

Whilton Local History Society

THE LOST VILLAGE OF THRUPP

At our meeting on 17th May, the speaker was Jackie Hibbert from Welton. She told us about Thrupp, which was once between Norton and Long Buckby. It was a thriving community with a water mill and windmill, a chantry chapel, several farms with cottages, a manor house and a grange for grain storage. The building of the grange was unpopular because it took some of the common field land, and even more so when it was enclosed by a stone wall. The villagers knocked this down at night, but were eventually forced to rebuild it. There were many tales of the inhabitants of Thrupp, and of the important landholders there, including the Prior of Daventry. In the 15th century there were complaints about the Prior and his monks due to their ineffective management and inappropriate behaviour. When the Priory was finally dissolved there were only five monks left.

By 1489 Thrupp had passed into the hands of Sir Richard Knightley, who held large estates around, including Fawsley, Everdon and Norton. In that year most of Thrupp disappeared. An inquiry 30 years later recorded that the inhabitants left in tears. They may have been sad, but in fact every family was either re-housed or compensated. Most went to Norton or other parts of Sir Richard's estates. A few stayed on for a year or two in the Manor House and the Grange, but then the village was abandoned for sheep. There is nothing to see there today.