

DID YOU KNOW?

Prebendary Mallett is executed (1542)

James Mallett was a senior cleric who had a grand house next to the church. In 1542 he was a chaplain to Queen Catherine when Henry VIII declared that the Pope had no jurisdiction in England.

Prebendary Mallett was heard to say 'Then has the King brought his hogs to a fair market'. This was seen as treason, and he was executed.

A Celebration on Empingham Heath (1794)

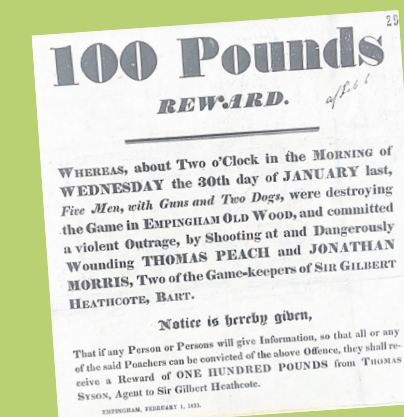
To celebrate the coming of age of the third Sir Gilbert Heathcote, an encampment was made on Empingham Heath with a pavilion for the ladies and booths to shelter 3000 people. In all, six oxen, 30 sheep, 8 wagon loads of bread and 40 butts of wine, punch and old ale were consumed.

The high moment was when a cavalcade was seen riding out from Empingham, with the troops of the Rutland Yeomanry out in force. The event included sports, followed by fireworks and a great bonfire.

Poacher hanged (1833)

On 9th January 1833, five young men from Easton-on-the-Hill were seen by game keepers in Empingham Wood. In the fight that followed, a keeper was wounded by a shot gun.

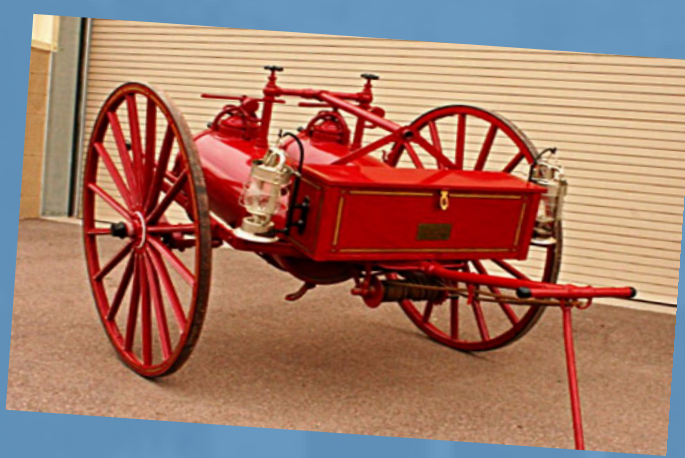
At the subsequent trial, two men turned King's evidence, a man called Perkins was hanged at Oakham and his two brothers transported for life.



The Fire Engine (1817)

In 1817 it was considered that there was a risk of a major fire because of the number of thatched houses. An 'engine' was bought from a London firm – just a hand cart with a steam pump, 2 hoses and a collection of leather and canvas buckets. In 1904 Lord An-caster gave half of the £80 cost of a new engine.

Despite being made ready in 1916 because of Zeppelin raids, the only time it was used was to put out a fire in Mr Weed's stack yard in 1914.



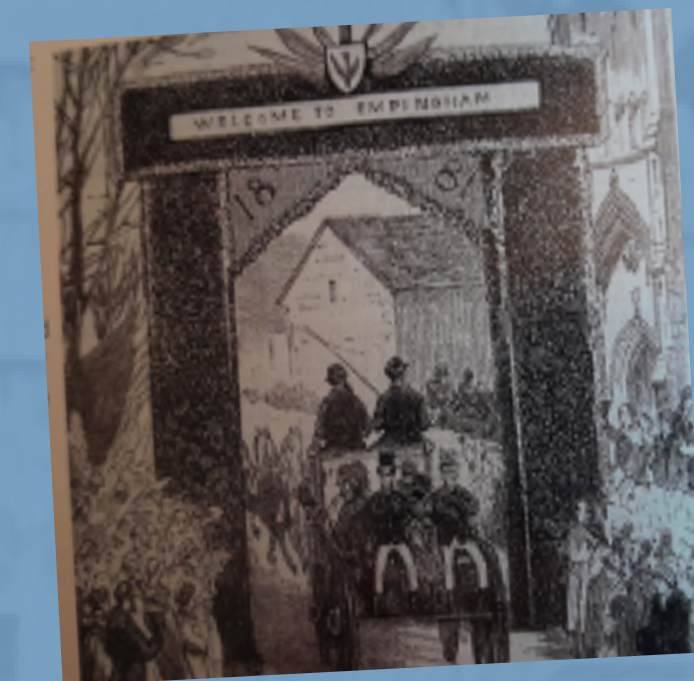
The Rector and the Bell Ringers (1843)

The Reverend Thomas Lovick Cooper was Rector of Empingham from 1831 until he died in 1892.

In 1843 he refused permission for the bells to be rung for the wedding of the sister of Sir Gilbert Heathcote's steward Mr Syson. That evening the bell ringers broke into the church and 'rang a merry peal', locking the door. The Rev Cooper 'stormed and raved' and was eventually let in, only for the ringers to slip out and lock him in. When eventually released they pursued him to the Rectory with a shower of missiles. The Leicester Mercury reported that 'a night of such lax order was never before known in the respectable village of Empingham'.

A visit from the Prince of Wales (1881)

On 11th January 1881 the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) passed through the village on his way to Normanton as a guest of Lord Aveland. The children were allowed out of school to cheer, and later villagers went up Exton Lane to where the Prince and Lord Aveland were shooting.



Building the Methodist Chapel (1899)

It took only four months from when the first stones were laid to the opening of the new Methodist Chapel on 30th November 1899, when this photograph was taken. Celebrations continued in the Audit Hall, with 500 attending several sittings.



Mrs Pugmore's memories of Gleaning (1900)

When harvest was complete, the gleaning bell would be rung to signify that the village women could pick up any spilled corn. 40 women would meet at the church, all laden with their lunch and large linen sheets. The oldest woman would be Mistress of Ceremonies, and lead the women to the field waving a flag. At the end of the day the women would gather up their sheets heaped with corn, returning home with them balanced on their heads. After threshing their corn with flails in a farmer's barn, a miller in the village would grind their corn for a shilling a bag. Mrs Pugmore said she could glean enough corn to keep her family of nine in bread all the year, as well as feed her pig in the winter.

An outing to Skegness (1904)

On 21st July, children from the Wesleyan Sunday School and Mr Wright's Bible Class joined members of the church choir and bell ringers for their annual outing to Skegness. Accompanied by the employees of Mr Healey, the total number for the trip was 150. The children were taken to Stamford station in brakes and wagonettes decorated with flags, and were provided with dinner and tea at the seaside, before returning home – arriving at Empingham at midnight after their exciting day out.



Murder in the Village

In 1446 John Basynges, the illegitimate son of Sir John Basynges was killed in Empingham Manor House by the Mackworths and their servants. They 'hacked him to pieces in his bed', to regain their 'rightful inheritance'. The manor passed down through several generations of the family, until the Mackworths were succeeded by the Heathcotes of Normanton Hall.

The Sunday roast

It was customary to take one's joint of meat in a baking tin and Yorkshire pudding mix in a jug to the bake house on Church Street. The baker would cook it in his bread oven, for which he charged one penny. Close to the wall of Corner Cottage at the top of Church Street is a large stone on which people would rest their Sunday roast after climbing the hill on the way home.

Kitty Kirby remembers her gooseberry pie falling off the stone, but she says she quickly scooped it back into the tin.

Did you know that a tornado came through the village in 1957? It picked up a caravan with its occupants, and a large summerhouse from The Firs and dumped it on the A606. It also tore down a conker tree and stripped all the slates off the roof of the dovecote.

