

Some Knapton Buildings

A considerable number of new buildings have appeared during the last half century but the planning laws have ensured that such have been sympathetically designed.

The Methodist Chapel began life as a Baptist Meeting House. After careful restoration and development it still provides a homely and attractive place for worship.

The Church of St Peter and Paul is one of the oldest buildings within the village and is a popular tourist attraction. The building dates primarily from the 14th century; its fine double hammer beam roof, adorned with tiers of angels from the 16th century, and the Greek palindrome inscribed font cover from the 18th century.

In his monumental series of books entitled "The Buildings of England", Sir Nikolaus Pevsner chose to describe three Knapton buildings: Knapton House, Knapton Hall and Knapton Old Hall.

Knapton House and Knapton Hall were both constructed in the early 19th century and have distinctive features of the Regency period. Both properties were built and lived in by the Robinson family who, over the years, played a great part in the lives of many of the villagers. Constance Robinson was the granddaughter of Sir Henry Robinson (Sword Carrier to Queen Victoria) and a number of local families had cause to remember her kindness and largesse.

The Old Hall has parts dating from the late 16th century but has, surprisingly, been extended and altered over the subsequent centuries!

There is an attractive cottage in the centre of the village which bears the initials A.W. and the date 1805: the year of the famous Battle of Trafalgar. This building was the local Post Office for many years during the 20th century.

Knapton School closed its gates almost 30 years past but in 2007 a memorable book was produced entitled "Knapton Remembered", edited by a notable daughter of Knapton, Baroness Gilliam Shepherd. It consists of a collection of evocative memories written by many of the former pupils who attended the school during the 1930's-60's, under the remarkable headship of Mrs Kathleen Johnson.

The population of the village in 2009 is still around the same number as it was in the mid 19th century but these are now, thankfully, distributed amongst a greater number of homes! There are fewer children but they still contribute a reasonable percentage of the population.

In common with many rural villages, the railway station, shops et al, have disappeared. However, the church, chapel and village hall still provide a focal point for the various village based activities, groups and societies. Thus the village continues to retain an essence of its traditional community spirit. Whether you have spent your life in Knapton or have been fortunate enough to discover the village later and make it your home, there is little doubt that it is a marvellous place to live.