News

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A few words from your Editor ...

Hello again, and thank you for your contributions to this Newsletter.

Have you taken advantage of the free (to Members) NBI searches yet? Details are on page 15. You are welcome to request as many names as you wish, and you never know what you may discover.

I look forward to hearing from you with your comments, suggestions (and even criticisms), it all helps to make a better Newsletter.

Good luck with 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, to me at the address on the back of the Newsletter

Please contact Sheila Moulton, the Membership Secretary if you change your address or email address (contact details on back cover).

Deadline for inclusion in the next Newsletter - 19 October 2016

LET'S LOOK AT A CHURCH No. 83 – St Andrews, Great Dunham



Like our last church, Great Dunham's is dedicated to the apostle Andrew, patron saint of fishermen, sailors and of course Scotland where his bones are supposed to rest. According to some, Great Dunham, St Andrew is the most complete Anglo-Saxon church in Norfolk and although that must remain a matter for conjecture, it is true to say that the general appearance of the building bears this out. Although the name Dunham is Old English, meaning hill homestead, the area of Great Dunham along with its nearby sister village Little Dunham was lived on at least since Roman times. As Betjeman points out in his **Best British Churches**, St. Andrews contains many Roman bricks or rather tiles, particularly in the arches. These were probably taken from the ruined villa of a Roman lord who lived nearby and used in the original (c.950-1000 AD) Saxon construction of this Norfolk time machine which also has Romanesque elements, significant 15th Norman or century additions, particularly the chancel and porch and of course the inevitable Victorian 'improvements'. The Saxons built to last and St Andrews which has a reassuring solidity to its chunky almost minimalist form consisting of plain 60ft. central tower and walls unadorned save for their uncut flints and arched windows looks good for another thousand years barring some major disaster. Inside, indeed, we observe a rather plaintive message above the collecting box expressing the hope that 'with our prayers, and your gifts, we will together preserve God's house to stand firm forever.' Entry is now via the medieval porch but this was not always so, one notes the small, long blocked up, Saxon doorway with its distinctive triangular headed arch on the west end of the building clearly shown in our illustration. The long plainly whitewashed interior, narrow and lacking side aisles with its pulpit and reader's desk ornamented with carved Jacobean panels, age worn font from the 1400s adorned with shields and carvings denoting the four Evangelists reflects the simplicity of the outside of the building. A list of rectors starts with Andrew de Walpole - august Norfolk name - in 1226. Also of interest is a fine piscina or container for water used in the Mass with a trefoil headed arch. Interestingly, Great Dunham once had another church, the substantial St. Mary's built along side and close to St. Andrews but this no longer had a separate incumbent by 1437 and although was said to be still standing as late as 1500 nothing now survives apart from perhaps some of the stonework reused in various repairs to the present church and in the construction of two local farms.

The original parish registers are held at the Norfolk Record Office (Cat. Ref. PD684) and comprise Baptisms 1539-1992, Marriages 1539-1750 and 1755-1837, Burials 1540-1911 and Banns 1755-1847. There are microform copies of the registers but on these, Baptisms and Burials both end in 1901. The Archdeacons' and Bishops' Transcripts start in 1600 but end in 1873 for Baptisms and Burials

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and 1837 for Marriages. The Parish Chest contains a number of items including a Tithe Book 1783-90 with additional notes dated 1806 and a map dated 1838, Dispute Papers between the rectors of Great Dunham and East Lexham for 1788-94, Dilapidation Papers for the chancel, rectory and outside buildings 1784-89, Deeds of Conveyance for Great Dunham 1631-1810. Churchwardens' accounts 1829-1964, an Overseers' Account Book 1826-31 with disbursements 1831-36, receipts and payments Settlement Certificates 1751-1826 including examinations 1779-1846 and Removal Orders 1736-1846, Bastardy Bonds and Warrants 1763-1816 and Bastardy Orders 1783-1835. Finally, the Chest also contains a plan of Great Dunham dated 1797 and papers referring to the emigration of paupers to Canada during the years 1835 to 1837.

Roderic & Denise Woodhouse

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE All War Diaries For Western Front Digitised

The diaries sometimes contain information about particular people but they are Unit diaries, not personal diaries. A few contain details about awards of the Military Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Some diaries record little more than daily losses and map references whilst others are much more descriptive, with daily reports on operations, intelligence summaries and other material. The digitised diaries cover activity in France and Belgium. Many maps and plans were included in the original diaries but some confidential material was removed before the files were made available. This accounts for the absence of some appendices referred to on the covers of many diaries You can take part in their

crowdsourcing project <u>Operation War Diary</u>, which aims to unearth the details from within the diaries, including names, places and events.

NEWS FROM GRESSENHALL FARM & WORKHOUSE MUSEUM



The 8th July 2016 saw the Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum's official opening of the their new 'Voices from the Workhouse' exhibition. The exhibition has been mainly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and has seen the ground floor of the

Museum transformed by new displays showing what life was like in the workhouse. The displays have been based on detailed research done by the Museum's Volunteer Research team who have been investigating some 100 people who lived and worked in the building

The team started with reference from the Guardians Minute books and have looked at Family history records to find out what happened to the people before and after they entered the Workhouse. These records may be viewed, by appointment, in the Museum's Library. Meantime, the Team are continuing in their quest to discover more about the lives of the Inmates, Staff and Guardians in the Gressenhall Workhouse.

The Museum is open this year until 30 October 2016.

Stephen Pope

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

"Grow your Tree"

at The Suffolk Family History Society Fair and A.G.M.

Saturday 24th September 2016,

Suffolk University Campus, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1QJ

10:00 to 4:00 p.m FREE ADMISSION FREE PARKING opposite the venue.

For more information see: http://www.suffolkfhs.org.uk
Or Call 01787 370598 before the day.

OPENING HOURS FOR THE NORFOLK & NORWICH MILLENIUM LIBRARY FROM JUNE 2016

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Main Library

Children's Library

10 am - 5 pm

2nd Air Division Memorial Library

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

Main Library

Children's Library

2nd Air Division Library

9 am - 7 pm

Express Library

Sunday 10.30 am – 4.30 pm

Express Library Children's Library

NORFOLK NEWSPAPERS AGAIN

Following on from last months Newsletter article (Summer p15/16) thanks to www.newsplan.liem.org.uk, the inquest I was seeking was reported in the Watton & Thetford Times and the appropriate copy is held at Thetford library. There is a 'free' car park nearby, the staff were very helpful and I quickly found the article. That is the good news, the bad news is, although there was a little more information regarding the death, unfortunately, the inquest was further adjourned to be held at Attleborough Police Station. The result of the adjourned inquest was not reported in the Watton & Thetford Times or any newspapers that I have looked at on-line or at the Forum since. Consequently, as I have already obtained far more information than I originally expected to find, I am now going to give up.

However, in the process of searching on-line the following newspaper entries caught my eye NOTHING to do with the quest in hand but an interesting side track — **Wartime civilian vehicle use**. It would appear that although petrol was probably very hard to come by during the Second World War, providing you had a legitimate use and permission, civilian vehicle use wasn't completely banned. But with few cars on the road it was probably very easy to get caught if you flouted the rules, as the following entries in the Diss Express dated 7 May 1943 show.

EAST HARLING PETTY SESSIONS Not Wasting Petrol

Arthur John Loveday, a threshing machine proprietor, of the Butts, Kenninghall, was found not guilty of misusing petrol, by making a journey by car when a public service vehicle could have been used, at North Lopham on March 5thPC Gaskin said that at 10.55 am he saw the defendant driving in the direction of Diss and at 4.15 pm the same day, saw him return. Witness stopped him and asked him why he was using his car and defendant said, for business, adding that he had visited Diss to see his customers. Asked why he did not use the bus service that was available, defendant said he had left some oil for his men at Reeder's of North Lopham. Witness pointed out that he could have caught the bus at North Lopham. On oath, Loveday said that if the seed market at Diss had

been good he would have gone onto Thrandeston. He often had to make calls on his return journey. The Bench decided as stated

At the same Petty Session:

Misuse Of Petrol

For misuse of petrol, Mrs Winifred Clare Holman-Hunt of the Rookery, Rocklands, was fined £2.10s. She pleaded guilty. PC Sevill said the defendant told him she had taken a Miss Kelly back to Stow Beden and admitted that she was allowed no petrol for that purpose. Questioned further, defendant said she had fetched Miss Kelly for dinner earlier in the evening. The total mileage involved was 10 miles. In Court, Defendant said she didn't think

In a newspaper two weeks later, we find the same PC Sevill once more giving evidence at Harling Petty Sessions.

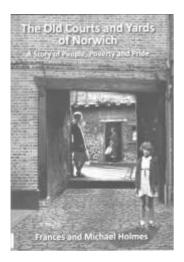
Farmer Fined

John Kenneth Walter Broadhead, farmer of Burys Hall, Holme Hale, was charged with misuse of petrol, at Rocklands, on March 29 the Defendant went to the 'Rookery' Rocklands, when a dinner party was held. Stopped when leaving, defendant told PC Sevill, he had taken to the 'Rookery' four broody hens and had sexed some chickens. Defendant was allowed petrol for journeys to markets and to Watton for business but nothing was said on the application form about chicken sexing. A round trip of 24 miles was involved. on oath, defendant admitted staying to dinner but denied that this was arranged before he arrived. He had to go in the evening to put down broody hens. After a lengthy retirement, the magistrates decided to convict and a fine of £2 was imposed

No petrol allowance for sexing chickens! How fascinating old newspapers papers can be. All you have to do is enter a name or keyword in findmypast or The British Newspaper Archive websites and you can waste hours just browsing

Tom Garland

THE OLD COURTS AND YARDS OF NORWICH



We had a 'full house' for April's meeting, The Old Courts and Yard of Norwich, presented by the joint book authors Frances & Michael Holmes. The talk was very professionally delivered by both writers taking it in turns, with plenty of interesting pictures and filmed interviews with people who had actually lived in the vards.

For members who were unable to attend, a definition of a Norwich yard, copied from their book, is reproduced below:

In Norwich a typical yard or court (the terms are interchangeable) was located behind an ancient building which fronted the street. It was entered through a narrow opening, often tunnel-like which led into a cul-de-sac. Around its perimeter were shoddy dwellings, often formed out of larger houses, which shared inadequate water supplies, toilets and waste-disposal facilities. Occupants living in yards suffered from both lack of ventilation and dismal light.

Essentially, it appears that the yards came into being from the 16th century, when Norwich was England's second largest city, due to an ever increasing population and an acute shortage of affordable accommodation. From earliest times, landlords took the opportunity to convert larger houses into 'rooms for rent' and build poor quality housing in the rear grounds, or behind public houses, creating "yards" with few amenities.

From the 1850s, many terraced houses were built on the outskirts of the city, but at rents unaffordable by the poorer citizens. At the

turn of the 20th century, it has been estimated, that Norwich had around 650 yards. By that time many yards were 'slums,' but not all, although most were in need of urgent improvement. Initially, Acts passed to clear slum areas proved costly for Norwich City Council, as they had to purchase the buildings first. It didn't help the slum dwellers either, for clearance did not address the problem as to where those displaced people were to live at affordable 'yard' rents. From 1920 - 1930 government subsidies enabled councils to build housing estates. These houses had piped water, separate sitting rooms, ranges for cooking, (later gas stoves) and a copper to provide hot water for a bath. Even fixed baths became statuary in 1923, although Norwich lagged behind a bit, for it was another couple of years before all new-builds conformed. However, rents were relatively high and it wasn't until 1930, when the Government changed its policy and housing grants were calculated on numbers of people rehoused after slum clearance. Now yard dwellers began to benefit, for councils were then permitted to give rent rebates and make council houses available to low wage earners.

It has been argued that the councils may have been over zealous with their slum clearances, for in many cases not only the unhealthy yards were demolished, but often the whole area including the ancient buildings which fronted them. In 1924 even Norwich's famous Tudor tourist attraction, Elm Hill, was only saved from redevelopment by a single vote.

Most of the audience at April's meeting knew Norwich and could equate with the places described – for many of the yards, although no longer dilapidated, dark, airless and insanitary, still exist, at least in name. Also, of interest in the talk (repeated in the book) were personal stories of yard dwellers which tell of close communities, accepting their circumstances and making the most of their unhealthy housing environment. If you missed the talk, or even if

you attended 'The Old Courts and Yards of Norwich,' full of facts and pictures, ISBN 978 0-9566272-4-7, is published by Norwich Heritage Projects, at £9.95. Also www.norwich-yards.co.uk has a whole range of information ab out the yards.

Have you discovered that your ancestors have a connection with the Norwich Yards? If so why not share your story, write something for the Newsletter and send it to our Editor?

Graham Rudd

MORE NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

Royal Navy First World War Lives at Sea Project

Last month it was announced that The National Archive (TNA), the National Maritime Museum and the Crew List Index Project Team (CLIP), are to work together on a new database of Royal Navy officers and ratings who served in WW1. To be called 'The First World War Lives at Sea Project' the website can be found at

www.royalnavyrecordsww1.rmg.co.uk

Currently (July 2016) the database already contains 3625 entries but it is work in progress, planned to be completed by the end of November 2018 (anniversary of the end of the first world war.

The website is very easy to use and gives a transcription of the seaman's Service Record: ie Name, Service Number, Date and Place of Birth, Occupation on Enlistment, Cause and Date of Discharge, which battle served in during the First World War,

What is more, you can search using all or just one of the 17 search fields. eg. Inserting just Surname 'Smith' gives 53 hits, Forename 'John' gives 397. Putting in Birthplace 'Dereham' gives just two hits:

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- 1. <u>Thomas Gordon</u>, <u>Baker</u>, 231122, 13th September 1888 E. Dereham Norfolk, Errand Boy, 3rd April 1919 Demobilised, Dardanelles
- 2. <u>Ernest John Orton</u> 231135 23rd November 1887 Dereham Norfolk, Page Boy, 12th February 1928 Pensioned, Dardanelles, Heligoland, Zeebruge (Ostend), Belgian Coast, Jutland

But that is not all. Click on the name and all the postings and ratings at that time, for his whole RN career are displayed.

For <u>Thomas Gordon:</u> All 35 postings from enlistment as Boy 2nd Class in 1905 to demobilisation as Able Seaman on *Prince George* in 1919. For <u>Ernest Orton</u> 48 postings from enlistment as Boy 2nd Class in 1904, to Signalman 1st Class, then in 1919 to Stoker 1st Class, until discharged to pension in 1928.

The database is a transcription of Royal Navy Service Record documents held at the TNA at Kew, but will NOT include details of those who served in the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve or Royal Naval Air Service. It is free because it is being transcribed by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project by transcribing these service records please get in contact at

crewlists@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

MERCHANT CREW LIST FOR 1915 http://1915crewlists.rmg.co.uk

This database, the forerunner of Royal Navy database described above, is a crew list for the British Merchant Navy for the year 1915. Consisting of over 39,000 crew lists, it features more than 750,000

seamen names which are available to search FREE. The crew lists documents were photographed and E-volunteers from all over the world, working on their home computers, transcribed them into this unique database.

Crew lists (properly termed 'Crew Agreements') formed a contract between a seafarer and their employer. A seafarer signed on to serve for a defined period in the capacity (or rank) shown at the wages stated. Each agreement lists all the crew, their rank or rating, their address, rate of pay and dates of joining and leaving the ship. These range from small fishing boats and sailing barges, often crewed by father and son, to the largest passenger liners with whole departments of deck officers, seamen, engineering and victualling staff amounting to as many as 400 individuals. Even vessels that were sunk by enemy action sometimes appear in the lists, if there was time to evacuate the ship and save its documents.

Putting in the same data as used for the RN example above: Entering just Surname 'Smith' we get 8639 hits, Just Forename 'John' gives 46,276. Just entering Birthplace 'Dereham' shows four men from (born) Dereham in the Merchant Navy in 1915

If we click on one of those four - <u>George Monument</u>: we learn that in 1915 he was a deckhand, aged 42, on the COWPEN.

But this website also takes us to an image of *Account of Crew and Official Log Book*. Here we find further details about George and the other 26 crew members, together with the previous ship on which they served. In addition there are details about the ship including the fact that it was employed 'dredging mud and taking it to sea'.

Much of the information in the above two articles was taken from the websites themselves

MID-NORFOLK FHS NBI SEARCHES – NOW FREE TO MEMBERS IF RESULTS ACCEPTED BY EMAIL

Mid-Norfolk FHS National Burial Index Project

- i) The society's Mid Norfolk Burial Index is a database of entries taken from burial registers within an approximate 10 mile radius of Dereham. The society provides a reduced version to the National Burial Index at the Federation of Family History Societies. All Parishes are included for the period of 1813-1837, but the project is ongoing and most are covered more extensively. It currently holds in excess of 150,000 entries.
- ii) This search lists the forename/s of all deceased persons with that surname within the database, together with their date and place of burial along with further information (if included in the original entry) such as age, marital status, relationship and occupation. A list of all parishes and dates included is provided with the search results.

Mid-Norfolk Family History Society National Burial Index (NBI) searches, as detailed above, will be free to Society Members under the following conditions:

- Applications will be accepted by post or email but the results <u>will</u>
 be sent to you by email.
- You may request searches of any number of names.
- If you want the results by letter then the normal charges will apply (£1 per name for members).

Search requests to me please ... <u>kate.easdown@btinternet.com</u> or if by letter, to my address, which you will find on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Kate (Ed)

CONSULT ALL THE DOCUMENTS - TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED

One of our members sent in the following census entry, with a hidden cautionary tale

His interest was in Caroline Wright, the wife of his Norfolk ancestor. They had re-located to Manchester, where they separated and both subsequently re-married. Below, is the household entry which shows Caroline at 8 Ogilvie Street, South Manchester, Chorlton, Lancashire, as recorded in the 1901 census.

John Roberts	Head	Mar	24	Electric Light Wireman	Manchester, Lancs
John Roberts	Son		1	-	Manchester, Lancs
Albert Roberts	Son	-	2m	-	Manchester, Lancs
Caroline Wright	Servant	Mar	27	House Keener Domestic	London, Middlesex
Harold Wright	Son	-	2	-	Manchester, Lancs

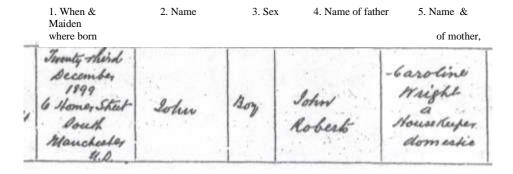
The entry clearly shows Caroline Wright, a married woman and her son Harold, as a housekeeper, in the home of electric light wireman (electrician), John Roberts, a married man with two sons. As she is described as 'servant' (relationship to head of household) it is probable that she is living-in, rather than simply being present on Census night.

But all is NOT quite what it seems, for our member purchased 'further evidence' documents, in the form of birth certificates for children, Harold Wright and John Roberts. One showed, as the census suggests, that Harold Wright was Caroline's son by her

husband, but the other, for John Roberts, surprisingly showed that Caroline was also HIS mother.

Using Census entries on their own provide the 'cautionary tale', for the entry gives no indication whatsoever that Caroline, the housekeeper, is also the mother of (married man) John Roberts's child. It is probable that Caroline is also the mother of the second son Albert, but at £10 a certificate maybe that is taking curiosity a little too far.

To complete the story the Birth certificate for John Roberts is shown below:



6.Occupation	7. Description & residence	8. When	9. Signature of
r of father	of informant	registered	registrar
Electrician	father bilone, Ohut Double mouchester wight mother wheel beauth Manchester	north Jamary 1900	Elan Khaist Registrar

Most of us are aware, that when registering a birth between 1837 and 1875, a mother could name the father, without any checks on

the reliability of the claim. After 1875, the consent of the father, together with his physical attendance, was required when the birth was registered. Many of us have birth certificates, with a line across the 'Name of Father', column which usually means, that the father was unknown, or he refused to admit his involvement, but this birth certificate goes into considerable detail to acknowledge extramarital fatherhood. There can be no doubt that, despite the census entry implying otherwise, Caroline Wright is the mother of John Robert's son.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Submissions and changes must be made before April 1st for inclusion in the directory.

Member 800 - @	- Mr D Sxxxx,, -	,, USA	
COOPER Robe	rt Dereham NF	K	1770 – 1809
NELSON Ann	Dereham NF	K	m 1771
Member 801 - @	- Ms C Hxxxx,,	,,	
ABBOTT	YKS		$18^{th}_{} - 19^{th} C$
PLATTEN	Sheringham NFK		19 th C
PURDY	Sheringham NFK		18 th C

RESEARCHING THE FALL OF HORNINGTOFT CHURCH TOWER

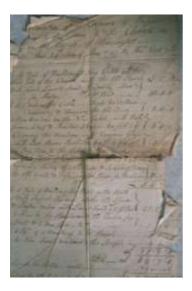
Almost 220 years ago the Tower of the 13th Century church of St Edmund Horningtoft, fell as the Bells were rung. There are still some remains each side of the pathway to the west door. The 1836 White's Directory says this happened on the 1st June 1796 but was thoroughly repaired the following year at the expense of the inhabitants. Bryant's Norfolk Churches says the tower fell in 1797.

Researching Newspapers on www.findmypast.co.uk 7th January 1797 Norfolk Chronicle

Sunday last, the steeple of Horningtost church fell down, but a few minutes before the parishioners were going to attend divine service.

The prisoners in Swaffham bridewell return thanks

Also reported in the Ipswich Journal and Chester Chronicle, all saying the Steeple fell before divine service as the bells were being rung on Sunday last. Therefore the tower fell on New Years Day 1797.



Research at the Norfolk Record Office looking at the Church Wardens Accounts for Horningtoft provided the Estimate for the repair dated 29th May 1797. Building a new gable at the West End £30, Clearing away the Old Stones & taking down the old wall, & preparing the stones for Building £11. Plus various small items adding up to £54.7s.0d. Building Steeple on the south side £35. The total was £89.7s.0d. Suppose the Bells worth £70. total left £19.7s.0d.

Carthew says, "There were three bells in the 6th year of Edward V1 and four in the square tower in 1784 one inscribed 'John Brend made me 1635'"

The terrier in the Horningtoft Parish Register dated 1784 www.familysearch.org confirms there were 4 bells in the tower. In 1797 a small tower was built over the south doorway of the nave with one bell. The terrier dated 1801 says there is one bell reputed to weigh 6cwt. This tower can be seen in a drawing by Ladbroke 1823. The drawing also shows the church would have had lime plaster and lime wash on the outside and there were 2 buttresses on the south side of the chancel. Some remains of the lime plaster can still be seen on the North side.

The hundred of Launditch and deanery of Brisley by Carthew, notes of 1844 says," there is a belfry erected over the porch on the south side", "this side is almost ready to fall, whereby the chancel arch is much depressed."

The roof previously covered by lead was reconstructed with pin tiles. The churchwarden's account of June 25th 1869, "Cash by Old lead £133.6s.0d." The small tower was removed together with the buttresses which had been supporting the Chancel. The whole of this side was repaired and £20 was provided by the Church Building Society towards enlarging the church. This actually meant provide more seating in the Nave. A plan of the Nave was found on http://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk

The church reopened April 20th 1870.

"Went to the reopening of Horningtoft Church, after being all but rebuilt. The difference in the church now to what it was when I preached there many years ago is striking indeed. The ancient screen is repaired and gilded; there are beautiful seats; a proper altar with Cross, vases and candlesticks. The choristers, having three banners, and clergy, all in white stoles, proceeded from a neighbouring farmhouse singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers" The collection amounted to £17. It is wonderful what can be done in a small place where the incumbent has taste and energy and where there are no obstructives to hinder!"

A Norfolk Diary, Rev B J Armstrong Vicar of East Dereham 1850-88

In the Terrier for 1933, after the inventory for the church there is this note at the bottom.

"According to an old book of the Churchwardens the Old Church Bell was sold to Warner & Son on the 21st Feb 1870 for the sum of £21.15.7 which sum was applied in helping with the Restoration of the Church which was carried out (according to the same book) about that date Warner & Son supplied the new bell for the sum of £7.16.10 as shown in the aforesaid Churchwardens book."

Treasure for the Future, The Norfolk Churches Trust 1976-2001. 1977 Horningtoft saved from closure by re-roofing.

There is now one bell in the belfry above the west door.

Heather Gooch Horningtoft Heritage Society

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