

Notes on Rampton

In the Local Studies section of Retford Library in a locked glass cabinet is a hardback book titled "Notes on Rampton" it is a bound photocopy of notes written and made by a researcher between 1917 and 1919 about Rampton, its past, its places and its people. There is no note to say who the author was.

The following is an extract from this book. *Italics* is additional info added in 2018 from the records of the Parish Council.

Pinder

On 16th June 1407 John Del More was pardoned for the death of William De Grymesty, Pinder of Rampton, on the plea that he killed him in self-defence. The Pinder is not quite obsolete in Rampton, it is endowed by the rent of a meadow described in the Enclosure Award as one piece of land on Moorpool Furlong in the Marsh Meadow, No105 containing 2 Acres. *This is 2 acres of the Parish Council land at the location of the former quarry mining works on Torksey Ferry Road.* The Pinder is elected triennially at the Easter Parish Meeting, and the amount of rent received for the field is annually voted to some parochial purpose. *Rent is now received annually and is used to run the Parish Council along with the other rents and precept received.*

Since the 'enclosure' of open and common arable fields, meadows and pasture lands, this official has almost ceased to exist, but in former times he was an important person in the parish. He was the keeper of the animals in the Great Marsh Meadow, he knew by using his brain every one, young and old, and who was the owner. He was able to spot a stranger who had come in, or broke in, he would at once run it down into the Pinfold, assuming someone had left a gate open, or it had wandered in from some other manor. The Pinder would feed the animal and debit the food to the owner, who, when found, would have to pay the Pinder's fine to liberate his locked-up animal. If the owner could not be found then the 'Bellman, the Town Crier' would be made use of, a given time for redemption would be allowed, and, when that expired, the animal would become the property of the lord of the manor, or be sold on his account.

The Parish Vestry Book contains an entry of a resolution, passed at a meeting held 24th December 1824, headed 'The Pounding of Sheep': It was agreed upon that whoever shall trespass with sheep or other cattle upon different fields in the Lordship of Rampton after the customary time of taking off shall have such sheep pounded and if the said person shall go to law respecting such sheep, we the undersigned do combine together to defend the same and to stand by such expenses as shall be incurred by the trespass of the same. The fields shall be cleared on Old Martinmas Day'.

Notes from Parish Council Minutes: 16/04/1906 Annual Parish Meeting Pinders Field to be let on the following terms, if mown, 10 tons of ground bone to be given or 10 tons of rotten manure to be a yearly tenancy, to expire by giving 6 months' notice either way on any 6th Apr for £4-2-6 to Mr G Fisher.

20/04/1908 Annual Parish Meeting – It was proposed by Mr Fletcher and seconded by Mr Milner that the money from the rent of the Pinders field from Michaelmas 1905 to Apr 6th 1908 be devoted (if necessary) to the Churchyard Extension fund. Carried.

11/10/1910 Annual Parish Meeting it was proposed by Mr Baker and Seconded by Mr Hill that a bier (a movable frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed before burial or on which they are carried to the grave.) be bought for £12-15-0 for the use of the parishioners of Rampton out of the Pinders Money. Carried.

02/05/1956 "The clerk was instructed to arrange for 'the coronation seats to be oiled', the necessary payment to come from the Pinder field rent." The Coronation seats were installed following Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, and were sited at Woodbeck Crossroad, Treswell Road Bend, Retford Road Bend, Laneham Street and outside the Vicarage.

05/09/1983 It was agreed that the Estates Manager of Steetley Co be invited to address the meeting and explain his company's plans for further development at Rampton. He said that it would make economic sense from Steetley's point of view if the present workings could be extended. This would entail test boring and he would ask the Parish Council for permission to drill in the Pinder's field and in 8 acres of the Surveyor's (Parish Council) field. He was

informed that such consent could only be granted by the Parish Council. He is to make a final report for such permission." The agreement was made in 1987 and quarrying began in the Pinder field and Moorpool Charity field. In 2018 the Pinder field is now half of the pond that is the former quarry workings.

Regards the Pinfold:

27/05/1910 Annual Parish Meeting – Pinfold to be locked, proposed by Mr Wiswoud and seconded by Mr J Baker that the Pinder should cause the Pinfold gate to be locked at once. Carried. The clerk was also instructed to call a meeting of Landowners and occupiers, as given in schedule a of the Parish Award. To decide what shall be done with the Pinfold.

14/06/1910 Landowners and Occupiers meeting for property shown in schedule A of the Parish Award or their authorised agents to Determine whether the Pinfold should be sold, demolished or repaired. The three options 1) It was proposed by Mr J Quickfall seconded by Mr Mill that the Pinfold and its land be sold and demolished. Result 59 votes. 2) Proposed by Mr Fletcher and seconded by Mr Hoyland that the Pinfold be repaired 276 votes (this motion carried). 3) Proposed by Mr Olivant and seconded by Mr Bayes that only the Pinfold building be sold, result 76. Several gentlemen offered to provide carts to remove the rubbish accumulated near the Pinfold, and it was decided to take steps to prevent anymore from being deposited.

27/09/1955 Proposed by Mr Gray and sec by Mrs Minnitt that the Pinfold be let to Mr J Quickfall at a nominal rent of 1 shilling per year, on condition that he clear the site, demolish the surrounding brick wall and eventually fence the edge of the site. Agreed.

17/05/1982 Annual Parish Meeting Mr Jeffrey Rickells as Pinder, suggested that he was considering plans to restore the area of the Pinfold." Unfortunately, this never occurred. Rent was collected by the Parish Clerk annually from Mr Quickfall of 1 shilling a year which became 5p annual rent upon decimalisation in 1971. The rent was increased to 10p per annum in 1974 and was paid annually until 1980, a mention of 50p payment was made in the mid 1980's and since the death of Mr Quickfall the 151sq metres of the Pinfold Land has remained vacant.

Hospital Land Purchase

In 1908, when the land for Woodbeck Estate was purchased by the Government on which to erect an asylum for criminal lunatics, the tithe on the land was redeemed, and the amount of £155-4-8 invested by 'Queen Anne's Bounty', which brings in £4-13-2 per year.

Charities

Most of the Charity information is already held on file by the Parish Council website, however, the 'Notes on Rampton' book has the following additional comments to make:

On 1st Jan 1512, William Young of Retford bequeathed 'two quarters of malt to be dealt to the Rampton Poor Folk'.

Coles' Charity an extract of the will of Gervase Cole referring to Coles' Charity is inscribed on a board which hangs on the South Wall of the church tower. Dr Jessop ('The Coming of Friars, and other Historic Essays') says "those legacies which were left by kindly people a century ago, providing for weekly distributions of so many white loaves to the poor tell of a time when the poor man's loaf was as dark as mud, and as tough as shoe leather." The rent of Coles' field is now in 1917 £4-6/-, and seven loaves are distributed every Sunday Morning. *The distribution of the loaves at church ceased In WW2 when bread rationing began, in 1953 Mrs Minnitt, a Parish Councillor proposed and the Parish Council resolved that the purpose of the charity be changed to 'provide those in need with a little assistance'. In 2017 the charity was merged with Moorpool and St Thomas Day Charities, the rent of Coles' field in 2018 was £500.*

Town's Acre (Moorpool Charity) the acre of land was reduced to half an acre at the time of the Enclosure and was awarded in 1845 to 'the Churchwardens' in trust for charitable purposes. Rent is now 14 shillings per year in 1917 and since the Local Govt Act 1894, is in the hands of the two trustees appointed by the Parish Council. *In 2017 the charity was merged with Coles' and St Thomas Day Charities, rent in 2018 is £57.50 per year from Tarmac Ltd, this piece of land is located as part of the pond of the former quarry workings on Torksey Ferry Road.*

School Charity (*Diana Eyres' Educational Foundation*) For the teaching of 16 poor children of this parish land producing £4 per annum in 1786. A parcel of land containing 3.5 acres, in Rampton Marsh Meadow, which is stated as to be worth 30 shillings per year in the occupation of Joseph Twydell, who was appointed schoolmaster by the parishioners of Rampton at the May 1825 Vestry meeting. There are also three cow-gates on Rampton Common, which are let by the schoolmaster at a rent of 15 shillings each. At the time of the Inclosure Award the Cow-gates charity and the school charity were combined into one according to the research of H. Chadwick and the Inclosure Award stated 'unto the trustees of the Free School of Rampton one piece or parcel of land 6 acres on Moorpool Furlong in the Marsh Meadow no107.'

The Endowment of 10 free scholars, extracts from the original deed. In 1758, Diana Eyre of Mansfield Woodhouse, spinster, daughter of Anthony Eyre of Adwick-Upon-Street, Yorkshire, gave 3.5 acres, 'the rent of which is to be paid to a teacher half yearly to teach children to read distinctly and properly, and to write a fair and legible hand, and to account to at least as far as the four first operations in arithmetic and to sing the Psalm Tune and to teach and explain to the children the church catechism, and instruct them in the full use of the Common Prayer book and shall bring them to church on Sundays and Holy Days and teach them a proper and decent behaviour..... and shall be ready to catechise such among them as shall meet him in the Schoolhouse in Rampton aforesaid at proper times during the whole interval betwixt their leaving school and their being confirmed and that he shall instruct them in all moral and religious duties of life and endeavour to reform all such bad habits and irregularities as he shall at times observe in them as well as out of school as within.

The schoolmaster, on vacancy, to be appointed by Anthony Eyre or the owner of the Manor, the Vicar and churchwardens within two weeks of the death or displacing of every such schoolmaster. The Schoolmaster must be a man of religious life and conversation and one who shall frequent the Church of England, of good temper and character, sober and diligent, and not given to swearing and lying, and in all other respects of good moral and commendable behaviour.

Ten children to be nominated each year on Easter Monday not under 5 years of age... the poor always to be preferred... Parents to take care the children are clean washed every day and kept as neat as circumstances will allow.'

In the deed of Diana Eyre, the stipulation to sing 'the Psalm Tune', probably means the tune to the 'Venite', it being customary to read the psalms of the day.

Parish Council records and minutes:

On 24/08/1923 The Local Education Authority reformed the Trustees of Rampton Free School into the Diana Eyre's Educational Foundation, with the vicar, two church wardens and a member of the County Council + one other as trustees. This scheme directed assistance for 'boys' and girls' resident in the Parish of Rampton'. The Diana Eyre Educational Foundation was registered with the Charity Commission on 02/08/1963 with ref No 528195.

Meeting of 02/09/1985 No information had been received from Notts County Council about this charity. It was uncertain who received the money from the charity or how it was used. The field concerned was let to Mr E Quickfall. Mr Morris had recollections of help going to a pupil at Southwell Choir School and Mr J Quickfall of buying text books. He said he understood that since the charity was for education and was administered with Trustees.

On 03/05/1986 Rev Derek Duckworth, two Cllrs Jeff Rickles & John Franey met and discussed a scheme to be drawn up to review the terms of the trust. Discuss new trustees and modernise the trust. The funds of the charity were £1,400. At the time the trust received £120 rent from the land and six grants were made to six students. The treasurer was Mr T E Dodds.

A new agreement for the Trust was agreed and sealed with the Charity Commission on 13/03/1989. Key aspects of this are:

- *There shall be five Trustees (one Ex-Officio, Three Nominated and One Co-opted)*
- *The Ex-Officio is always the current benefice (Rev) of Rampton*
- *The Nominated Trustees shall be appointed by:*
 - *One by Rampton Parish Council*
 - *One by The Parochial Church Council of Rampton*
 - *One by Nottinghamshire County Council*

- *Each Nominated Trustee shall hold office for a term of 4 years*
- *Each Appointment shall be made at a meeting convened and held according to the practice of the council concerned.*
- *The Chair or Clerk shall notify the name of each person appointed to the Diana Eyre's trustees or their clerk.*
- *The appointed person may be, but need not be a member of the council concerned.*
- *The Co-opted Trustee shall be a person who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise has special knowledge of the Parish of Rampton*
- *The Co-opted Trustee shall hold office for a term of 5 Years.*
- *No person is entitled to act as a Trustee until after signing in the minute book of the Trustees a declaration of acceptance of office and of willingness to act in the trusts of the scheme.*
- *A person who is absent from all meetings for a period of 1 year, made bankrupt shall cease to be a trustee.*
- *The Trustees shall hold at least a minimum of 2 ordinary meetings per year.*
- *The quorum shall be a minimum of three Trustees at a meeting.*
- *The income of the Charity shall be applied in one or more of the following ways:*
 - *Promoting the education (inc social and physical) of persons aged under 25 years who are resident in the parish of Rampton and who are in need of financial assistance in awarding scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, maintenance allowances, grants tenable at any school, college, university or other institute of further education (inc Technical & Professional) approved by the Trustees.*
 - *In providing financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments or books to assist such persons to pursue their education, to undertake travel in furthermore thereof, or to prepare for or enter a profession or trade, occupation or service on leaving school, college or university.*
 - *In or providing for children resident in the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints, Rampton, instruction in the doctrines of the Church of England by means of Sunday School or otherwise;*
 - *In or towards providing for Rampton Primary School such special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the Local Education Authority as may from time to time be agreed between the Trustees and the Governors of the said school after consultation with the Local Education Authority.*
- *Schedule – Land containing 6 acres or thereabouts situate in the Marsh Meadow Moorpool Furlong* at Rampton currently (1989) let to Mr Edwyn Augustus Quickfall at a yearly rent of £120*

Easter Dues (Precept)

Before the dissolution of The Vestry when the Local Govt Act split created PCC's (Parochial Church Council's) and Parish Councils, there was still a precept. Before 1894 The Vestry did a similar role as that of PCC's and Parish Councils, after 1894 all non-religious matters were devolved to the Parish Council, and since that time the tax imposed on the people of the parish to pay for the services the Parish Council provides is known as a precept. However, there was still a precept before the Parish Council. When the Vestry ran both the religious and non-religious services in the parish, they collected each year the Easter Dues.

Commencing in Rampton in 1583 the Easter Dues were regarded as obligatory on the part of the parishioners of Rampton, each householder paid an offering known as the 'oblat' of tuppence per person attending church, 5d per house, and a small amount per animal or goods sold in the year. An example of the Easter Dues is recorded in 1777 for Rampton as follows:

- 1d foal, stopper and swarm of bees
- 2d for every communicant, lamb, sheep, per dozen of eggs and new born calf
- 5d per household
- 1 shilling per dove cote

Elizabeth Eyre's Agreement

On 9th April 1683, an agreement was made between Elizabeth Eyre and James Twist, Vicar of Rampton: 'That for the tithe of Kitchen garden and fruit, her offerings and ye offerings of her children and servants, she agree to pay ye sum of one pound yearly upon the 25th March, and covenanted to let the said Vicar have every year out of the kitchen garden two dishes of peas, two of beans, asparagus, carrots and cabbages and 1 dish of artichokes, for ye use of the Vicar's family, if ye said Mrs Eyre can spare them and do not want her own house use. This agreement made in the presence of Charles Wilford ye Butler and Gardener.'

Plowday Meeting (and other payments)

Every year until 1829 it was customary to hold on the 7th January the 'Plowday Meeting' in Rampton, at which 2 shillings and sixpence was allowed from parish funds for ale and a festive gathering in the school room, additionally the parish provided a shilling of coal and tuppence for candles; the bell ringers were paid sixpence for their ale for the year. Coals were then distributed amongst the poor of the parish by children.

Each year the parish paid 2 shillings and six pence salary for the service of 'whipping dogs out of the church' and a shilling a week for the cleaning out of the church. Every quarter various payments to parishioners for the killing of sparrows, fougarts (*pole cats*), weasels and the occasional fox.

Parish Music

The earliest record of any musical instrument in Rampton church, 'the major part of the inhabitants of Rampton assembled at Vestry on 30th day of June 1814, pursuant to a notice given at the school on Sunday last for the purpose of taking into consideration the proposal of purchasing a violincello for the purpose of the parish church during Divine Service, and do agree for the churchwardens to purchase a violincello for such purpose out of the church rates.'

In 1819 a barrel organ was purchased. On 30th Sep 1819 'it was unanimously resolved that as much inconvenience has been experienced in upholding a choir of singers for the church a keyed barrelled organ would be a great acquisition to the church for the support of singing therein. The meeting is desirous of having such an organ furnished to the said church and trusting that the proprietors and occupiers of Rampton will cheerfully contribute to the furtherance of the same and that a subscription be immediately open for that purpose.

The Barrel organ was replaced in 1871 with funds collected for a new Harmonium, costing £27, 'The Harmonium was opened by organist Mr Nicholls of Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield with all the choir of the church coming over for the day. Sermons were preached in the afternoon and evening by Rev A. Hardy and Rev H. Jubb with a public tea taking place in the afternoon under the avenue leading up to the school.' In 1902 the Harmonium was replaced with a new organ.

Parish Houses (Alms-houses or Council Houses)

'It was agreed at a public meeting on 18th May 1820 at Rampton the building of some new parish houses, in Rampton for the habitation of the poor, with the approbation and consent of Anthony Eyre, Lord of the Manor, two such houses should be built at the charges of the parish, on a piece of land on the Common or Waste near unto, and on the south of those houses currently inhabited by James Bingham and William Doncaster, and that the Overseers of the Poor do forthwith apply to the Lord of the Manor for such consent'.

According to the Vestry Book two cottages were built, a total of eight were eventually built, however, they were sold in 1871 '8th Dec 1871, in the school room, after discussion it was unanimously agreed by the meeting to dispose of the parish property. The meeting adjourned. On 14th Dec 1871 continuing the adjourned meeting, according to the resolution it was agreed that the parish property be sold, and that the sale by private contract, Col Eyre and Mr William Coulson offering to purchase the cottages adjoining their properties, and that Mr Denman and Mr Bamford be appointed as valuers for Col Eyre and for the Parish respectively'.

'14th June 1872 eight cottages with the land they are built on, and their gardens adjoining, situated on Common Hill, Rampton Green. That this meeting do consent to the Guardians of the Poor of East Retford Union, selling the premises described under the provisions of an Act passed in the sixth year of the Reign of his late Majesty, King William IV, 'an Act to facilitate the conveyance of Workhouses and other property of Parishes and of incorporations or unions of Parishes in England and Wales', in such rules, orders and regulations touching such sale, the conveyance of such property and the application of the produce arising thereof, for the permanent advantage of their parishes as the Poor Law Board shall in behalf direct.'

At the same meeting it was agreed that consent be given to Col Eyre possession of the houses and land belonging to the parish this 23rd day of Jan 1872 for the price of £145.' The Guardians of the Poor of East Retford Union invested the £145 in Government Inscribed Stock Consols which then paid a quarterly dividend to the Parish Council.

Parish Council minutes:

04/03/1896 – It was proposed by Mr Olivant and seconded by Mr Baker that a copy of the letter received from Mr Denman representing the sale of Rampton Parish Property be inserted into the Rampton Parish Council minute book. Agreed by all. Copy of the letter – Retford 14th Jan 1896 Dear Sir, Rampton Parish Council. In reply to your letter of 10th Jan 1896 asking on behalf of the Parish Council for information respecting the sale proceeds of Rampton Parish property in 1872 for the sum of £135.

1. The money was invested in the purchase of £145 15shilling if 3% (now 2.75%) Consols in the name of the Guardians of the Poor of the East Retford Union.
2. The dividends are credited to the Parish of Rampton every half year. See the half yearly statement of account which is forwarded to the overseers of Rampton Parish Council after every audit.

Yours Truly, Thomas William Denman.

28/03/1955 The certificate for the 2.5% consols held by the Council had been received and it was decided this should be kept in the parish safe.

Unfortunately, this decreased in value over the decades. By 1970 they were valued at only 25% of their original £145. The Parish Council receiving 18s 2d per quarter interest. In 1971 this changed at decimalisation to 91p per quarter, however, the dividend never increased so by 1992 it was still just 91p per quarter. The Parish Council voted to cash in the Govt Bond and £26 was received. It is a shame the investment in 1872 did not grow over instead of lost its value. Had it been potentially invested well it could have generated a huge income, it's a shame the cottages and land were not kept a little longer by the vestry, because they would have passed to the Parish Council in 1894.

Parish Lunatics

Usually lunatics were confined in goal or a House of Correction, however there was a case at Rampton. 'In 1690 Gervase Jackson was ordered to 'keep' his brother, a lunatic, by the Overseers of Rampton who made a quarterly payment to him.'

School

(became the Hostel, now village hall)

The original school stood within the Churchyard at the west end, close to the boundary wall. The structure may have dated back centuries to when the chantry priest taught Rampton boys. At a public meeting on 10th Jul 1850 it was resolved that the old schoolroom in the churchyard be pulled down and that the churchwardens shall dispose of the materials for the benefit of the parish. The building had become redundant when Rev C.W Eyre erected a new school, consisting of two apartments for boys and girls.

Up to 1889 the school was supported by the Eyre family at no cost to the parish. After that, a nominal rent of a shilling a year was paid to the owner of the Manor until the building was closed as the school in 1914 owing to the increase in population at Woodbeck, and the building being deemed inadequate by the Education Authority for a Day School. The County Council erected a new school on Retford Road with accommodation for up to 200 children to serve Rampton, Woodbeck, Stokeham and Treswell.

In 1913 the County Council purchased 0.75 Acres of Glebe land on which to erect a school; the purchase money, £68-15/-, was invested in South African stock at 4%. The Glebe in the parish now consists of around 74 acres.

The old school became known as the Hostel and by 1917 it is let by Lady Ellis for Sunday School and other purposes. Part of the former Manor Estate it was sold in 1927 to become the church hall. Scouts, Guides and Gym Classes started in the 1930's. The first renovation of the hall was in 1924 following a local fundraising event. In 1969 the Parish Council raised a precept of 4d per household that year for its next renovation. It became the village hall and was purchased by the Parish Council in 1995 and has since undergone continuous repairs and improvements

The Green

At the time of the Inclosure Award 1843, the green included a pond for public use, by 1917 this has disappeared and part of the green has become the vicarage garden. *The rest of the green has been lost due to homes being built on it, the green was where all the homes on Greenside/Retford Road are located such as Redlands, where the vicarage garden once stood.*

The Ferry (*Rampton Wharf*)

The Inclosure Award states 'one piece of land on Trent Scarth Furlong in the Marsh Meadow, no112, containing 2 roods (*0.5 acres*) bounded on the east, west and north by no111, and towards the south by the River Trent. And I do declare that the said allotment, no112, is so set out and awarded to the Surveyor of the Highways for the use and purpose of a private landing place or wharf to the River Trent for the parishioners of Rampton... And I do direct that the said private landing place or wharf shall be subject to the control and management of the Surveyor of the Highways for the time being who shall be bound and liable to keep the same in proper order and repair and have full power and authority to regulate the proper use thereof by the said parishioners.'

The ferry was probably originally opposite the Town of Torksey. The greater part of what is now Torksey Ferry Road was made at the time of the Inclosure Award, the course of the old road originally wended round the South and the East sides of Fleetwood (*Fleet Plantation*). The ferry in olden times was of great importance to the inhabitants of Rampton, it brought to them communication with the more important town of Torksey, which in the middle ages, being in Saxon times, was the third largest town in Lincolnshire. *Records at the County Council state that at the same time, Rampton had also been a town, and remained so until the black death reduced the population to that of a small village.*

Since the time of Domesday, the right of owning the ferry was in the hands of the landowners, and in the case of Rampton and Torksey, different owners operated each side. Cannon Cole in his history of Torksey writes some interesting particulars regarding the ferry in the Reign of Henry III around the year 1260. He says. 'the profits of the passage across the Trent belonged to the Lordship of Torksey, the lord provided the ferryboat and the ferryman, received the ferry hire of 1 penny per crossing and half pence per horse, a farthing per foot passenger. The passengers had the right to a reasonable road for walking, riding and carrying their goods after landing.

The inhabitants of Torksey were free from this toll, and if they had a cart or goods to take across, they were bound to find a man to help the boatman. In lieu of this obligation the prior paid 4 pence, yearly, at Michaelmas. The Lord of Rampton was also entitled to free passage for himself and his household whenever he wanted his fee; the parson of Rampton and the two lords of Treswell had the same privilege of payment of half a quarter of barley per year. However, the parson of South Leverton, in return for free passage to his grange at Leverton, of himself or someone in his place, with a cart and 4 horses and men to help him, had to give the lord a load of barley, as much as his cart would carry. The parsons having land or tenements at Rampton, Treswell, South and North Leverton, Cotes and Fenton were bound to give the lord for their passage two thraves (a thrave was 24 sheaves) of wheat or barley at Michaelmas according to the size of their holdings, with each servant paying a penny.

This corn the lord was collecting with his own men and cards before Michaelmas, and if anyone was in arrears or refused to pay, the bailiff might seize anything in the keel or ferryboat belonging to the village in default, until satisfaction was made to the lord. At times when the Trent was in flood the keel and other boats could land passengers and goods from Torksey, Cotes, Cottam and Rampton; and on such occasions the boatman might make their own bargains, both those who came under these customs and with strangers. Any boats, however, which brought anyone or anything from Cottam, Rampton, Cotes or Torksey had to pay half their profits to the lord, and they could not carry anything back to the west side without his licence.'

Parish Council minutes: *12/04/1909 Annual Parish Meeting – Proposed by Mr Ellis and seconded by Mr Carey that the Surveyor of Roads and Drains erects the following notice on the Wharf – Notice – This Wharf is the property of the Parishioners of Rampton. No other person is entitled to use it except on payment to the Surveyor of Roads and Drains of the Parish of Rampton, of one shilling per ton, on any material or goods landed at the Wharf – This charge covers the cost of the use of the road leading thereto. Carried. Proposed by Mr Ellis and sec by Mr J Quickfall that the charges on the gravel, led by Colonel Morgan from the Wharf, be left to the Surveyor of Roads and Drains and Chair, to be arranged by them as they think best. Carried.*

04/05/1911 Annual Parish Meeting – It was proposed by Mr Bracket seconded by Mr Reid that the Wharf is the private property of Rampton Parishioners and it is to be used free of charge only for materials to be used within the parish. For any other person using it shall pay in advance a charge of 1 shilling per ton landed to the Surveyor of Roads and Drains of the Parish of Rampton on any materials or goods landed at the Wharf. This charge covers the use of the Road Leading thereto. Carried.

In 2018 Rampton Wharf is currently let to Ashfield Angling Club for a rent of £550 per year, the angling club carries our grounds maintenance of the Wharf, the club have installed a public access walkway gap in the fence to allow members of the public recreational access, the Canals and Rivers Trust kindly donated funds for a public bench at the Wharf which the angling club installed in 2018 for public enjoyment.

Fleetwood (*Fleet Plantation*)

The Fleetwood is marked on the Ordnance maps as a moated place. There are depressions in the land between it and the Trent, which indicate that there was formally a channel connecting the moat with the river, but nothing is known of its history, or the nature of the structure that once stood there. It formally formed part of the Endowment of the Prebend of Rampton and now belongs to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The area of the wood is 350 yards by 50 yards. The area of the moated side is 70 yards by 50 yards. In a letter dated 1902, Rev A Hardy writes, "down the Trent road is a plantation there is a site of the old priests house. Col Eyre pointed this out to me." What authority Col Eyre had for making this statement is not known.

English Heritage states about Fleet Plantation: "registered with Historic England 16 February 1953 and last updated 11 January 1993 the monument is the moated site in Fleet Plantation near Rampton and includes a roughly square platform, measuring approximately 70m along each side, surrounded by a 10m wide ditch with a maximum depth of about 2m.

Scattered brick and tile indicate that a sixteenth or seventeenth century building formerly stood on the site and this would have been preceded by a medieval timber building. The remains of a causeway across the moat are visible approximately mid-way along the north side.

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases, the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

The moated site in Fleet Plantation survives well and is a good example of a small domestic site. Remains of the sixteenth or seventeenth century house will be preserved on the island as will evidence of its medieval precursor."

The Old Vicarage

Described in 1777 the old vicarage consisting of four bays built partly with crick and partly studied, lathed and covered partly with thatch and tile. The lower storey contains four rooms, three of them being floored with plaster and ceiled with lime and hair, the 4th floored partly with brick and partly with clay and drawn with hair and lime between the joists, also a pantry floored with plaster with a cellar under, floored with brick, a passage floored with brick and open to the roof.

The upper storey contains four rooms, all floored with plaster and ceiled and drawn with lime and hair and above are two garrets both floored with plaster and one of them ceiled as before, the other not ceiled.

A yard and a garden of half an acre, the whole being fenced with pales and being planted round with 14 elm trees of little value, the lands of Anthony Eyre Esq lying to the east and south, and the main street north and west. A barn of two bays built with brick and covered with tiles, also a stable of one bay and a chamber over is built with brick and covered with tile.

Churchyard

The churchyard was extended to the north side of the church by consecration by the bishop on 18th May 1908 by the addition of a piece of land as a gift from Charles E Ellis. The oldest surviving gravestone in 1917 dates to 1693. On many of the stones in the churchyard are texts or scripture, and on 25 epitaphs.

Gravestones, except inside the church, are not found earlier than 17th century, before that time the corpse was carried to the churchyard in the parish coffin, and the graveside lifted out and laid in the grave. Bodies thus interred soon went to decay, and mingled with the dust much quicker than when encased in a coffin. The parish coffin was usually kept in the church and when sent for, the body was wrapped in a shroud wound round with strips of canvas, called 'swaddling cloths', placed therein, and carried on a bier to the church.

In 1666 an Act passed for burying in woollen only in order to encourage wool and paper manufacturers of this kingdom and intended for the lessening the importance of linen from beyond the seas. Exception was made in death through plague. At Rampton a note was made in the burial registers to contain the names of those buried in woollen between 1678 and 1698 together with an affidavit before a justice of peace. For example 'Elizabeth Wright of ye parish of Rampton maketh oath that Thomas Wright of ye said parish deceased was not put in wrapped up in or wound up in any shirt shift or shroud made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver other than that made of only sheep's wool, nor in any coffin lined or faced with any cloth stuff or any other material but sheep's wool only, dated ye 20th day of March 1679. The affidavit had to be brought to the clergyman within eight days of the burial. The curious law lingered in England until 1813 but was practically dead long before it was repealed.

At the graveside the shrouded corpse was lifted from the coffin to be lowered into the grave. The general use of coffins is comparatively modern (in 1917), in olden days there were lead or stone coffins for important personages, such as kings, nobles, bishops or abbots, but these were exceptional. It was only in the 18th century that wooden coffins became common. The fact that shrouded bodies of the dead were entered explains how the limited space of ancient churchyards sufficed for hundreds of years. The dust to dust enabled the ground to be re-dug, for centuries the burial ground has been used over and over again, the dead mingled with the dead.'

Windmill

Rampton windmill once stood to the north side of Retford Road on near the Rampton side of the crossroads. It was demolished in 1909.