

Manorfield Detectives.



This view is familiar, yet very different. What do you notice that isn't there today?

Can you see the wall that runs around what is today, the church green? What's that building on the green, in front of the church? That isn't there now.

Maybe this picture will help to explain.



*Dora outside the farmhouse in New Road, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire.
This house stood on what is now a grassed area in front of St. Michael's Church.*

For many years a farmhouse, the original May's farm, was there in front of St. Michael's church. From census returns Mary May lived at the farm from at least 1841 until after 1881, when she is 90 years old. The building in the first photograph above shows one of the old farm buildings which survived at that time, even though it looks as though other buildings have gone.

The farmhouse was even older than that though, there are documents -a feoffment, (this is an old document which shows land or property that once belonged to one person has been legally passed to another person), that dates back to at least 1739. The owner at that time was William Vann, a very old village name; he passed it on to his sister Elizabeth, who was married to Joseph Varnham.

The farm continued right up into the early 20th century, then at some point there was a garage with petrol pumps as you can see from this other photograph.



Places that seem so familiar can have a very different history from what we expect.

What might be found if an archaeological dig took place here? An object belonging to William Vann or his sister Elizabeth, or maybe a piece of farming equipment from Mary May's farming days. Who knows?