

News

Volume 6 Issue 12



Letter

Autumn 2013

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FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

**at: Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street, Trinity Close,
Dereham NR19 2EP Starting 7.30 pm**

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 18 September | Working Lives in the Late 18 th century
by Margaret Bird followed by
The Annual General Meeting |
| 16 October | Preservation of Your Family Photographs
by Lorraine Finch |
| 20 November | East Anglian Defences - 1940
by Trevor Burlingham |

A few words from the Editor ...

Firstly I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter, as always there wouldn't be a Newsletter without you.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the September meeting of the Society. This is your chance to have your say about the way your Society is run. If any member has anything they would like to be placed on the agenda, or nominations for committee, please send them in NOW. You can email (or post) them to Sue Vickerage (Secretary) or to me (Kate) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE. (Addresses on the back cover).

I look forward to hearing from you with your comments, suggestions or stories of your research.

Kate (Editor)

Format for Newsletter Contributions Preferably typed using Microsoft Word or Works, or handwritten, then please either:

- email the file to me at kate.easdown@btinternet.com or
- post handwritten copy/CD/floppy disk, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter -

... 16th October 2013

LETS LOOK AT A CHURCH

No.71 – Little Witchingham, St Faith



Two churches this time although both different from our usual fare as we shall see. After looking at Great Witchingham, St. Mary for the last article, we decided that while we were still in the area, we would continue on to nearby Lenwade where we found, by the side of the busy A1067 Fakenham to Norwich road, a striking red brick building which to my untrained eye looked rather like a Viking stave church with Tudor revival pretensions. St. Faith, Lenwade was called All Saints' Mission Church when it was built in 1888 at a cost of £600 in an attempt to convert the benighted natives of this part of darkest Norfolk, an attempt ultimately doomed to failure as despite its central location the church was little used and became redundant, closing at the end of 2006 to be sold for residential conversion. I rather liked the look of this building and finding that although it was locked, one of the windows had a small piece of glass missing where one might peep in, I went to investigate further and held my camera up to the window hoping to get a shot of the interior. Unfortunately, in my haste, I failed to notice that the building has a deep trench dug round it and this I promptly fell into. The photograph, which I managed to take as I fell, revealed that the inside of the church was completely gutted and I must admit that I felt a bit gutted by now so wiping the mud from my coat we set off for the last church of the day another St. Faiths, this time at Little Witchingham, which we had visited before when copying memorial inscriptions for the Society and which we knew held something of great interest. St. Faith, incidentally, whose day is 6 October, was a young lady martyred on a red-hot brazier in somewhat less enlightened times than our own but the fact that Norwich Crematorium is located at Horsham St. Faith is

purely coincidental. Arriving at the tiny hamlet of Little Witchingham, population about ten, we came to the medieval church of St. Faith's which the Victorian church had been built to replace, being, as it was, closer to the new centre of population. Little Witchingham, St Faith (illustration), although it feels quite isolated is not all that distant from Witchingham Old Hall, erstwhile home of John Norris 16th century Cambridge divinity professor and Bernard Mathews 20th century turkey farmer, both famous in their day. This tiny early 14th century church with its tower, chancel nave and aisle all under one roof has probably only survived by the skin of its teeth. It closed and was sadly neglected in the 1930s becoming so ruinous that after the war plans were afoot to demolish the building and recycle the stones at Bawdeswell where a new church was needed to replace the one destroyed in an air crash (see an earlier article). Nothing was done however and St. Faith's fell into even greater decay until in 1967 salvation came in the nick of time when Eve Baker, art historian and conservation pioneer intrepidly climbed in through one of the windows and discovered a number of medieval wall paintings, much damaged and with plaster flaking off. Largely as a result of this discovery the church was taken under the wing of the Norfolk Churches Trust who repaired or replaced the majority of the fabric of the building. It is these paintings, which interestingly show early renaissance Italian influence, rather than the building that make St. Faith's so special and although they have suffered varying degrees of damage, some still have a crispness and clarity which takes one's breath away. On the south wall we see the apostles gathered round the risen Christ and another group of paintings showing the Passion, most graphically depict the scourging of Christ. There is also a George and dragon, a St. Christopher - sadly much damaged, some fine vine and scroll decoration and, my favourite, what is thought to be a depiction of *The Three Living and the Three Dead* which illustrates a macabre old tale of three kings out hunting who came upon three corpses and were a bit put out when the cadavers warned them in true *memento mori* style that 'as we are, so you shall be.' One could stand and look at these paintings all day and as we left, we were glad we had revisited this Norfolk treasure house which is well worth travelling a distance to see and at present is open every day.

Unfortunately, the Norfolk Record Office do not hold any records for St. Faith, Lenwade but do hold the original parish registers for St. Faith, Little Witchingham (Cat. Ref. PD 217). These comprise Baptisms 1584-2005 (but no entries after 1936), Marriages 1565-1805, 1823-1877, 1895, 1901 and 1912-1960 (but no entries after 1931), Burials 1590-1764 and 1774-2005 (but no entries after 1916) and Banns 1759-1886. The microform copies correspond to the same dates except Baptisms which are for 1584-1936. The Archdeacon's

and Bishop’s transcripts all start in 1600 but end in 1912 for Baptisms and Burials and 1837 for Marriages. The parish chest is very small and contains only Terriers (a register of landed property described by site, boundaries and acreage) for the period 1820-1879, Tithe apportionment 1844 with a map dated 1843 and letters and extracts relating to the communion cup from 1966.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

NEW MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

New Member 768 – Mrs A Jxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- email – -----@-----

BONNETT	Marham NFK	early 19 th C
KIPPING	Marham NFK	early 19 th C
MENDIES	BRITISH INDIA	18 th – 20 th C
MENDIES	UK & AUSTRALIA	20 th C
RYLEY	Marham NFK	Any
SAVAGE	Marham/Swaffham NFK	19 th – 20 th C
SCARFE	Marham NFK	Any

New Member 769 – Mr C Exxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- Email – -----@-----

ENGLEDOW Robert Nth Tuddenham NFK	c 1801 –
1880	
ENGLEDOW Mary (ne WILKINSON) Nth Tuddenham NFK	c 1806 -
1880	

New Member 770 – Mrs L J Zxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,

CARMAN Robert	Mileham/Ryburgh NFK	17 th – 18 th C
CARMAN Susan	Nth Elmham	17 th – 18 th C

Changes
Member 333 – address & email
Mr D Hxxxxx, -----, -----, -----,
----- -----@-----

Member 26 – email -----@-----

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – English Heritage

Quite by accident I discovered that seven headstones in Hardingham churchyard are Grade II listed. They date from 1749 to 1803; most have winged cherub head decoration and do not appear particularly unusual. What is more, along with the other 30 or so 18th century headstones in the churchyard, the inscriptions on these listed ones are well worn, covered in lichen and the churchwardens were unaware of their special status. This is the first time that I have been aware of listed headstones and I attempted to discover why

As we all know ‘it is good to talk’ and I found myself discussing ‘listing’ with a member of the ‘Milestone Society’ who related the tale of a milestone that had been hit by a lorry and broken. The top piece, with the mileage information (apparently milestones are like icebergs – two thirds below the surface) was removed from the site and found several years later in a private garden. It was subsequently recovered, re-attached to its body and repainted, almost certainly using the ‘wrong’ method and materials, for some time later it was discovered that the milestone was Grade II listed.

Fired by this story, with a lot of help from ‘Google’ I discovered that there are 18 listed buildings at Hardingham, including the seven headstones, and one memorial, in the churchyard. All 18, with the exception of the church, were listed in February 1986. Wikipedia defines a ‘Listed Building’ as a building placed on a statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historical interest and, although most are buildings other structures such as bridges, monuments, sculptures, war memorials and the like may also be listed. (The Beatles, Abbey Road crossing is one of the more unusual listed ‘buildings’)

The origin of the list goes back to 1908 and was compiled by The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. The list was greatly expanded in 1941 in an attempt to record those buildings which may be lost due to wartime bombing. Subsequently there have been many attempts to improve and refine the listing system. Matters came to a head in 1980 when the art-deco Firestone factory was demolished by the owners over the August Bank holiday weekend, after they had discovered that it was to be ‘listed’ the following week. In response to a public outcry the Secretary for State, Michael Heseltine initiated a complete re-survey to ensure that nothing was

left off the 'list'. Today many Government Departments are involved with the care of listed buildings but the process is administered by 'English Heritage' and efforts to simplify the system continue. The latest attempt almost reached the statute books but was dropped due to a lack of parliamentary time owing to the 'Credit Crunch'. Nevertheless, in 2011 the National Heritage List for England, was placed on-line and is searchable.

So there you have it – our headstones were listed by some, perhaps over zealous, architectural person on the instructions of rules drafted by Michael Heseltine following the destruction of a tyre factory! I failed to discover the special significance of Hardingham's seven headstones or the one other Norfolk headstone on the list.

So I pose the following food for thought: 'What is the point of placing something on a list if the people who need to know are unaware of the fact that it is there. In the case of headstones what difference does it make? Perhaps they should be wrapped in black polythene, which would make people aware of their existence and perhaps make the grass cutter a little more careful. It would also kill the lichen which might make the inscriptions more readily readable, but it would spoil the visual appeal of the churchyard and definitely not please the 'British Lichen Society'. No, perhaps we should carry on, oblivious to the listing and let nature take its course.

TFG

Afterthought: HELP PLEASE in using the database

Without using Google you can find Hardingham's (or place x) listed buildings at <britishlistedbuildings.co.uk> . Using SEARCH/ Norfolk/ Hardingham (or place x) produces a list all the Listed Building at that location.

The official listing, at <English-heritage.org.uk> using SEARCH THE NATIONAL LIST proved far less easy to use (for my purpose) than the above. I found 1655 listed headstones in England so Hardingham is by no means unique.

However, even using the advanced search I was only able to find eight headstones listed in Norfolk but I am sure there must be more. Would someone out there like to play with the web site and work out how to find just headstones in Norfolk? I would be interested to know if it can be done, and if it can, which other churchyards in our area contain listed headstones.

UNWANTED JUNK MAIL – Apology from our Chairman

My sincere apologies to all those members who received advertising junk e mails via my BT internet account, supposedly from me – but it wasn't, or it was, but was sent without my knowledge.

I first realised something was not quite right with my computer, when on trying to access my on-line bank account it told me 'Internet Explorer was not responding'. It did the same to my son in law when he tried to open his E-Bay account using my computer. Fearing the worst, I made a bee-line for the bank, being very relieved to find my account was still intact when it opened ok, using familiar screens and my password, at their terminal,

The following day I was surprised to find my e mail inbox had a whole page of 'Mailer-Daemon failure notices'. Somehow, junk mail had been sent to most, but not all, of the names in my address book. Then the phone calls/emails started coming in 'Why had I sent...?' For what it is worth apparently the junk mail had "Hey" in the subject, and 'F/W' in the sender boxes.

Now I consider myself to be 'computer literate' as they say, when it comes to using some aspects of the computer, but ask me what goes on inside and I am almost completely 'illiterate'.

Assuming some sort of virus had by-passed my protection system I decided to hand the problem over to Breckland Computers (our Newsletter advertiser). Meantime Lesley, one of our members and independently, another friend, told me that they had solved a similar problem by contacting BT, who had reset their accounts at source. Three days later, a phone call from the shop informed me they had failed to find anything seriously wrong, no viruses, or other nasty's, but they did do a full 'health check', sorted out a few, what I thought were unrelated problems, installed 'Firefox', which apparently is a plug-in and an alternative to 'Internet Explorer', and just to be safe, I reset my password. Perhaps wishing I should have taken Lesley's

advice and done a D.I.Y. with BT, I was pleasantly surprised, to find the expert help cost me £35. It would appear to have been money well spent for that was 10th June and, touch-wood, I have no reason to doubt that the problem is fixed. Once again, my apologies to all who received the junk-mail.

Tom Garland

Footnote: On 14th June I received an email forwarded from Lesley, beginning 'HEY THOMAS'. It would appear that BT's solution, whatever that was, isn't 100% effective.

YOUR LETTERS

Megan Neilson, visiting from Australia, came to our June meeting with her husband and two 'cousins' from Diss

I have now returned to Australia after a wonderful visit to Norfolk. What a pleasure it was to come to your meeting! Thanks to all of you for your warm welcome. I got a real sense of the enthusiasm there for the family history of the immediate area. For me the trip from so far away was a revelation. For so many long nights I have studied the records of my parishes of interest in mid-NFK. To come and see the actual places and to try to understand how they interrelate to each other was truly important.

As a keen volunteer for my own local FHS I know that meetings such as I attended require lots of effort to get in place. Thank you again for being there to welcome me, my newly met cousin, and our respective spouses.

Please pass on my appreciation to all concerned.

Very best wishes,

Megan

'Men of Yaxham who fought and died in WW1'.

Daryll Banyard has placed as much detail as he has been able to discover on the Yaxham Heritage website (www.yaxham.com/pages/heritage), do you know anything else about the men of Yaxham who fought in WWI?

If you can help please email me (Kate - Editor) and I will pass the information on to Daryll.'

A LITTLE REMINDER from the FFHS's Ezine

If you haven't bought Birth, Marriage or Death certificates lately, buying direct still saves you money. Here are two ways to do so:

1. Order direct from the General Register Office, which charges £9.25 for each certificate.
2. Pay considerably more to one of the businesses which takes your order, passes it on to the General Register Office, asks the certificate to be sent to the business and then forwards the certificate to you.

The extra steps make the second option slower as well as more expensive than buying direct. Remember: Even if you found the reference at a website that offers to obtain the certificate for you, there is no need to pay more than £9.25. Just use the reference when you order direct from the GRO at www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/

A USEFUL AFTER-LIFE

When a Canadian friend of mine died from cancer, I was most impressed that she had donated her body to medical science. It reminded me how *occasionally* some workhouses were able to contribute to such research.

Under the *Anatomy Act 1832* if during their life or final illness a person had expressed in writing, or verbally before two witnesses, that after death they wished their body to be anatomically examined, the person having lawful possession of the body had to arrange this, unless the surviving spouse or next of kin objected. Furthermore, unless the deceased or their next of kin had **not** similarly declared their objection to such examination, or claimed the body, the lawful possessor of it (other than undertakers or others having custody of it only for burial), could consign it for anatomical examination by a medical practitioner or professor, teacher or student of anatomy, medicine or surgery who was licensed to do so by the Principal Secretary of State.

Previously only the bodies of executed convicts could be used for medical dissection, so this legislation was intended to discourage grave-robbing, while legally increasing the availability of cadavers for medical research. However, *in certain circumstances*, it also enabled boards of poor law guardians to save the ratepayers' paying burial costs.

When a person in a workhouse was dying, they were not to be left unattended, so an inmate or member of staff sat with them. Meanwhile their next of kin had to be notified so that they could visit, and/or claim the body for burial in the deceased's home parish, whether privately, helped by a benefit society, or at parish expense. If the body was not claimed, the workhouse master was responsible for ensuring that it was properly identified by two members of staff, and given a 'decent' burial, providing a shroud, coffin with the nameplate and paying the customary burial fees to the clergyman.

Those without traceable living relatives or friends could be contributed to medical research. Workhouse staff had to ensure the body was placed in a decent coffin or shell, but not be removed for anatomical examination until 48 hours after death. The death certificate had to be signed by the doctor who had attended the dying person. If a doctor had not been in attendance,

then a physician, surgeon or apothecary had to examine the body to give their opinion on the cause of death. This doctor was not to be in any way involved in the eventual anatomical examination, after which the body was to be decently buried, at the receiver's expense, in consecrated ground according to the deceased's religion.

Legislation in 1844 made it an offence for any poor law officer to accept any payment from 'any dissecting school or school of anatomy, or hospital' or from any person to whom the body might be delivered, or receive any 'personal emolument' in respect of the disposal or burial of the body of a poor person.

Cambridge University School of Anatomy benefitted from such disposals from Norfolk, although the general public did not seem to have been fully aware of the practice until the press revealed a scandal at Great Yarmouth.

On 11th April 1901 fifty years old Fred Hyde died in Yarmouth workhouse, whose burial register subsequently recorded that his body had been buried by friends. It was quite usual for friends to pay for a poor person's funeral. However, questions were raised when, searching for a murder victim, his body was not found in the cemetery and it was discovered that it had been sent to Cambridge University School of Anatomy, and that the workhouse master's clerk appeared to have earned fifteen shillings as a result.

The scandal prompted a full investigation. This found that although the majority of workhouses had not profited by the deaths of their residents, between 1880 and 1901 the clerk to the master of Yarmouth workhouse appeared to have sent to Cambridge, by overnight rail, twenty-six bodies for dissection. The suggestion that he had filled their coffins with sand, shale, or stones, before fixing the deceased's nameplate to it for burial in the cemetery, was refuted by the Vicar of Gorleston who said that 'only happened in story books' and was quite impossible now because of the law.

Although only two guardians seemed to be aware of it, the practice began when the guardians received a circular from Professor Humphrey of Cambridge, requesting that the bodies of paupers who died in a workhouse who had no known relatives or friends to attend their funeral, be sent to Cambridge under the provisions of the Anatomy Act. At their meeting on 3rd June 1881 members of the Visiting Committee had recommended that

this be agreed.

When they were notified a body was available, the School of Anatomy, which would have lost its licence for any irregularity, sent a formal request for it to be sent, with the death certificate. In return it sent a cheque to reimburse expenses: shroud, coffin, undertaker, telegrams, and railway fare.

Guardian Mr. Case, said that not without expense, every effort had been made to discover whether Fred Hyde had 'a single relative in the world', so there did not appear to be any legitimate cause for complaint. Mr Goode, said no-one could seriously suggest it was wrong to send bodies for anatomical purposes, but it was 'obnoxious to one's feelings that anything like personal profit should be derived from their sale.' Mr Peaton replied that if anyone had, they could be sent to prison for three months.

The Vicar of Gorleston said one had to consider the living as well as the dead. Therefore as no medical man was allowed to practice unless he could prove to examiners that he possessed a thorough knowledge of the human body, it was essential for university medical students to be able to make the close study only possible after death. He pointed out that no-one could be sure that their life might not depend on the knowledge thus acquired. He told the board that as a chaplain in anatomy schools, he could assure them each body was reverently and decently buried.

The Anatomy School was in the parish of St Benedict's, but bodies were buried in Mill Road Cemetery. During fifteen years of the twentieth century, Gressenhall guardians contributed to Cambridge the bodies of only seven old people, who died from cancer, heart disease, and other causes. Whether their relatives gave permission, or none were still living, they should have been proud that their loved one was still useful after life, for without such research we would not be benefitting from the treatments we have today.

Joy Lodey

Bibliography

Workhouse Officers' Handbook ch.X1 p.177

Yarmouth Advertiser and Gazette 11th May 1901

Register of Deaths (Gressenhall) C/GC 10/16, by courtesy of Norfolk Record Office.

BOOK REVIEW

Tracing Your House History

One of the latest in the Pen & Sword history series – price £14.99

By Gill Blanchard

A concise and well written book guiding you through on Tracing Your House History in England and Wales.

Where to Find Information – Tells you where to find information and resources, complete with website addresses.

Dating your Home and House Style – Explains how to date your home and style of the house with plenty of photographs and also gives websites, which will enable you to search for more details on dating a building. Colvin is a biographical dictionary of architects and can be found in Reference Libraries.

Architectural Styles in England – Explains in great detail the different architectural styles from Medieval Times to the Modern Day. Also has several pictures showing the details referred to in the text

Building Local Knowledge – Gives you a mass of information, together with photographs, documents and websites on how to find local knowledge of buildings.

Resources – An extremely large chapter detailing all the records you need to look at to help with your research. Also shows copies of Documents, Tithe maps Among the many documents referred to, which will help you in the your search are Business and Occupational Records, Census Returns, Deeds of the Property, Chancery Deeds, Electoral Registers. Also gives all the necessary websites. This is certainly a chapter that must not be rushed when reading the book, as there is a lot of information to take in.

Presentation and Writing Your House History – Tells you how to present and write your House History. Includes an example of a timeline, which could be used in your own research.

Directory of Resources - A list of Organizations complete with their addresses and websites, also Select Bibliography and websites which you will find elsewhere in the book. *Sue Vickirage*

NORTH NORFOLK COASTAL FLOODS

In my family history research I have been lucky enough to get back to my Great x 8 Grandfather living in Blakeney. He had ten children in Blakeney between 1681-1697. He and his wife were both buried in Blakeney in 1723, just two weeks apart.

I have also been lucky enough to find the wills of my Great x 8 Grandfather and that of his son my Great x 7 Grandfather. This has given me an insight into their occupations and standard of living etc. They appear to have owned land, houses, tenements, cattle and horses suggesting that they might be farmers or linked with the farming occupation. I have much research to do yet but while searching adjoining parishes in an attempt to find the baptism of my ancestor I found some data in the Cley parish registers which indicate what life must have been like in Blakeney and the surrounding area.

Nowadays there is much talk of 'global warming' and 'weather change' resulting from our use of cars etc. whenever we have a spell of hot or cold weather or there are floods in this or other countries but perhaps the weather has always been unpredictable. These are extracts taken from the Cley-next-the-Sea parish register, Cley being only 1 or 2 miles down the coast from my ancestors home of Blakeney.

Novr 25th 1665 Wind N.W. It was sd they had as great a tide as destroy'd ye wheat in ye Marshes wash'd down part of ye Marshbanks and toss'd a ship out of ye Sea over ye Beach into Salthouse Channel. It was brought to Clay to be repair'd

NB At that time there was a Channel between ye Beach and the Eye leading to Salthouse wch is now fill'd up by ye Beach.

Oct 8th 1690 About 8 of ye Clock in ye afternoon wth a storm of Wind at N.W. There was such a Tide in the Harbour ye Water ran over ye Top of Clay & Blackney marsh bank broke down p[ar]t of it and Destroy'd 66 acres of Wh[eat] in ye Marshes. The water was 6 feet deep in ye Marshes and at ye Keys about 20 feet deep. It came so far into ye Streets of Clay &

several Houses were 4 feet deep with Water and in ye George Yard it into ye Cellar beyond ye Kitchen Door

Febry 16th 1735. An Inundation of ye sea drown'd all Clay & Blackney Marshes destr'y'd 80 acres of Wheat then growing in Clay Marshes, it Broke down ye banks very much So that Ricd Thomlinson ye Lord of ye Mannor suffered 6 or 7 Hundred pounds Damages. In Many Houses ye Water flood 2 or 3 foot Deep. The Salt Water flood so long upon ye Marshes They did not recover themselves for Several years. The Rectr of Clay sufferd by this Inundation at least 300£ besides ye loss for several years after

In ye Year 1739 A very severe Frost wch Lock'd all ye Harbours in ye Kingdom render'd ye Road by ye Marsh-side leading from Clay to Glandford impassible, there were hundreds of Loads of Ice t[h]rown into ye Road by ye Tides, some Pieces of Ice were more than 20 feet long and 8 or 10 feet Broad and 2 or 3 feet thick. A surprising Sight!

Febry 7th 1741/2 Being Sunday About 6 o'clock in ye Even: a very great Tide drown'd all ye Marshes on both sides of ye Channel, broke down ye greatest part of ye Marsh-Bank especially ye E[ast] Bank wch was almost wholly destroy'd: It was'd down ye greatest part of ye Wall next Salt-house road, Broke up all ye Posts and Gates in ye Marshes, one Morgan who liv'd under ye Hill had his wall broke down and his Horse drown'd in ye Stable. It destroy'd above 40 Acres of Wheat in greater yn[than] yt[that] in ye year 1735. The Wind at N.N.W There was 3 or 4 feet of water in Many Houses and above two in ye Parsonage By cutting t[h]rough ye West Bank at 2 several places, together with ye help of sluices, the quantity of Water (great as it was) was carried off within 4 or 5 Days and had been carried off much sooner had not ye East Bank been so very much Broke.

Ricd Thomlinson Esq: Suffer'd by this Inundation about 800 pounds. For notwithstanding ye Water was let off so quickly yet no corn wou[l]d grow (so as to become a crop) ye 2 succeeding years

The Banks cost repairing	£435
Damage to ye Tenant this year	£200
Posts & Rails about	£90
Damage to ye Tenant ye next year	£90

	£815

Ric'd Thomlinson Esq Lord of ye Mannor
Jno Girdleston Rectr

Decr 12th 1744 About 10 of ye Clock at Night an inundation of ye Sea wch drown'd all Cley Marshes (but not Blackney) destroy'd 20 acres of Wheat then growing in ye Marshes, and did considerable Damages to ye Banks. This Inundation was not so great as that in ye year 1741. Tho ye Damage to ye Landlord & Tenant were considerable.

Feb 28 1749 Being A Wednesday 9 o clock in ye Morning the wind N.N.W a great Tide in this Harbour wch fill'd many Houses, Malthouses etc wth Water Did great Damage to ye Marsh Banks especially at Blakeney, Beat down ye Walls at Cley, Blakeney and Salthouse and did great Damage at Wells Holk[h]am etc This Tide did not overflow Cley Marshes tho it ran over ye East Bank in many places but ye Bank did not Break wch was very wonderful. It made a Small Breach in Blakeney Banks and a Small part of their Marshes were ove'flow'd but none of Cley, the Marsh Bank on Both sides ye Channel were much gall'd [?] more especially Blackeney. This Inundation did great Damage on ye Coast of Norfolk, tho it was not to large in this Harbour as that in ye year 1745 but larger yn[than] yt[that] in ye year 1744. And ye Reason why Cley-Marshes were not overflow'd was owing to ye Stoutness of ye East Bank wch had been greatly Enlarg'd both in Height & Thickness since ye yr 1744.

No doubt these occurrences affected my ancestors and their family considerably. I wonder what else is out there in the archives which will help me piece together their lives.

Sue Harris

NEW PUBLICATIONS

MATTISHALL's TWO CHURCHES JOIN OUR MI BOOKLET COLLECTION



See our web site for the full list

MATTISHALL ST PETERS

300 Memorials 33 A4 pages £3.90 (£2.80 plus £1.10 p&p)

MATTISHALL ALL SAINTS

250 Memorials 28 A4 pages £3.70 (£2.60 plus £1.10 p&p)

GRESSENHALL MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS ON CD

The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society has been given a small number of CDs containing the Memorial Inscriptions of St Mary's Church, Gressenhall (Norfolk).

We have four of these for sale at £7 (£8 Overseas) each, (includes postage and packing), on a *first come first served* basis. I suggest that you phone or email me (Kate – Editor) to reserve your copy before you send any money.

**PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY:
NEW CD - "SOME LOCAL MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS".**

It contains PDFs of the memorial inscriptions plus location plans and photographs for these burial sites in and around Peterborough. The CD has a full names index.

Alwalton Cemetery (1991); Fletton Churchyard (1986); Longthorpe Churchyard (1981); Marholm Churchyard (2012); Orton Waterville Churchyard (1993); The Town Graveyard, Peterborough Cathedral (1877); Stanground Cemetery (1993) & Churchyard (1924) and Woodston Churchyard (1989).

There is also a list of all the names, not just the deceased, in WT Mellow's 1947 book "The Old Churchyard, Peterborough" (better know as Cowgate Cemetery) which functioned from 1805 to the 1850s. There is only a single entry even if a name is mentioned more than once. Neither year of death nor the actual inscriptions are quoted on the disc because the Society does not have the copyright for the book but it is available on Amazon.

To purchase a CD (cost £5 + pp £1.50 UK or £2.50 Overseas) please go to the Publications page of the Society's website www.peterborofhs.org.uk and follow the links to print and complete the purchase order.

For more information please visit www.peterborofhs.org.uk

RECENT SPEAKERS

Below are the topics which were the subjects at recent meetings. I don't have the space to include these notes in the Newsletter but if you would like a copy please email me (kate.easdown@btinternet.com) and I will email a copy to you, or please send me a stamped addressed envelope (50p stamp).
Kate (Ed)

April - Tracing Casualties in World War One – by Neil Storey (2xA4 sheets)

May - Great Civil Courts by Michael Gandy (1xA4 sheet)

June - Researching A Single Surname by Derek A Palgrave (2xA4 sheets)

ESSEX POLICE MUSEUM

Whether you are researching your family history or Essex Police, the Museum may be able to help you.

The Museum holds records of service for police officers who served in the Essex County Constabulary and Southend Borough Police and databases of officers for other Essex Police Forces. The website allows online searches for service records of officers born over 100 years ago, more recent records may be searched at the Museum on request.

For more information:

Website www.essex.police.uk/museum

or contact: the Curator, Becky Wash, 01245 457150

or email: museum@essex.pnn.police.uk

Essex Police Museum, HQ, Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DN



The Car Park Shops
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Please be aware that any contract or agreement made between members and members or researchers/advertisers is on their own terms, and is therefore not the responsibility of the Society. However, we would like to know of any problems encountered and may cease accepting advertising.

NORFOLK RESEARCH

Parish Records, Census Searches
Certificates
£5 per hour

Send SAE or IRC for details to:

W Hepburn, 11 Preston Avenue, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9JE
Or contact by email: Willie.h.1945@virgin.net

Visiting Norfolk to do some research?

Why not stay at Albert's Cottage in the village of Ashill? Over 200 years old, the character cottage overlooks the village pond.

Fully furnished, the cottage has two bedrooms, one with a four poster bed and the choice of storage heaters or a log burning stove.



The inside of the cottage is complimented with a delightful garden and private parking.

Contact Mary or Dennis for details

tel: 01760 723884 or 078796 22458

Email mary@breckfield.freemove.co.uk

IDENTITY THEFT! DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM!

Identity theft is a real threat nowadays, and it is up to us all to make every effort to keep personal information belonging to ourselves and fellow Society members safe.

The Mid-Norfolk Family History Society takes every care to ensure that any personal details you have submitted are kept confidential. Your details are published in the Members' Interests Directory for the sole purpose of providing means of contact to aid family history research and are intended for use by Society Members only and not for general distribution.

We are therefore asking you take care when destroying last or previous years Members' Interests Booklet. Please would you *shred or burn* the booklet when you have finished with it.

If you have any queries or problems please contact Kate (Editor).

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Mid-Norfolk Family History Society

www.tsites.co.uk/sites/mnfhs/

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