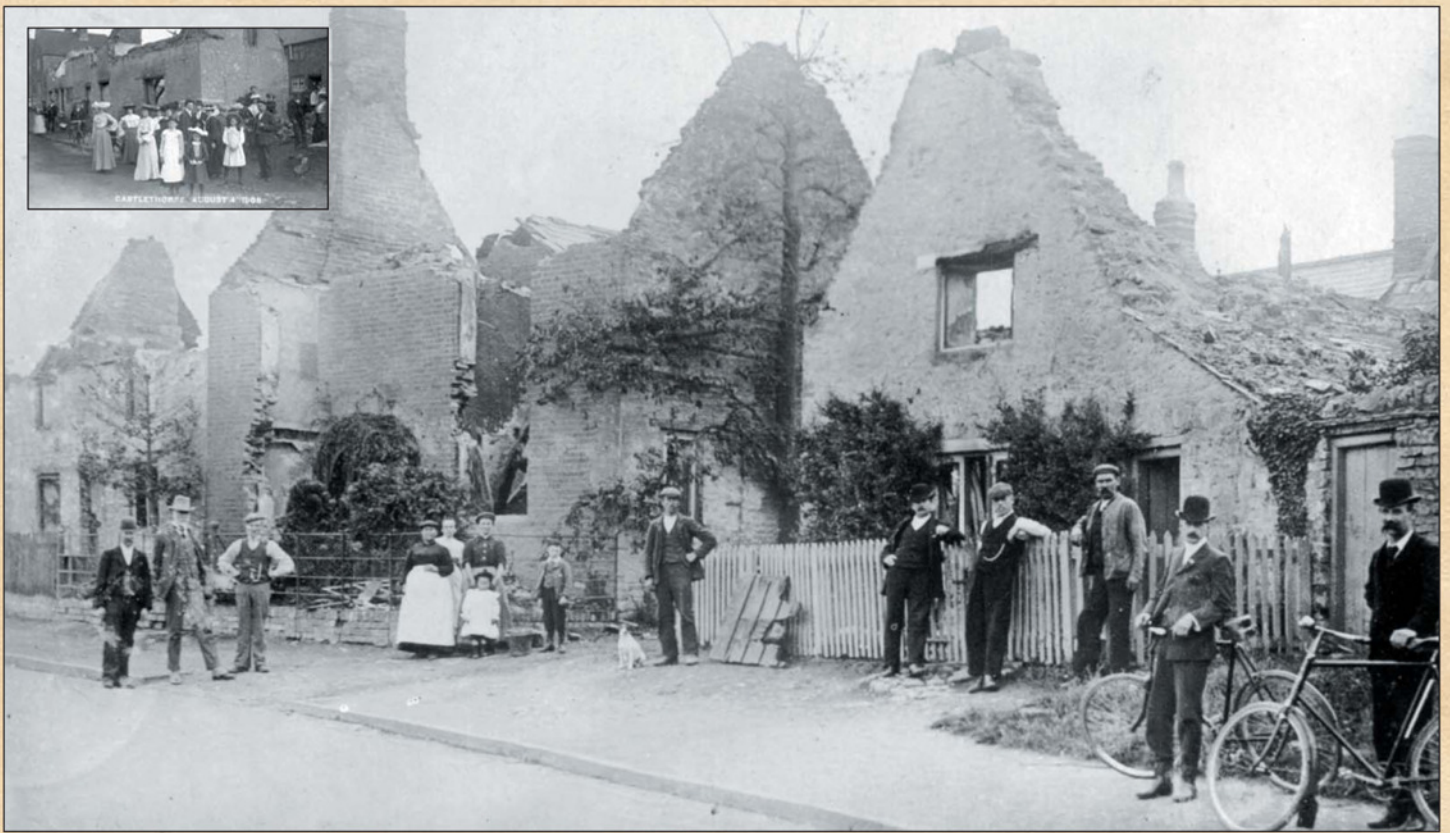


# IN THE NEWS

Looking back 100 years

## A Desolating Conflagration!

The Great Castlethorpe Fire of August 5<sup>th</sup> 1905



Castlethorpe's 'desolating conflagration' has been reported by the Bucks Standard with *'burning thatch sent flying by the gusty wind... Thirteen cottages were blazing fiercely,'* with 36 people *'left with nothing with which to commence a new home.'*

Shortly after 2.30pm, villager Mrs Tooth saw a thatch *'well ablaze'*. With the wind blowing *'a perfect gale'*, the fire soon *'assumed proportions which threatened the safety of the whole village... Bearing the resemblance of a burning furnace, the roar and heat of the flames were terrifying.'*

Soon, *'Captain Downing and his Stratford Firemen'* arrived, but to reach Mr. Holt's farm pond, *'fully a thousand feet of hose was necessary.'* The connections *'were quickly made and aided by the Wolverton Brigade.'*

A relief committee has been formed to distribute *'a good sum'* and clothes, *'of which happily they had received a large number.'*



Scenes of devastation caused by the fire. (There is some discrepancy with the actual date of the fire as reported in the Bucks Standard of the 12th).

All images Courtesy of Castlethorpe Village