for his extensive knowledge of the village.

John Collier presented an auction document dated 1919. The sales were conducted by Daltons who are now part of Chatterton's. Information on the owners of the land that was sold was not in the document and Vic Henry undertook to enquire at Chatterton's to see if he could find further information. It was thought that it may have been Lord Northwick's land subsequently inherited by Capt. E.G.S. Churchill, grandson of Lady Northwick through a former marriage. It was interesting that the auction took place after the end of WW1, at a time when a number of the farms' tenancies were coming up for renewal.

The information was specific in the land and buildings, but the name of the owner and location was not always included in the document. It was interesting that Charles Burroughes had bought Redmiles Farm for £2,000, and Aldgate Farm for £6,625. Discussion on farms and other facilities raised the question of how many slaughter houses were there in the village, and it was agreed that there were three, located at Empingham Road, Burbidges, and Geeston.

The discussion then moved on to the Parish and the Parish Council which was first established in 1894. The records show that there were 90 villagers at the meeting and 13 Councillors were elected. Some of those who were elected were prominent in the village and have streets etc. named after them.

The village held many events each year including fetes with extra celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. Newspaper records of many fetes and other activities are on the Ketton Village History website.

Parish Council activities over the last decades of importance to the village were discussed including village twinning, development of an arboretum, restocking Ketton School library, reviving Ketton Feast and traffic calming. It was noted with regret that very few had progressed to completion. In particular the stones at the entrances to the village were discussed. These were erected to celebrate the Millennium and were to have scenes/words celebrating aspects of the village. Eventually they were all the same design showing the Ketton Snowdrop.

The final discussion was on the Ketton Snowdrop, now recorded on the RHS website as *Galanthus 'Ketton'*. Apparently it was discovered by accident by the celebrated gardener Mr A.E Bowles (1965–1954) in the garden of a friend who corresponded with him and invited him to visit and view his garden.

Meetings for 2019

The final meeting for 2019 will be on 14 Nov 2019 in the Parish Office starting and 7pm. Meetings will resume in early 2020.