



WINFARTHING

A village in the newspapers (i) 1748 - 1800

Transcripts of newspaper articles with a connection to the village of Winfarthing, with comments and notes on their content.

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Notes:

- Some of the original documents are hard to read and the transcripts are as accurate as possible.
- Especially in the earlier articles, grammar and spelling is 'different' to that normally accepted today. All transcripts are copies of the originals including these differences.
- Within some of the articles, there is content that is not relevant to Winfarthing. Where it is possible to omit this from the transcription without losing relevance, in its place will be shown '.....'.
- Comments and notes associated with an article is the work of individual researchers. No guarantee as to its accuracy can be given but it is checked as carefully as possible.
- If anyone finds errors within this document we will be pleased to receive them and update the original
- Any additional information on the articles you are willing to share, we will gladly include them in this booklet.
- Please contact the author by email to np781@btinternet.com.

Introduction

Some academics think the Romans were the first to have a ‘newspaper’ – the Acta Diurna, or daily doings, in 59 BC. No copies of this paper have survived, but it is widely believed to have listed events, assemblies, births, deaths, and daily gossip.

The Oxford Gazette was established as a government ‘newsbook’ in 1665, and was succeeded by the London Gazette in 1666. Its format as a single sheet, printed on both sides, now described as the first English newspaper.

Since about 1706, there are thought to have been at least 40 newspapers published in Norfolk, many based around Norwich and other towns. There are still some going today but nowhere like the number there had been. Add to this the newspapers from Suffolk, making newspapers significant sources of information. Old newspapers are sometimes the only easily accessible resources to show what was happening in our towns and villages.

For genealogists they provide a significant source of information on the social events taking place, and some of the more anti-social ones too! They include names of people and events in their lives. Births, marriages and deaths are often given for the more notable, whilst court proceedings name the less social (if guilty) people. Along with the main subject of the article there are often listed others, family members, etc., so expanding the knowledge we can glean from them.

The transcripts below are listed in date order, starting with the earliest.

1748 : Winfarthing Estate Sale

The Ipswich Journal, Tuesday, 31 Dec 1748, Page 4

To be SOLD.

AN ESTATE at Winfarthing in the County of Norfolk, consisting of one Messuage, one Barn, one Stable, and other proper Conveniencies, together with Fifty-five Acres of Land, Meadow and Pasture (being Copyhold) at the Rent of Forty-five Pounds per Ann.

Also an Estate at Rowdham, in the said County of Norfolk, part Freehold and part Copyhold, of the yearly Rent of Twenty Pounds, in the Occupation of Edmund Duffield.

Also an Estate at Stanton in the County of Suffolk, part Freehold and part Copyhold, of the yearly Rent of Twenty Pounds.

Also a Freehold Messuage, with four Acres of inclosed Land, at the Rent of Five Pounds per Annum.

For further Particulars enquire of Augustus Caesar Thompson, Attorney at Law, in Thetford.

To be SOLD.

AN ESTATE at Winfarthing in the County of Norfolk consisting of one Messuage, one Barn. One Stable and other proper Conveniences, together with Fifty-five Acres of Land, Meadow and Pasture (being Copyhold) at the Rent of Forty-five Pounds per Ann.

.....

For further Particulars enquire of Augustus Caesar Thompson, Attorney at Law, in Thetford.

Comments:

- A messuage is a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use.

1749 : Institution of Rector

The Ipswich Journal, Tuesday, 7 Oct 1748, Page 1

B. COUNTRY NEWS

Norwich, Sept. 30. Wednesday last the Rev. Mr. Kerrich, Rector of Banham in Norfolk, was instituted to the Rectory of Winfarthing, at the presentation of John Bristowe Esq: of Quiddenham. (From Norfolk Mercury.)

Comments:

- Winfarthing parish had a popular legend attached to it, known as the "Sword of Winfarthing". The story goes that a knight sought refuge in the church after murdering another knight during an argument over a lady. He disappeared to no one knows where, but his sword remained and legend had it that it possessed supernatural qualities. It was

displayed in the south aisle chapel. This led to the church of St. Mary becoming a place of pilgrimage in the fourteenth century. The sword however is long gone.

1760 : Institution of Rector
The Ipswich Journal, Tuesday, 13 May 1760, Page 4

Norwich Mercury, May 10

Notice is given that there are

TO BE SOLD

1. A Leasehold Estate in Conisford-street, Norwich
2. An Estate at Winfarthing, in Norfolk

Notice is given that there is

TO BE LETT

3. A House at Thornage, near Holt

Notice is given that there is

WANTED

4. A Journeyman Blacksmith at Norwich

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLE

5. The Debtors to Thomas Brame, of Harleston, have Notice given them.

1770 : 'A hunting we will go ...'
Kentish Gazette, Thursday, 15 May 1770, Page 3

On Monday se'nnight a bag fox was turned off at Brome in Suffolk before ten couple of the Palgrave hounds, and killed in Carlton in Norfolk, after running three hundred and ten minutes, and through the following towns, viz. Brome, Sturston, Thrandeston, and Palgrave, in Suffolk; Diss, Roydon, Shelfanger, Winfarthing, Tibenham, Bunwell, and Carlton in Norfolk.

Comments:

- A "bag fox" is a fox taken to a covert (a thicket in which game can hide), to be released before hounds.

1772 : Prisoners in gaol
The Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 23 May 1772, Page 1

Prisoners in the gaol of St. EDMUND's BURY in the County of Suffolk.

FIRST NOTICE.

Thomas Wells, formerly of Throgmorton-street, London, and late of Sudbury in the county of Suffolk, Woollen Draper.

William Gibling, late of Bures St. Mary in the county of Suffolk, Tayloe and Staymaker.
Robert Moss, formerly of Blow Norton in Norfolk, and late of Western Market, Suffolk,
Labourer.

George Wharton, formerly of Winfarthing in Norfolk, and late of Thelnetham in Suffolk,
Farmer.

1774 : Death of Rector of Winfarthing
Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, Saturday, 26 Mar 1774, Page 3

Last week died at Banham in Norfolk the Rev Mr. Kerrich rector of Winfarthing and minister of New Buckenham in that county.

Comments:

Rev. Mr. John Kerrich was buried at Banham on 15 Mar 1774. (Parish records)

1774 : Thurlow/Langley Marriage

The Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 23 Apr 1774, Page 2

I P S W I C H, April 22.
On Friday last the Rev. Mr. Leonard Addison was instituted to the rectory of Booton in Norfolk, on the presentation of Peter Elwin, Esq.
On Tuesday last Mr. Cyprian Colchester of Dedham, was married to Miss Kirby, daughter of John Kirby, Esq; of Colchester.
The same day Mr. Robert Thurlow, an eminent farmer at Blownorton in the county of Norfolk, was married at Winfarthing to Miss Nancy Langley, youngest daughter of Clement Langley, Esq; of that place.

IPSWICH, April 22.

.....
The same day Mr. Robert Thurlow, an eminent farmer at Blownorton in the county of Norfolk, was married at Winfarthing to Miss Nancy Langley, youngest daughter of Clement Langley, Esq; of that place.

Comments:

- 'Blownorton' above should read Blo Norton.
- Marriage licence dated 19 Apr 1774. Robert, a farmer, was over 21 but Nancy was a minor aged 20.

1775 : Debtors/Creditors of William Baker

The Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 9 Sept 1775, Page 4

ALL Persons indebted to WILLIAM BAKER, late of Saxmundham, deceased, are desired to pay their respective debts to Stephen Baker, of Winfarthing, in the county of Norfolk, or to William Crane, of Saxmundham, on or before the 10th day of October next, or they will be sued for the same without further notice; and all the creditors of the said William Baker,

who have not sent their particular demands, are desired to send the same as soon as they can conveniently; and the creditors are desired to meet the administrator on Monday the 7th day of November next, at the Pye at Harleston, to receive satisfaction for their debts, as far as the effects amount.

Comments:

- The Pye at Harleston, possibly the house known as ISAAC PYES, used as meeting place for overseers, became the Pye Inn, renamed the Magpie Hotel, now J.D. Youngs

1778 : General Courts
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 2 May 1778, Page 2

We are informed that the Rev. the Archdeacon of Norfolk hath appointed his General Courts as follows:

Preachers

Stratton, Monday May 4, Mr. Miller for Winfarthing.

Wymondham, 5, Mr. Rd. Berney for Dunston.

Swaffham, 6, Mr. Ley for Gooderston.

Fakenham, 7, Mr. Allot for Burnham Westg.

Northwalsham, 8, Mr. Paddon for Bradfield.

Loddon, 15, Mr. Molden for Kirstead.

Comments:

- Archdeaconry courts were part of the ecclesiastical court system and were usually the first local courts to deal with matters arising within the archdeaconry and with probate matters. The Court of Archdeacon was abolished in 1967.

1778 : Common Rights Action
The Public Advertiser, Tuesday, 18 Aug 1778, Page 4

On Tuesday a very interesting Cause, respecting Common Rights, was tried between Henry Wells, of Banham, Plaintiff, and Tho. Watling of Winfarthing, Defendant, on an Action brought by the Plaintiff, on Behalf of himself and the other Inhabitants of Banham against the Defendant, for his keeping and depasturing, upon the large Waste called Banham Heath, a very considerable Number of Sheep more than he could keep levant and couchant upon the Lands in his Occupation; when, after a Hearing of three Hours, the Jury found a Verdict for the Plaintiff, with Damages and Costs.

Comments:

- ‘depasturing’ is the placing of animals to graze on pasture.
- ‘levant and couchant’ - rising up and lying down - used of trespassing animals and showing that they have been long enough on land to lie down and rise up to feed (a day and night at the least).

1778 : Letter to the Norfolk Chronicle
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 5 Dec 1778, Page 2

To the Printer of the NORFOLK CHRONICLE.

Henry Wells, of Banham, plaintiff – And Tho. Watling, of Winfarthing, defendant.

SIR,

As many of your Readers are in some degree interested in this cause, not only from the contradictory accounts given of it in your paper in the month of August last, but from the public nature of it, I hope it may not long be thought impertinent to inform them of the final determination thereof. – On Tuesday the 24th of last month, the point reserved by the defendant for the opinion of the Judges of the Com. Pleas came on to be argued before them, when after a very short hearing, they were unanimously of the opinion that the plaintiff ought to recover against defendant in this action, and plaintiff is thereby entitled to damages and costs in suit. The law, as laid down by all the Judges, being, that no commoner can legally keep more flock upon the common in the summer than he can well maintain in the winter, upon the lands for which he claims his right of commonage.

This plain short account of the matter, it is hoped, will not, (as heretofore) be deemed either partial or fallacious, and nothing more is meant by requesting you to insert it in your paper, than that it may be the means to deter others from the unreasonable surcharge of commons, by which practice such commons have been rendered of little or no value to the rest of the commoners.

I am, Sir,
Your old correspondent,
A Detester of Fallacy.

Dec. 3, 1778.

1779 : Winfarthing Estate Sale
The Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 27 Mar 1779, Page 3

To be SOLD,

AN ESTATE in Occold in the county of Suffolk, all freehold, consisting of a messuage, with convenient outhouses in good repair, and upwards of 39 acres of land, now in occupation of Mr. Henry Fulcher, on lease for 3 years from Michaelmas last, at an old rent of 30l.

Also an Estate in Winfarthing, in the County of Norfolk, consisting of a farm-house, barn, stable, and other convenient outhouses in good repair, and about 29 acres of good land, now in the occupation of Mr. John Brewster, tenant by agreement from year to year.

For further particulars enquire of Mellis, Meadows and Browne, attornies, at Diss in Norfolk.

1780 : Act of Parliament
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 16 Sep 1780, Page 3

THE Proprietors of the Estates in the Parishes of Banham and Winfarthing, in the County of Norfolk; are desired to meet at the sign of the Lion, in Banham aforesaid, on Monday the 25th Day of this Instant, September, at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, in order to consider of, and settle a Plan of a Bill to Parliament, for an Act to divide and inclose the Common and waste Lands within the said Parishes.

Comments:

- 'meet at the sign of the Lion' probably indicates the meeting took place at the Red Lion Inn in the village.
- "Waste lands" these were unused area of land that has become barren or overgrown, and this in Winfarthing was finally divided and inclosed by the "Winfarthing Inclosure Act, 1781".

1781 : Death of William Roper
Jackson's Oxford Journal, Saturday, 29 Sept 1781, Page 1

A few Days ago died, William Roper, of Winfarthing, in Norfolk, aged 101 Years.

Comments:

- William was buried in Winfarthing on 15 Sep 1781, a widower. (Parish register)

1781 : Sold by Auction
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 3 Nov 1781, Page 1

To be SOLD by AUCTION,

At the FIGHTING COCKS, at Winfarthing, in the County of Norfolk, on Tuesday the 6th Day of November, Inst. Between the Hours of Eleven and One,

A MESSUAGE, Orchard, and three Acres of very good Land, in Winfarthing aforesaid, now in the Occupation of Maurice Balls, and others, at the yearly Rent of 9l.

N.B. The above Estate is Copyhold of the Manor of Winfarthing, and has a right of Commonage, and will be entitled to an Allotment in Right thereof, under the present Act for inclosing the Waste Lands in the said Parish.

Apply to Mr. Punchard, of Roydon, or Messrs. Meadows and Browne. At Diss, in the said County, for further Particulars.

Comments:

- The Fighting Cocks started its life as a seventeenth century timber framed house. The first known licensee was William Copping, 1789-1801.

1781 : To be sold.

The Ipswich Journal, Saturday 15 Dec 1781, Page 3

To be SOLD,
AN Estate lying in Shelfanger and Winfarthing
in the county of Norfolk, part freehold, part copy-
hold; consisting of a good farm-house, barn, stables, cow-
house, and other convenient out-buildings in good repair,
with about 120 acres of land. For particulars enquire of
Mr. Wm. Elliott of Shelfanger, or Tho. Fulcher at Diss.
☞ The waste lands in the parish of Winfarthing are
going to be enclosed, and there will be an allotment to
this estate.

To be SOLD,

AN Estate lying in Shelfanger and Winfarthing in the county of Norfolk, part freehold, part copyhold; consisting of a good farm-house, barn, stables, cow-house, and other convenient out-buildings in good repair, with about 120 acres of land. For particulars enquire of Mr. Wm, Elliott of Shelfanger , or Tho. Fulcher at Diss.

The waste lands in the parish of Winfarthing are going to be enclosed, and there will be an allotment to this estate.

Comments:

- “Waste lands” these were unused area of land that has become barren or overgrown, and this in Winfarthing was divided and inclosed by the “Winfarthing Inclosure Act, 1781”.

1783 : To be sold cheap.

Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 1 Feb 1783, Page 1

To be SOLD CHEAP,

SEVERAL desirable ESTATES in the Parishes of Banham, Besthorpe, Winfarthing, and Tibenham, in Norfolk, from sixteen to sixty Pounds a Year; - The Persons purchasing any of these Estates may be accommodated with great Part of the Purchase Money on giving proper Security thereupon.

Enquire of Mr. Algar, of Old Buckenham, in the said County.

1786 : Embezzling wool.
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 6 May 1786, Page 2

This week Elizabeth Clayton, of Thetford; Sarah Brock, of Woodton; and Elizabeth Purse, of Long Stratton, were convicted and paid the penalties for reeling false and short yarn. – Hannah Edwards, of Winfarthing; Martha Wragg and Sarah Ship, of Tivetshall, were also committed to Bridewell for embezzling wool.

Comments:

- “Bridewell”: The Norfolk Quarter Sessions had responsibility for five county bridewells, or houses of correction, as well as the county gaol at Norwich Castle. These were at Acle, Aylsham, Swaffham, Little Walsingham and Wymondham. The county gaol and each bridewell had assigned to them a committee of visiting justices, whose task was to inspect and report to quarter sessions, on conditions in their particular prison. (In the 1550s, one of Henry VIII's palaces was converted into a House of Correction mainly to deal with vagrants. The palace was known as 'Bridewell Palace' because it was near the Holy Well of St Bride in London. As more houses of correction were built, they were called 'Bridewells'.)

1787 : Stolen Nail Cloth.
Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 17 Nov 1787, Page 3

STOLEN on Saturday night or early Sunday morning, out of the Bleaching Yard of John Buxton, of Winfarthing, in the county of Norfolk, linen weaver, three doubles of NAIL CLOTH, not half whited, about 17d. or 18d. per yard; one was very much mildewed, one very much stained of an Oak colour. Whoever can give information of the persons stealing the said cloth, so as they can be brought to justice, shall receive Two Guineas reward, and all reasonable charges, from me.

JOHN BUXTON.

Comments:

- “Nail Cloth” is a material that is used to protect the surface; or “nail” is a measurement of fabric equivalent to about 0.06 metres

1788 : Fulcher/Pilgrim Marriage
The Ipswich Journal, Saturday 25 Oct 1788, Page 4

Married.

Yesterday Mr. Nath. Fulcher, of Old Buckenham, Norfolk, to Miss Pilgrim of Winfarthing.

Comments:

- “Nathaniel Fulcher of the Parish of Old Buckenham single man and Lydia Pilgrim of this parish single woman were married in this church by Licence this twenty first day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight by me S. Westby Curate.” (From Winfarthing Parish Register).
- Witnesses were Thomas Pilgrim and Robert Algar.
- Nathaniel, baptised in Old Buckenham on 28 May 1764, parents Nathaniel and Elizabeth [late Algar].
- He died in 1804 and was buried in Winfarthing on 30 August 1804, stating he was from Old Buckenham. (Parish register)
- Only one child found: Nathaniel, born circa 1892. He died in 1804 and was buried in Winfarthing on 27 Jun 1804, stating he was from Old Buckenham. (Parish register)

**1791 : William Johnson, inquisition
Norfolk Chronicle, Saturday, 5 Mar 1791, Page 2**

On Monday last an inquisition was taken at Winfarthing, in this county, before Capel Bringlee, gent. One of his Majesty's Coroner's for the said county, on the body of William Johnson, of Diss, whitesmith; who, returning from Winfarthing (where he had been at work) on Saturday evening, and being much intoxicated with liquor, fell down in the road, and was deserted by his companions. He was found dead on Sunday morning in the road between Shelfanger and Winfarthing aforesaid. – Jurors' Verdict, died through intoxication with liquor and the inclemency of the weather.

Comments:

- William was buried in Diss on 4 Mar 1791, aged 46 years, a pauper. (Parish registers)
- A whitesmith is a person who makes articles out of metal, especially tin, a polisher or finisher of metal goods; or one who manufactures metallic articles of neater and more delicate form, such as locks, keys, carpenters' tools, etc.

**1800 : Sale of Norfolk Farms
The Ipswich Journal, Saturday, 25 Oct 1800, Page 3**

NORFOLK FARMS.
To- be SOLD by AUCTION
Sometime in the month of November.
Of which due notice will be given in this paper,

A Farm in Winfarthing, consisting of a Farm House, with proper buildings, and about 110 acres of well inclosed land, in the occupation of Henry Baker.

Also, A Cottage, let in two tenements, conveniently situate for the use of the said farm.

A Farm in the same parish, consisting of a farmhouse, with proper buildings, and about 102 acres of well inclosed land, in the occupation of Benjamin Ellis.

A Farm in Diss, consisting, of a farm house, with proper buildings, and about 26 acres of well inclosed land, in the occupation of William Ellis.

A Messuage, being a Public Inn, called the Fighting Cocks, in Winfarthing, with a barn, stable, and other buildings, and about 38 acres of well inclosed land, in the occupation of William Copping.

A Cottage, let in two tenements, in Winfarthing, let to Benj. Ellis with his farm.

The above Estates are let upon leases, which expire at Michaelmas, 1801, under proper covenants, and the tenants will shew their respective promises.

Further particulars may be had of Thomas Ryder, Esq. No.1, Lincoln's Inn New Square, London, and of Messrs. Browne and Taylor, attorneys at law, Diss.



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