

VILLAGE HISTORY LESSON PART 11

In the 19th century we move into times which seem much more familiar. Roads were largely metalled or paved, the train arrived in 1849 (making it possible to walk or ride to Pannal for work elsewhere), mail was delivered, and the school was extensively refurbished in 1870. Surprisingly the telephone did not come to the village till 1922 when telephone number Kirkby Overblow 1 was allocated to Mr Towers at the post office. Also piped water and sewage did not appear until after the first World War and before then reliance was placed on the many wells in the village.

However, at the start of the 19th century the Vestry Meeting looked after less familiar matters in the Parish. One notes that the Overseer of the Poor paid 6d for the bleeding of Mr Marshall (to what effect we are not told), and Mr Steel was given a full bottle of gin in 1810 “medicine having failed.” But all was not compassion because Widow Matthews although receiving her weekly relief was refused payment of the Doctor’s bill. Then “Vestry Clerk to write to Mrs Stables saying unless she contributes to the maintenance of her daughter in the Lunatic Asylum the Overseer will remove her to the Workhouse.”

In 1868 the compulsory church tithe was abolished. Various Local Government Acts created Sanitary Districts with a Medical Officer and an Inspector of Nuisances, partly responding to the discovery of the source of cholera in infected drinking water. In 1888 County Councils were created, then Urban and District Councils and finally Parish Councils in 1894. The first meeting of the Kirkby Overblow Parish Council took place in May 1895 when a clerk was appointed at a stipend of £12 a year, somewhat cheaper than at present.

In the minutes of the Parish Council we see items such as complaints about “the nuisance caused by persons leaving the public houses after dark,” a refusal by Mr Myers to pay eatage (the right to harvest hay from the grass verges) – a contrast to to-day when we have to pay for the verges to be cut. Then a major decision was taken in 1907 to install five paraffin lamps for

lighting in the village (a lamplighter was appointed at 3s 6d a week) and a row in 1914 when Councillor Metcalfe made an oral application to take over an allotment, having already started to use it!

Next time: Wars.

Part 11 quiz question: where can you find a memory of the coronation of Edward VIII?

Part 10 quiz question: where did you go to get your shoes repaired? Answer: to the cobblers shop which used to be located behind where the Gisbornes live.