

Suffolk - Norfolk - Lincolnshire - Huntingdonshire - Hertfordshire - Essex - Cambridgeshire

# EASTERN ANGLE

Cambridgeshire - Essex - Hertfordshire - Huntingdonshire - Lincolnshire - Norfolk - Suffolk

Volume 10

JUNE 2010

No. 2

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## Hindringham Post Office, Norfolk

By Philip West with assistance and hospitality from Rodney Pointer.



The first reference in any of the county directories to a post office in Hindringham is Kelly's for 1853 which merely states that letters were received through Thetford. This would be on the Thetford, East Dereham, Guist, Briningham, Holt, Cley postal route. The village had been issued with the first handstamp in 1851 (see *The History of Norfolk Undated Circular Handstamps 1828-1860* by R.E.F.Pegg page 19). Thus it is obvious a Receiver would have been in the village from that time. That Receiver would probably have been Mr Riches who is mentioned in White's Directory for 1854 as being at the Post Office with letters arriving at 11.00am and despatched at 2.00pm.

Up until very recently I had assumed mail was delivered on foot from Guist. However, following a very helpful discussion with Rodney Pointer he suggests it was delivered on foot from Briningham. This makes sense as it too was a suboffice, like Guist, and is much closer, although Hindringham was not included as one of the 12 offices under Briningham. Rodney has in his possession two envelopes one dated 1857 and the other 1858, which were mailed from Hindringham via Briningham where they received the Briningham handstamp before being sent to Thetford.

In Kelly's for 1858 Mrs Elizabeth Riches is referred to as postmistress but by 1863 (Harrod's Directory) Samuel Southgate had become postmaster. He was also a shopkeeper and farmer. The next major change took place in or about 1879 where we see from Kelly's Directory that letters were received from New Walsingham (Railway Sub Office). Mr Southgate remained in his post for nearly 30 years before William Mayers took over his role in about 1892. His was a short tenure and by 1896 George Back had become subpostmaster. He and his son James operated the post office from the premises seen in the photograph as did their successor, Henry Benstead who took over in about 1922. He is the gentleman also featured in the photograph. Despite being named the subpostmaster most of the work at the post office was carried out by his daughter, Ethel Benstead, who became the official subpostmistress in about 1944. I remember her well and the post office at that time which also served as a shop and doctor's surgery. The front room of the premises was given over to the doctor from Walsingham a couple of times each week for him to carry out his surgery in the village. Miss Benstead retired in 1961 for the premises and post office to be taken over by Jimmy and Joy Howard. The post office licence was then transferred to Florence Twiddy in 1967. She then ran the post office for the next 34 years from her shop on Barker's Corner until her death in 2001. The principal facilities of a sub post office are now provided by Wendy Dolton from her home in Moorgate Road on two afternoons each week.

**June 2010**

## EAST ANGLIAN POSTAL HISTORY STUDY CIRCLE

<u>President</u> Paul Green	<u>Chairman</u> Gerald Daldry	<u>Vice Chairman</u> Brian Rowley
<u>Secretary</u> John W J Copeland 20 The Vale BRENTWOOD CM15 4UP Tel: 01277 218128	<u>Treasurer</u> Barry Reynolds 74 Edgecomb Road STOWMARKET IP14 2DW Tel: 01449 613319	<u>Auctioneer</u> Peter Day 17 Heywood Road DISS IP22 4DJ Tel: 01379 643907

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**Date of Next Meetings**

- 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010:** Postal History of **Dedham and East Bergholt Areas** – lead by Gerald Daldry.
- 28<sup>th</sup> August:** Members display of **12 sheets** of postal history of which eight sheets may be entered for the Pegg Cup competition.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Auction.** Please send your lots, suitably described with start/reserve price, to Peter Day as soon as possible
- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011.** Annual General Meeting and A Postal History of **Sudbury** lead by Henry Ruse. Members are always welcome to bring along to the meetings, any of their own material related to the subject. All meetings will be held at the Community Education Centre, Childer Road, Stowmarket IP14 1PP.  
Please arrive at 2pm for a prompt 2.30pm start. Why not bring a friend?

**Editor / Treasurer Notes**

At the March AGM we had a change of offices (see above).

Tom Slemons is to publish a book on the postmarks of Suffolk and Paul Green is prepared to update the Essex section of the County Catalogue and he will be pleased to receive information. Paul's address is; Bretaye, Mill Hill, Shenfield, BRENTWOOD CM15 8EU. – Tel: 01277 220989.

Some members felt that it would be good to have a list of members complete with addresses, telephone numbers, email address and areas of study published to the group to aid communications; i.e. Harold had a contact who wished to find a home for a collection of Newmarket items. Harold was not able to help as he

10 /27

didn't know who collects that town. I'm sure you get the idea. So I propose to publish such a list and circulate with the October *Eastern Angle*.

**Please do get in touch if you have any objections and I will leave the details you object to being published, out of the list.**

The Elam Cup, which is awarded annually by the Editor, was this year awarded to Rodney Pointer for his sterling work in arranging the distribution of *Eastern Angle* and inserts. Thank you Rodney and family.

Thanks were expressed to all the who had contributed items and articles to *Eastern Angle*.

The Treasurer reported that, although the funds are very healthy, we had an excess expenditure of £80 on the year and therefore members may wish to review the subscription for 2011/12. It was agreed that the subs will remain at £10 for 2011/12.

It was pointed out that 2013 will be the year of the Circle's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now we should be thinking about how we would like to celebrate this – ideas to the Secretary please.

The Bring & Buy was very successful with several members bringing material to the delight of those who were able to add to their collection.

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your subscription in good time, certainly helps me with the book work. If you have not yet renewed (RED CROSS on address label) then this will be your last *Eastern Angle* unless you renew now! If your intention is not to renew, (God forbid) then please let me know.

### **John Harrison**

By R.E.F.Pegg

It is with sadness I have to report the demise of John on his annual vacation of three months in Tenerife, in December of last year. He joined the Study Circle some 30 years ago. John was a man of many talents, he collected the postal history of Norfolk, which he recently sold at Cavandish Auctions. Prior to this he sold privately a collection of West Country postal history. At one time he was a member of the Postal History Society and wrote articles for both journals.

Another aspect of John was his music, I can remember many years ago now when he had a jazz combo and played on a Saturday evening in the Burlington Hotel in Sheringham. My wife and I often turned up to hear the combo. I know he also played at other venues in Norwich. Lastly John was a master at renovating the bedside "Teasmaid", he gathered disused appliances and made them into new, then he would be off to a car boot sale to sell them.

A host of talent now gone, I shall miss him as going back many years now he sold me an example of the Rougham Penny Post handstruck 1. I had at that time never seen one. Our condolences go out to his wife and family, a good friend gone to his rest and missed.

John Hine adds; "Very sorry to hear about the passing of John. I remember John's pioneering articles on Mileage Marks in various publications including EAPHSC bulletins and profited, as many of us, from the sale of his enormous collection of 'Norwich Union' mileage marks when they were sold some years ago

### **Roundup of Postal News of East Anglia**

Contributed by David Taylor Smith and Ed.

#### **GENERAL**

##### ***The Independent***

21.02.2010. Royal Mail is planning to raise an estimated £500m by selling up to half its mail sorting centres. King Sturge, a property agent, has been asked to sell three centres in Warrington, Northampton and Manchester to test the market. It is hoped these will raise around £50m, with 25 to 35 centres in total likely to be sold off over the next 12 months. Under the sale-and-leaseback arrangement, the centres would be bought and run by property companies, while Royal Mail would rent them back for 20 years. The sales would be one of the last big moves by outgoing chief executive Adam Crozier, whose controversial policies to reform the company have included closing thousands of post office branches and cutting jobs.

Mr Crozier is joining broadcaster ITV as chief executive later this year.

#### **CAMBRIDGE**

##### ***Cambridge News***

Post Office bosses are planning to replace Cambridge's iconic Trinity Street branch. A new post office could open in King Street as early as April if a public consultation proves favourable. A subpostmaster has already been hired for the branch which would be in a newsagents. It would replace the Trinity Street post office which is due to close. Cambridge city councillor Tim Bick, who represents Market Ward, welcomed the

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news but admitted the proposed location was less than ideal as some people will not be happy with the fact that the post office will move some distance from Trinity Street to King Street. "The new one will be closer to St Andrew's Street, where we already have a main office, and further from Castle Street, which lost its post office recently. So although the hiccup with Trinity Street has been solved, services are now not evenly spread throughout the city. The public consultation runs until 30<sup>th</sup> March.

### ***Wisbech Standard***

18.03.10.



**Marshland Smeeth Post Office** at Smeeth Road, Marshland St James, will now close on 26<sup>th</sup> May after John and Janis Davies agreed to keep it open a little longer. The Post Office hopes the extra weeks will give it time to find someone else to take on the village sub office. Mr Davies told councillors that after 22 years running the business, he and his wife had also had enough of the risks to their personal safety. A post office spokesman said that villagers would always be able to access services at St Johns Fen Road branch and Emneth.

### **ESSEX**

#### ***Barking & Dagenham Post***

15.02.10. The owner of Y & A Patel, the shop which contains **Becontree Heath Post Office**, claims Post Office Ltd has appointed a new postmaster who wants to take the post office to another part of the borough. Yakub Patel says many residents, especially the elderly, would be devastated if there was no longer a branch in the area, known as The Fiddlers. He told the POST: "There isn't another post office within a mile and a half of The Fiddlers. "Many people are very reliant on this one. Mr Patel started a petition protesting against the closure of the post office, which has stood in Green Lane for more than 40 years. We spoke to a representative from Post Office Ltd, who said the application process for the new postmaster was still on-going. She added: "Post Office Ltd is committed to retaining a post office in the immediate area and any changes of premises would be subject to public consultation."

#### ***Chelmsford Weekly News***

11.03.10. The **Bradwell** (on-Sea) Community Shop reopened just before Christmas having been closed for three years. Its AGM will take place at the village hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March to elect a committee to take it forward. The shop has been open seven days a week, staffed by volunteers, selling newspapers, groceries, fresh local bread, and milk at competitive prices. Owner Michael Baker has said the first three months of trading have been a success. A Post Office (closed May 2006) is due to return to the shop at the end of April.

### ***Gazette***

02.02.10. **Wormingford Post Office**, on Church Road, Wormingford, has been closed since 3rd December 2009 after Heather Wilson resigned as sub-postmaster. Ms Wilson refused to be drawn on the reasons for her resignation. The Post Office confirmed the resignation of the subpostmaster and would not say whether the Office would reopen.

### **NORFOLK**

#### ***Eastern Daily Press***

18.03.10. **Lyng Post Office** and Stores, near Dereham, closed in March last year so that repair work could be done after the store was damaged in a ram raid and attempted break-in. Stuart Butcher, 35, who ran the store with his partner Helen Tuttle, 26, said ever since they have been battling to get it open again but problems with building work have caused numerous delays. Mr Butcher, who took over the shop in April 2006, went to Lyng Stores on Tuesday to find it covered in posters that said things like "Let us in - we want to spend money" and "One year give us back our shop." He said when the shop closed in March last year they had thought the repair work - which included work to the structure of the building as well as plastering, decorating, rewiring and refitting the shop - would be finished within four months but he said problems with the building work has led to repairs needing to be redone a number of times, with some of the work still not finished. Mr Butcher said he hoped the shop would reopen by the beginning of June.

**Elsing Post Office**, in Peasland Green, Elsing, will temporarily shut on 8<sup>th</sup> April due to the resignation of the subpostmaster and because the premises will no longer be available for Post Office use. The closest Post Office branches to Elsing are Swanton Morley, Hockering and Mattishall.

**North Norfolk News**

16.03.10. **Weybourne Post Office** opens today in the village hall. The former twice weekly service in the village shop came to an end several weeks ago, but is restarting 100 yards away in the hall. A Post Office spokesman said: "The relocation of Weybourne Post Office will allow us to maintain access to those services for customers in the local area. The branch will open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am."

**Norwich Evening News**

24.02.2010. A Norwich subpostmaster who survived the nationwide cull of Post Offices is facing a new threat to his business after receiving a letter demanding he remove groceries from his store. **Vauxhall Street Post Office** was one of just a handful saved in Norfolk. But for Mr Wright, subpostmaster at the branch, relief at the reprieve has proved short-lived, with his business being hit hard, firstly, by the recession - and now by a letter demanding he strip his shelves of certain goods like toilet rolls and cleaning products. A letter from Norwich City Council said they had become aware that Mr Wright had been selling "grocery" goods which contravened the conditions of his lease. Mr Wright said the items have helped to supplement his business, particularly during the recession, and if forced to remove them it could have a massive impact on him. He said: "The Post Office is doing very badly. My income in December was down almost 18 per cent on the previous year. Unless they come down heavily on me I will continue to sell them as I have for the past 12 or so years. I will stay and fight."

**SUFFOLK****Eastern Anglian Daily Times**

07.01.10. **Otley Post Office** and village shop, near Ipswich, has again taken the Village Shop/Post Office Award in the East of England round of the Countryside Alliance Awards. Owners Penny and Andrew Sunaway are extremely pleased.

12.01.10. Two men with scarves covering their faces walked into **Rock Estate Post Office** and store in Hall Road, Oulton Broad near Lowestoft, at about 9am on Saturday (9<sup>th</sup>). One threatened the staff with a knife while the other got into the Post office area and stole cash from the safe.

**Office Closures and Openings**

Submitted by Ken Smith who will be pleased to hear of any additions; Ken's address is 3 St Agatha's Close, PERSHORE WR10 1DQ.

**CLOSURES**

Roxwell, Chelmsford, Essex	tc	02.10.09.	Kings Walden, Hitchin, Herts	tc
12.11.09.				
Wormingford, Colchester, Essex	tc	03.12.09	East Rudham, Kings Lynn, Nfk	tc 31.12.09.
Elsingham, Dereham, Nfk	tc	08.04.10 .	Woolthorpe, Gantham, Lincs	tc 11.03.10.
Burrough Green, Newmarket, Sfk	tc	08.03.10.		

**REOPENING & CHANGE OF STATUS &c.**

White Notley, Witham, Essex	closed	05.02.08	Essex CC financed	07.11.09
Berechurch Rd, TSO, Colchester, Essex	Essex CC financed replaces Pownall Crescent which closed	05.05.08		30.11.09
Lodge Avenue, Dagenham, Essex	PO Essentials opened			18.01.10
Orsett, Grays, Essex	PO Essentials opened			18.01.10
Fowlmere, Royston, Herts (in Cambs)	tc	25.08.09 after audit. Reopened as Partner in Queens Head		18.03.10
Tillingham, Southminster, Essex	tc	17.02.10	reopened	18.03.10
Spixworth, Norwich, Nfk	tc	22.09.09, fraud	reopens in village newsagent, Crostwick Lane	22.03.10

**RELOCATED**

London Road TSO, Harlow, Essex ( was BO at one time)	from No 31 to Co-op Store	14.01.10
Oxlow Lane TSO, Dagenham, Essex	tc 16.02.10 reopen and located 1-3 Frizlands Lane	24.02.10
Weybourne, Holt, Nfk	from Weybourne Stores to Village Hall	March/April 2010

**OUTREACH**

Glenthams, Mkt Rasen, Lincs	closed 17.08.09, resignation	reopen Hosted Outreach Mission Hall	04.01.10
Helpston, Peterborough, Hunts	closed 22.09.08 repced by Partner Outreach, Exeter Arms which closed		09.11.09

## Huntingdonshire Rural Posts, 1770-1860 - Part 1.

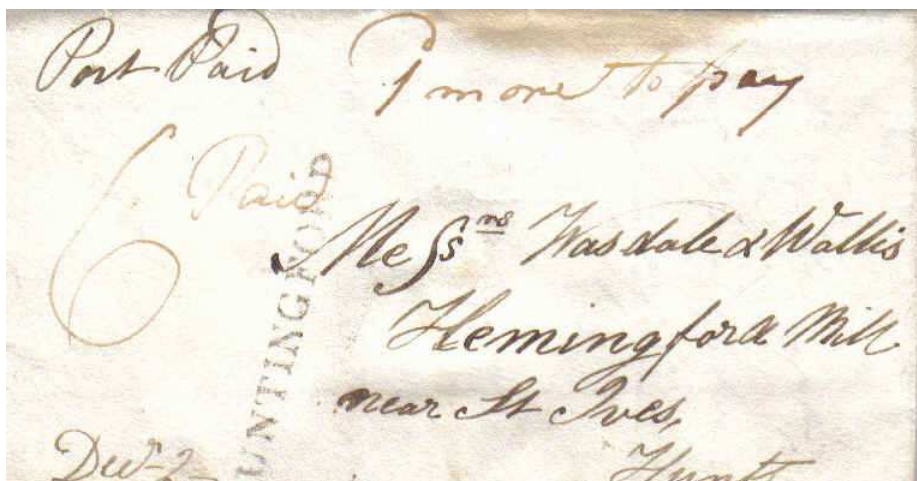
By Bob Ricketts

Most Huntingdonshire villages - like those of neighbouring counties - received only a very limited postal service prior to the major 'revision' of the 1850s. These articles outline the development of rural postal services in Huntingdonshire from the late-18<sup>th</sup> century. The findings are very much 'work in progress' - shared for interest and to identify any major errors or omissions.

### **Precursors:**

Before the 1840's most villagers would have had to collect or post their letters at the nearest of the county's five post towns (Huntingdon, Kimbolton, St. Ives, St. Neots, or Stilton), or send by a servant or passing friend, or entrust them to the local carrier or a private messenger. The latter could be expensive and insecure - in August 1800, Mrs. Collins of the Vicarage, Riseley wrote: "... unless I hire a person purposely, which is very expensive, as well as difficult to be obtained. I must likewise request you to retain the second halves [of bank notes] until you receive notice of my having received the first as the post in this most out of the way place is not very safe, the letters being entrusted to very doubtful hands ... as notwithstanding Kimbolton is five mile nearer this Place than Bedford, the communication is still less frequent and doubtful."<sup>(1)</sup>

### **'Private posts':**



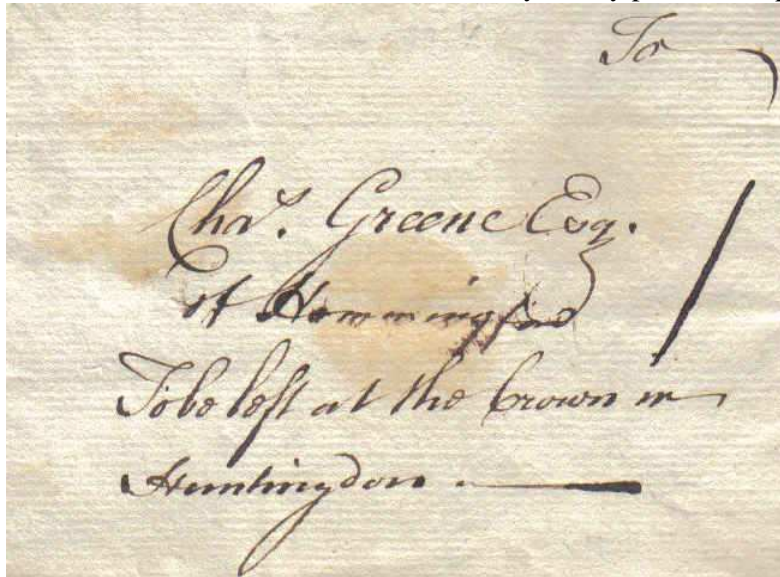
**Figure 1: Letter dated December 1822 from Buntingford to Hemingford Mill, pre-paid 6d, plus 1d local delivery charge**

Villages close to a post town might be served by a delivery service run by the post-master, for which a subscription or fee was charged. The term 'private' not 'unofficial' post is used because such posts could be integrated with the General Post network and shown on Post Office Circulation Maps - as was the private post to Ramsey in c.1770. **Figure 1** shows a letter dated 1822 from Buntingford to Hemingford Mill, pre-paid 6d, but endorsed "1d more to pay" as a local delivery charge.

**Ramsey** was served by a private post from Huntingdon by c.1770.<sup>(2)</sup> **Figure 2** shows a letter dated 1777 to Huntingdon, charged 1d. The 1787, 1793 and 1797 editions of Cary's Atlas show Ramsey as an office under Huntingdon<sup>(3)</sup>, although the 'receiver' was not paid from G.P.O. funds.<sup>(4)</sup> In December 1827 the Surveyor visited Huntingdon to enquire "into the expediency of a Penny Post establishment to Ramsey", but could not recommend such a step as the volume of correspondence would be insufficient to justify the expense.<sup>(5)</sup> By 1830 the "receiving house" for the private post was at the Rose & Crown in Ramsey, and letters were sent by horse post to Huntingdon three days a week.<sup>(6)</sup> A further application for a Fifth Clause or Penny Post to Ramsey was made in 1831, but failed as the estimated annual expense (£75) would be double the likely revenue (£35). The Surveyor also noted that: "Some of the most influential persons in the neighbourhood are moreover averse to the present private arrangement being disturbed."<sup>(7)</sup>

Prior to 1826, **Godmanchester** received a daily delivery from Huntingdon, for which 1d per letter was charged (see below). Robson's Directory of 1839 describes **Yaxley** as being served by a daily private post,

presumably from Stilton, the mail arriving at 10.00 and despatched at 20.00. George Sharman was the 'postman'.<sup>(8)</sup> **Bluntisham, Earith and Fenstanton** were served by a daily private foot post from St. Ives.<sup>(9)</sup>



**Figure 2: Letter dated July 1777 from Ramsey to Huntingdon, charged 1d**

The 1793 editions of Cary's Atlas lists **Staughton Highway** on the road between Kimbolton and St. Neots as a receiving office under St. Neots. As an official post and receiving office was not established until 1843, this was presumably also a private arrangement. The same status is assumed for **Bythorn** and **Great Catworth**, listed by Cary as receiving offices under Kimbolton, but to which an official post wasn't established until 1846.<sup>(10)</sup>

**'Official posts':**



**Figure 3: Letter dated August 1816 from Huntingdon to Buckden, charged 2d**

The 1793 edition of Cary's Atlas lists **Buckden** as a receiving office under Huntingdon<sup>(11)</sup>, although the 'receiver' was not paid from G.P.O. funds.<sup>(12)</sup> Buckden was on the route of the daily horse post between St. Neots and Huntingdon and therefore served easily.

Postmarks for the Buckden office are recorded from 1820.<sup>(13)</sup> **Figure 4** shows a 'BUCKDEN/59' mileage mark on a letter dated June 1826 to Lincoln. George Usher, a shoemaker, was the receiver in 1839, with letters arriving daily at 04.00 per the Huntingdon cross-mail and being despatched at 21.00.<sup>(14)</sup>

Circulation maps for December 1813 and February 1838 show a foot post to **Spaldwick** and **Molesworth**.<sup>(15)</sup> This was probably established in 1812 - there is a reference in the index to Post 35 for that year to: "Post to Ellington, Spaldwick, etc", but there are no further details.<sup>(16)</sup> The February 1838 Circulation Map shows

receiving offices at Molesworth and Spaldwick served by a messenger three days a week from Huntingdon to Ellington.<sup>(17)</sup>



**Figure 4: Letter dated June 1826 from Buckden to Lincoln, charged 8d, 'BUCKDEN/59' mileage mark**

**Somersham** was on the route of the mail from Huntingdon to Wisbech, via St. Ives, Chatteris and March, and from February 1792 the London to Cambridge and Wisbech mail coach.<sup>(18)</sup> By 1793 there was a suboffice at Somersham, with the sub-deputy being paid £2 a year; the suboffice was under the control of the Cambridge postmaster.<sup>(19)</sup> From July 1793 letters for Chatteris, March and Somersham were charged upon St. Ives, reducing the workload of the Cambridge postmaster and expediting the arrival of the mail coach at Wisbech.<sup>(20)</sup> In 1820, to accelerate the Wisbech Mail, it was agreed that Somersham should receive its London letters by a foot messenger from St. Ives, with letters to St. Ives and London being carried by the Wisbech to London evening mail coach.<sup>(21)</sup> In 1839 letters arrived at Somersham by the St. Ives foot post at 09.00 and were despatched to St. Ives by mail coach at 22.00. Dinah Cox was the receiver, paid £10 a year.<sup>(22)</sup> Postmarks for the Somersham suboffice are recorded from 1820.<sup>(23)</sup> **Figure 5** shows a letter from Somersham to Indiana with a 'SOMERSHAM' handstamp.



**Figure 5: Letter dated March 1833 from Somersham to Indiana, pre-paid 2/3d straight-line 'SOMERSHAM' (HN 160)**

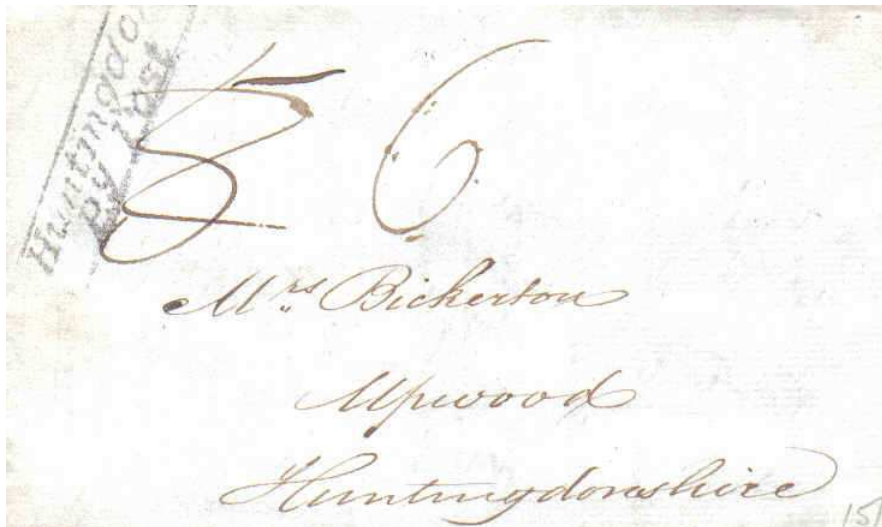


**Penny Posts:**

In 1826 the residents of **Godmanchester** applied “for some better arrangements for the delivery of their letters.” They already paid a private delivery charge of 1d a letter. It was estimated that a Penny Post would generate about £25 a year in income, against a cost of 8/- a week (£20/14/- a year) for a daily messenger to and from Huntingdon, and £5 for a Penny Post receiver at Godmanchester. <sup>(24)</sup> Joseph Allen, a boot and shoemaker, was the receiver in 1839. <sup>(25)</sup> **Figure 6** shows a letter dated June 1833 with a boxed “Huntingdon/Py Post” handstamp.



**Figure 6: Letter dated June 1833 from Cambridge to Godmanchester, charge uprated from 5d to 6d and boxed “Huntingdon/Py Post”**



**Figure 7: Letter dated June 1837 from Peterborough (via Huntingdon Penny Post to Ramsey) for Upwood, charge uprated from 5d to 6d and boxed “Huntingdon/Py Post”**

In January 1836 a Penny Post was approved from Huntingdon to serve **Bury, Old Hurst, Ramsey and Warboys**. A messenger was appointed six days a week from Huntingdon to Old Hurst, Warboys, Bury and Ramsey, paid 18/- a week. Receivers were appointed at Bury, Old Hurst, Ramsey and Warboys. The Reverend Finch provided a personal guarantee of £20 to underwrite the service. <sup>(26)</sup> Ebenezer Harlock, a grocer and baker, was appointed as receiver at Bury, paid £2 a year; the receiver at Old Hurst was paid £2 a year; Joseph Mead, was appointed to Ramsey at £6 a year; Sarah Rodgers, keeper of the Pelican Inn, was appointed at Warboys, paid £4 a year. <sup>(27)</sup> Both the Godmanchester and Old Hurst, Warboys, Bury and Ramsey Penny Posts proved profitable. Generating a total net annual revenue of £37/5/- in 1836. <sup>(28)</sup>



**Figure 8: Letter dated September 1838 from Wistow (via Huntingdon Penny Post at Warboys) to Halesworth, “Huntingdon/Penny Post”**

In October 1839 a Penny Post was approved from Huntingdon to **Brampton**, served by the Huntingdon Cross Mail, with a salary of £5 a year for the receiver and a delivery allowance of £3/18/-. James Abbott was the receiver.<sup>(29)</sup>

Also in 1839, Penny Posts were established from St. Neots to **Blunham, Eaton Socon, Great Barford** and **Tempsford** in Bedfordshire, replacing existing private receiving offices on the line of the Bedford-St. Neots horse post.<sup>(30)</sup>

#### References:

- (1) A. M. Strange, *The Seventeenth-century Post to Bedford*, Bedfordshire Magazine, volume 7, pp. 305-306. (2) Post Office Circulation map, c.1770
- (3) J. Cary, *New and Correct English Atlas*, 1787, 1793 and 1799
- (4) Post 9/131 (1791/1792)
- (5) Post 40 (1827)
- (6) Pigot & Co. Directory, 1830
- (7) Post 37/17 minute 298
- (8) & (9) Robson's *Commercial Directory*, 1839
- (10) & (11) J. Cary, *New and Correct English Atlas*, 1793
- (12) Post 9/131
- (13) R. M. Willcocks & B. Jay, *The British County Catalogue of Postal History*, vols. 1 & 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1996, pp. 119
- (14) Pigot & Co. Directory, 1839
- (15) Post Office Circulation maps, December 1813 and February 1838
- (16) Post 35 (index) volume 30 minute 436
- (17) Post Office Circulation Map, February 1838 and Post 35/78 minute 693
- (18) M. B. Evans, *The Postal History of the March and Chatteris areas of Cambridgeshire*, 2000, pp. 1-2 (19) Post 60/1
- (20) M. B. Evans, 2000, op cit, pp. 2
- (21) Ibid, pp. 8-9
- (22) Robson's *Commercial Directory*, 1839 and Post 3/24
- (23) R. M. Willcocks & B. Jay, 1996, op cit, pp. 120
- (24) Post 35/14
- (25) Pigot & Co. Directory, 1839
- (26) Post 35/21 minute 726
- (27) Post 35/21 minute 726, Robson's *Commercial Directory*, 1839, Pigot & Co.'s Directory, 1839
- (28) Report of the Second Select Committee on the Postage, no. 2/Appendix E
- (29) Post 35/33 minute 115; Robson's *Commercial Directory*, 1839
- (30) Post 35/32 minute 414

### Wickford Essex – Skeleton

By Patrick Awcock

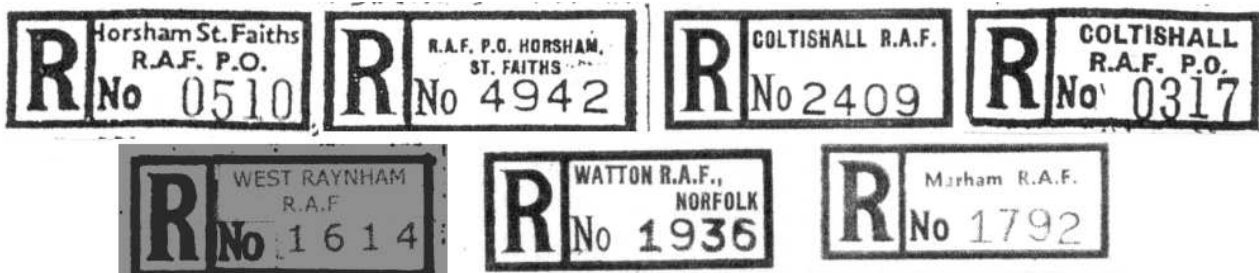
Wickford Post Office in Essex suffered a robbery in 1954 in which the handstamps were stolen as a result of which two skeleton handstamps were issued 12.07.54 and returned on 20.10.54. They have never been recorded in use – or do you know different? Please let Ed. know.

**Registration Labels for East Anglian Bases in WW II (10/4)**

By GHR Homer-Wooff:

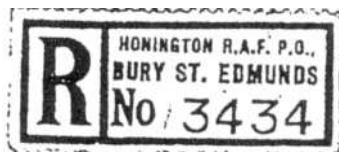
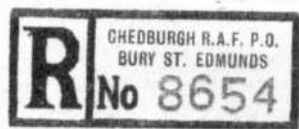
**4: NORFOLK**

BIRCHAM NEWTON RAFPO / Kings Lynn RAF / PO Kings Lynn	WW1 – bombers - H.P. V/1500 - WWII - Coastal Command 43-46
COLTISHALL / RAFPO upper / lower case RAF RAF COLTISHALL	Open 1940-2006 Fighters - Battle of Britain (BoB) - Douglas Bader.
DOWNHAM MARKET RAFPO	Satellite of Marham: open 1942 – Bombers, of which 170 crashed / did not return to the station.
FELTWELL RAFPO RAF	Open 1937 – Bombers - + R. New Zealand Air Force - No.75 sqd.: `Thor` I.B.M.
FOULSHAM RAFPO	Open 42-45: had FIDO- Bombers + N. American `Mitchells`.
GT. MASSINGTON RAFPO	Open 1940- satellite of West Raynham - medium bombers - closed 1950.
HORSHAM ST FAITHS /RAFPO upper/lower case RAFPO HORSHAM/ ST FAITHS	1939 – Bombers - + USAAF with B24s:- then Fighters - became civil Norwich International airport (Air Anglia - Oil rigs flights etc from 1969.)
LANGHAM RAFPO / HoIt. Norfolk	Satellite of Bircham Newton.- open 1940 -Anti a/c tugs - Shipping attacks - RAF left in 1958.
MARHAM RAFPO RAF Kings Lynn `14`	WWI - 1915 open as Narborough: 1937 Bombers - Mosquito: current GR 4 `Tornado`:
NORTH CREAKE RAFPO RAFPO m/s R4- North Creake	1941 - decoy airfield-then 1944-45 - bombers. (label Type `D`)
OULTON RAFPO	1940-47 - satellite for Horsham St Faiths / Swanton Morley / Foulsham. 1944 - USAAF bombers.
SCULTHORPE RAFPO	1943 - Satellite of West Raynham: Free French: closed 44-reopened 48 for USAAF jet bombers.
SWANNINGTON RAFPO	Open 1944-47. Mosquitoes.
SWANTON MORLEY RAFPO upper / lower case RAFPO Swanton / Morley, Norfolk RAF Swanton / Morley	Opened 1940-57: light bombers. Now British Army `Robertson` barracks.
TRIMINGHAM `Mundesley`	1941- Chain Home Extra Low (CHEL) Radar & `Oboe` station.
WATTON RAFPO RAF RAF Norfolk RAF Station	Open 1939 – Bombers - Blenheims: 1943 - USAAF: 1945 - RAF Radio Warfare Est.
WEST RAYNHAM RAFPO RAFPO, Norfolk RAFPO/ West Raynham RAF RAF West / Raynham	Open 1939-75 - Bombers: - after 45 - Central Fighter Est.



**5 : SUFFOLK**

. BAWDSEY Ferry/ Woodbridge '6'	Radar / Transmitter station. – CHEL - “Oswald” monitored V2 launchings.
CHEDBURGH RAFPO / Bury St Edmunds	1942-46. Satellite of Stradishall. Bombers + Polish Sqd.
HONINGTON RAFPO RAFPO/ BURY ST EDMUNDS RAF Suffolk Bury St /Edmunds `26'	1937 - Bombers + Czech Sqd. 1942 – USAAF - B38s: 1946 - RAF Berlin Air Lift: current RAF Regiment.
LAKENHEATH Camp	Civilian PO - Satellite of Mildenhall – 1948 - USAAF B29s. Current - 48 <sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing
MARTLESHAM HEATH RAFPO	1917 - R.F.C.- Aircraft / Equipment testing station (1939 - to Boscombe). Fighters - USAAF to 1963.
MILDENHALL RAFPO RAF/ PO Suffolk Newmarket '3' Suffolk	Open 1934 - Bombers: 1950 Joint RAF / USAAF.
SNAILWELL RAFPO	1941-46 2 <sup>nd</sup> Satellite of Duxford: Fighters + USAAF. Belgium training.
STRADISHALL Camp PO	1938-70: Bombers. Now H M Prison Highpoint.
TUDDENHAM RAFPO / Bury St Edmunds	1943-46: Bombers: 1954 USAAF.
WOODBIDGE RAFPO	1 million trees cleared:- open 1943-48: built with wide runway (250yds) for emergency landings = 4,120 by end of war. FIDO installed; (burnt 100,000 gals fuel per hour) USAAF - 1952-93:then British Army.



This concludes the look at five of the East Anglian counties: If anyone can expand the listing, will be pleased to correlate new information.

**Bibliography:**

Post Office Archives: Post 56/11:

Registration marks of British Isles: JA Mackay. 1982.

Postal Markings of RAF, RFC, RNAS Stations- 1918-68. Bill Garrard. 1990. Wikipedia.

**Lidgate Post Office, Suffolk – 1890**

Henry Ruse supplied this interesting item from the *Bury Free Press* of 25<sup>th</sup> January 1890.

**Lidgate.** It will interest many readers to know that Mr Philip Hammond of Lidgate was appointed subpostmaster on December 13th 1835, 5 years before the penny post, he handed the business over to his son after 55 years as postmaster in Lidgate. He was the first post office official in Lidgate, before that time letters had to be called for at Newmarket and a carrier named Joe Rowling of Wickhambrook generally brought them, sometimes he was gone three days, 6d was charged for a letter from Bury and Cambridge and 10<sup>d</sup> from London, when the so called penny post came out to this village there was 2<sup>d</sup> to pay the post office but when free delivery came people were wonderfully pleased. Mr Hammond relates that once a lady owed 2<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> for letters and he declined to deliver them without payment, the woman complained to Squire Pawsey without telling him the circumstances and he wrote to the Post Master General, an official was sent from Ipswich in great haste, he asked the innkeeper with whom he stayed “has your postmaster been stealing letters” and when he saw Mr Hammond, he said “what’s amiss have you been stealing letters” hearing the full particulars of the case, he said “is that all then good-day”. An attempt was made to get Mr Hammond a pension but as he works as a harness maker it failed.

## First Postal Order Sold at Auction



The world's first ever postal order which was bought for just one shilling 129 years ago has been sold at auction going on sale Photo: SWNS

The perfectly-preserved payment, which has the serial number 000001, was the first of millions produced by the Post Office in Lombard Street, London, in 1881.

It sold for £4,485, smashing the guide price of £2,500.

Only five other 1881 postal orders bearing the same

000001 number are known to have survived but this is the first one ever produced by the main Lombard Street post office. The Postal Order is a direct descendent of the money order which had been established by a private company in 1792. Postal orders were invented by the Victorians as a safe and secure method of sending money through the post. Even the first ones contained the watermark 'POSTAL ORDER / ONE SHILLING' as a counter forgery device. The first one was bought by Arthur Bull on January 1, 1881, after he queued for three hours outside the Lombard Street post office. It was signed by the clerk A.G. Emery but Arthur never cashed it passing it down to his son, also named Arthur Bull. When Arthur Bull junior died in 1953 the postal order passed to his son Brian Galpin who died in 2005 aged 72 the postal order passed to his widow Audrey, 75, and she agreed to auction it.

During World War One and World War Two, British Postal Orders were temporarily declared legal tender to save paper and labour.

*With acknowledgements to the Telegraph.co.uk 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010.*

### Auction 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010 - Prices Realised

Lot No.	P/R	Lot No.	P/R	Lot No.	P/R	Lot No.	P/R
1	£23.00	44	U/S	87	£4.00	130	£2.00
2	U/S	45	£2.50	88	£2.00	131	U/S
3	£5.00	46	£2.00	89	U/S	132	£3.00
4	£2.50	47	£3.50	90	U/S	133	£1.50
5	£5.50	48	£3.00	91	£1.00	134	£1.50
6	£5.00	49	£1.00	92	£2.00	135	£3.00
7	£5.00	50	£3.50	93	£1.00	136	£3.50
8	£2.50	51	£0.50	94	£2.00	137	£2.00
9	£3.00	52	£3.50	95	£0.50	138	£1.50
10	£4.00	53	U/S	96	£2.00	139	£2.00
11	£3.00	54	£2.00	97	U/S	140	£6.50
12	£1.00	55	£2.00	98	£5.00	141	U/S
13	U/S	56	£2.00	99	£1.00	142	£2.00
14	£1.00	57	U/S	100	£1.00	143	£2.00
15	£1.00	58	£2.00	101	£3.00	144	
16	£1.00	59	£4.50	102	£4.50	145	
17	£1.00	60	U/S	103	£1.00	146	
18	£1.50	61	U/S	104	£2.00	147	
19	£2.00	62	£2.00	105	£15.00	148	
20	£1.00	63	£1.50	106	U/S	149	
21	£1.50	64	£4.00	107	U/S	150	
22	£1.00	65	£5.50	108	£2.00	151	
23	£4.50	66	U/S	109	U/S	152	
24	£5.50	67	£5.50	110	U/S	153	
25	£5.00	68	U/S	111	£1.50	154	
26	£10.50	69	U/S	112	U/S	155	
27	£5.00	70	U/S	113	£1.00	156	
28	£3.00	71	£0.75	114	U/S	157	
29	£7.00	72	£4.00	115	£3.50	158	
30	£7.00	73	£1.00	116	£2.00	159	
31	U/S	74	£3.50	117	£4.50	160	
32	£1.00	75	£2.00	118	£1.00	161	
33	£3.00	76	U/S	119	£1.50	162	
34	£2.50	77	£0.50	120	U/S	163	
35	U/S	78	£1.00	121	£2.00	164	
36	£0.50	79	£1.00	122	£7.50	165	
37	£0.50	80	U/S	123	£3.00	166	
38	£1.50	81	£3.50	124	£3.00	167	
39	£2.00	82	£0.75	125	£2.50	168	
40	U/S	83	U/S	126	£1.50	169	
41	£0.75	84	£2.50	127	£2.00	170	
42	£4.50	85	£2.00	128	£3.00	171	
43	£0.50	86	£1.00	129	£2.50	172	

Total  
£330.26

## Manningtree & its Sub-Offices – Part 4.

By Gerald Daldry

### **LAWFORD**

Photographs showing the Post Office in two different locations on the hill in Lawford Street during the Edwardian era.




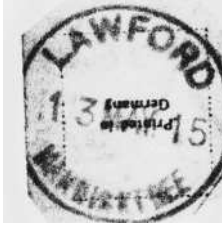







Followed (overleaf) by a photo of the Post Office when situated on the hill in Wignall Street, probably around 1920-30s. No trace of the building now exists.

The last photo is of Lawford in 1979 and shows the Post Office in Hungerdown Lane where it remained until closure in the 1980s.



1845. Letters received through Manningtree Office. Population in 1841 – 868.
- 1850/1855. MRS MARY FENN Receiver. Letters from Manningtree at 7.45am and dispatched at 7.30pm.
1859. MRS MARY FENN Receiver. Letters from Manningtree 7.30am, dispatched 7.30pm. Money Order Office - Manningtree. Population - 890.
1863. JOHN SPOONER subpostmaster, baker and grocer. Letters via Manningtree 7.30am, dispatched 7.30pm.
1866. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER postmaster - beer retailer. Appears John has died as wife recorded as baker etc. Letters from Manningtree 7am and dispatched 7.40pm. Eastern Union Railway mentioned.
1870. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER. Postmaster and shopkeeper. Letters arrive from Manningtree 7.20am, dispatched 7.40pm.
1874. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER Receiver, also beer retailer and shopkeeper. Letters from Manningtree 7.20am, dispatched 7.40pm. Population 1871 - 815. Acreage-2679:
1878. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER Receiver. Letters from Manningtree 7am, Dispatched 7.20pm. M.O.O. - Manningtree.
1882. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER. Receiver. Letters as above. Population 1881 - 814.
1886. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER. Receiver. Letters from Manningtree 6.45am, dispatched 7.20pm.
1890. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER. Receiver. Letters as above. 1891. Thomas Spooner (52) described as Asst Postman. George Bloom (44) 155 The Street Rural Postman / Messenger.
1892. THOMAS WILLIAM SPOONER. Receiver.
1894. MISS MARY FROSTICK. Subpostmistress, Letters from Manningtree 6.45am. Dispatched 7.20pm. Spooner- Parish Clerk and Rate Collector!
1898. MISS MARY FROSTICK subpostmistress, Letters from Manningtree 6.45am, 12.35pm. Dispatched 7.05pm, Sundays 11.10am.
1902. MISS MARY FROSTICK subpostmistress, Letters as above. Population 1901 - 809. 1903- As above.
1906. MISS MARY FROSTICK. Subpostmistress Letters from Manningtree 6.45am 12.35pm, dispatched 7.05pm, Sundays arrive 6.45am.
1908. MISS ARABELLA VERLANDER. subpostmistress. Letters arrive 6.45am, 12.45pm, Sundays 6.45am, dispatched 7pm, Sundays 7am.
1910. MISS ARABELLA VERLANDER. Subpostmistress Letters arrive 6.45am, 12.45pm, Sundays 6.45am. Dispatched 7pm, Sundays 11am.
1912. MISS ARABELLA VERLANDER subpostmistress. Letters arrive 6.20am, 12.20 and 6.20pm, Sundays 6.20am, Dispatched 7am, 12.30 and 7pm, Sundays 7am.
1914. MISS ARABELLA VERLANDER subpostmistress Letters arrive 6.30am, 12.30pm. For callers only 6.20pm. Arrive Sundays 6.30am, Dispatched 7am 12.30 and 7pm, Sundays 7am Sunday P.O. open 8 - 9am, collection 10am, Population 1911 - 896.
1917. MISS N PAYNE subpostmistress no other details.

<p>An undated circular handstamp was issued to Lawford 29<sup>th</sup> August 1851. I have a copy in black for 1853. LAWFORD=====</p>	<p>1</p> 
<p>A rubber datestamp was issued on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1893 but I have no record of its use. LAWFORD/date/MANNINGTREE.</p>	<p>L6</p> 
<p>By 1908 a rubber datestamp with thin lettering was in use and is illustrated. My example in purple ink. LAWFORD/date/MANNINGTREE</p>	
<p>By 1914 a 28.5mm diameter rubber datestamp with thicker letters is recorded in black ink and is illustrated by an example used in 1915. LAWFORD/date/MANNINGTREE</p>	<p>L8</p> 
<p>Certainly from 1915 until 1920 another 28.5mm diameter rubber datestamp was in use with rearranged lettering to include the county name at the foot. LAWFORD/MANNINGTREE/date/ESSEX</p>	
<p>By 1922 a 24.5mm black single circle was in use also to cancel mail and included the code letter 'B'. LAWFORD/code/date/year/MANNINGTREE.ESSEX</p>	<p>L10</p> 
<p>A 24.5mm single circle with slightly taller letters was noted in the 1960s, also using code 'B'. LAWFORD/code/date/year/MANNINGTREE.ESSEX</p>	<p>L11</p> 
<p>A 23.5mm single circle with neither code letter nor time was in use by the 1970s and is illustrated in use in 1979 for counter work and registered items. LAWFORD/date/year/MANNINGTREE.ESSEX</p>	<p>L12/13</p>  



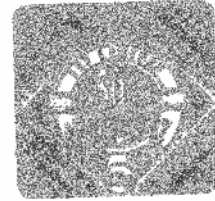
**LAWFORD SCOUT POST**

The British Telecommunications Bill was passed in 1981 and Section 68 of the Bill gave to the Secretary of State for Industry the powers to issue a licence allowing charities to carry Christmas Cards at a concessionary rate. But only “for the purpose of raising funds for .... Charitable purposes”.

1992.



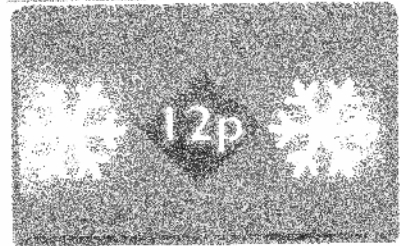
1999.



1995.



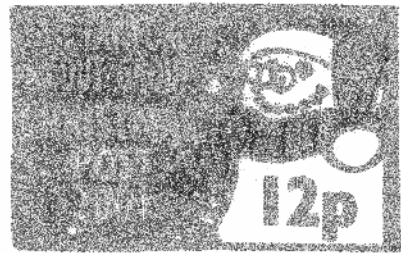
2000.



1996.



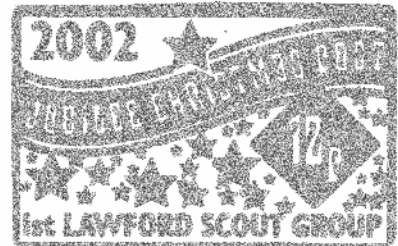
2001.



1997.



2002.



1998.

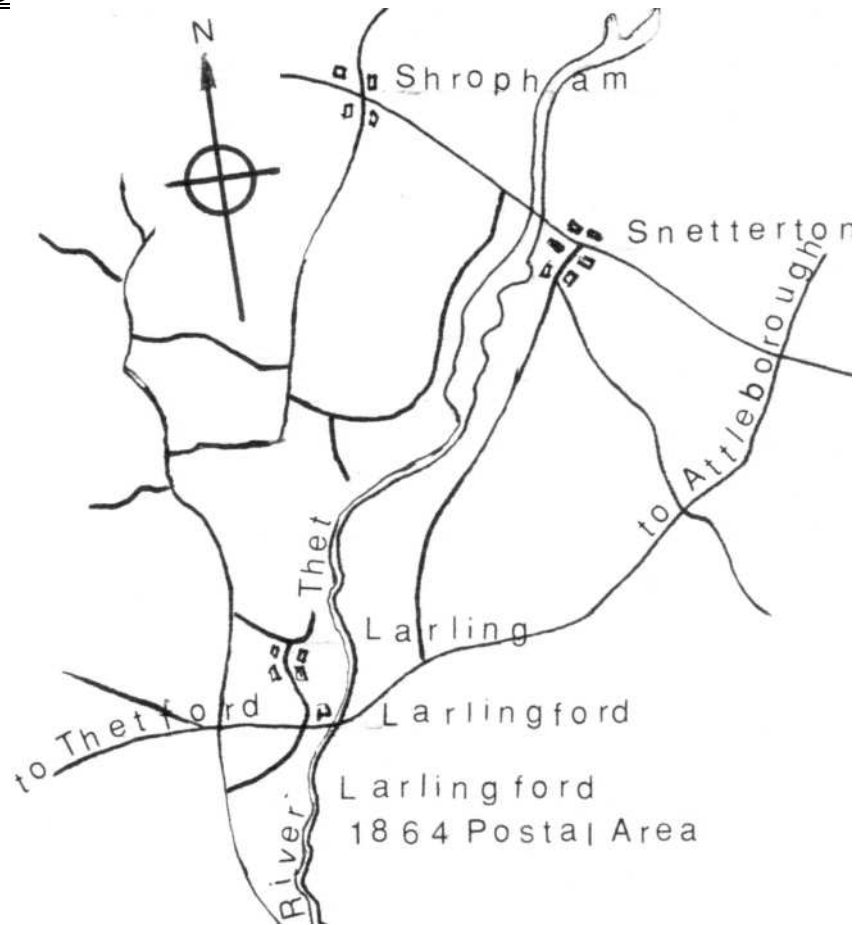


*(to be continued with LITTLE BROMLEY)*

# Sub-Office Datestamps of Norfolk – Parts 32, 33 &34

By R E F Pegg

## LARLINGFORD



### **LARLING or LARLINGFORD**

1864 Daniel Watson, receiver. At the Angel Inn on the turnpike.

1892 Charles Doe, postmaster. Letters received from Thetford at 4.00am; dispatched at 8.15pm; Sundays at 6.45p.m. Harling is the nearest money order & telegraph office. Postal orders are issued, but not paid.

LARLING/THETFORD

17.08.1894

L 21 x 2

T 20 x 2

LARLING/THETFORD

24.12.1911

L 21½ x 2½

T 21½ x 2½

LARLING/THETFORD

21.10.1914

L 20 x 3

T 23 x 3

LARLING/THETFORD

24.12.1916

29.11.1916

L 20 x 3

T 23 x 3

LARLING/ATTLEBOROUGH/NORFOLK

15.09.1922

18.09.1924

L 16½ x 2¼

A 20½ x 2

N 22 x 3½

LARLINGFORD/THETFORD

07.08.1888

L 20½ x 2

T 19½ x 2



B

VG

B

B

**SHROPHAM**

1864 None.

1892 Charles Dack, receiver. Letters arrive through Thetford at 7.15am; dispatched at 6.45pm; Sunday 10.40am. Great Hockham is the nearest money order & telegraph office. Postal orders are issued, but not paid.

**SNETTERTON**

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Thetford; arrive at 7.15am. Letter box near the church, cleared at 6.50pm; Sunday, 10.35am. East Harling is the nearest money order & telegraph office. (See Thetford).

**LITCHAM****BEESTON**

1864 None.

1892 Mrs Eliza Preston, receiver. Letters arrive through Swaffham at 8.15am; dispatched at 9.30am & 5pm. Litcham is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

**BITTERING PARVA**

1864 None

1892 Letters received from East Dereham arrive at 8am. Gressenhall is the nearest post & money order office, savings bank & telegraph office.

**BRISLEY**

1864 None.

1892 Robert Warner, receiver. Letters through Dereham, arrive at 7am; dispatched at 6.15pm & on Sundays at 9.20am. Elmham is the nearest money order & telegraph office. Postal orders are issued here, but not paid.

BRISLEY/DEREHAM

26.06.1890

B 17 x 2 ½

D 19 ½ x 2 ½

**EAST BILNEY**

1864 John Cork, receiver. Letters to Litcham at 3pm.

1892 William Muffitt, receiver. Letters are received at 7pm from East Dereham; dispatched at 6.10pm. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Gressenhall.

EAST BILNEY/DEREHAM 14.03.1893

EB 21 x 2 ½

D 19 ½ x 2 ¾

### EAST LEXHAM

1864 Post office no details, received a undated double arc on the 1.10.1851.

1892 Wall letter box cleared at 5.35pm; no collection on Sundays. Letters through Swaffham, via Litcham arrive at 7.30am. The nearest money order and telegraph office is at Litcham.

Why did this office have a udc in 1864 and no office in 1892?

### KEMPSTONE

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Swaffham at 7.30am. Gressenhall is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

### LITCHAM

1864 John Garman, receiver. Letters to Swaffham and then by mail cart to Brandon, at 6pm and arrive at 7am.

1892 Mrs E. Northway Folkinborne, postmistress. Money order & telegraph office, savings bank & Annuity & Insurance office. Letters received from Swaffham at 6am & 5.20pm; delivered 7am & 5pm & dispatched at 1, 5 & 6.30pm; Sundays, delivered 7am; dispatched 1.25pm.

### MILEHAM

1864 None.

1892 Philip Beeston, subpostmaster. Letters through Swaffham, via Litcham, arrive at 7.15am & 5.40pm; dispatched at 5.45pm; Sundays, arrive at 7.15am; dispatched at 11.20pm. The nearest money order and telegraph office is at Litcham.

MILCHAM/SWAFFHAM 01.06.1892

M 19 x 2 ½

S 21 x 2 ¼ Error for Mileham

### STANFIELD

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Dereham, arrive at 7.40am. Whissonsette is the nearest money order office & telegraph office is at Litcham. Pillar letter box cleared at 5.50pm; Sundays at 10.25am.

STANFIELD/DEREHAM 15.12.1910

S 21 x 2 ½

D 21 ½ x 3

STANFIELD/DEREHAM 22.08.1919

B

S ?? x 3 ½

D 23 ½ x 4

### TITTLESHALL-cum-GODWICK

1864 Robert Hotson, receiver. Letters to Litcham 4.40pm.

1892 Oliver Charles Chapman, postmaster. Letters from Swaffham through Litcham arrive at 7.35am & 7.15pm; dispatched at 8.40am & 5.30pm. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Litcham.

Postal orders are issued here, but not paid.

TITTLESHALL 24.12.1886

T 21 x 2 ½

TITTLESHALL/SWAFFHAM 26.09.1894

T 23 x 2 ½

S 21 x 2 ¾

### WEST LEXHAM

1864 None.

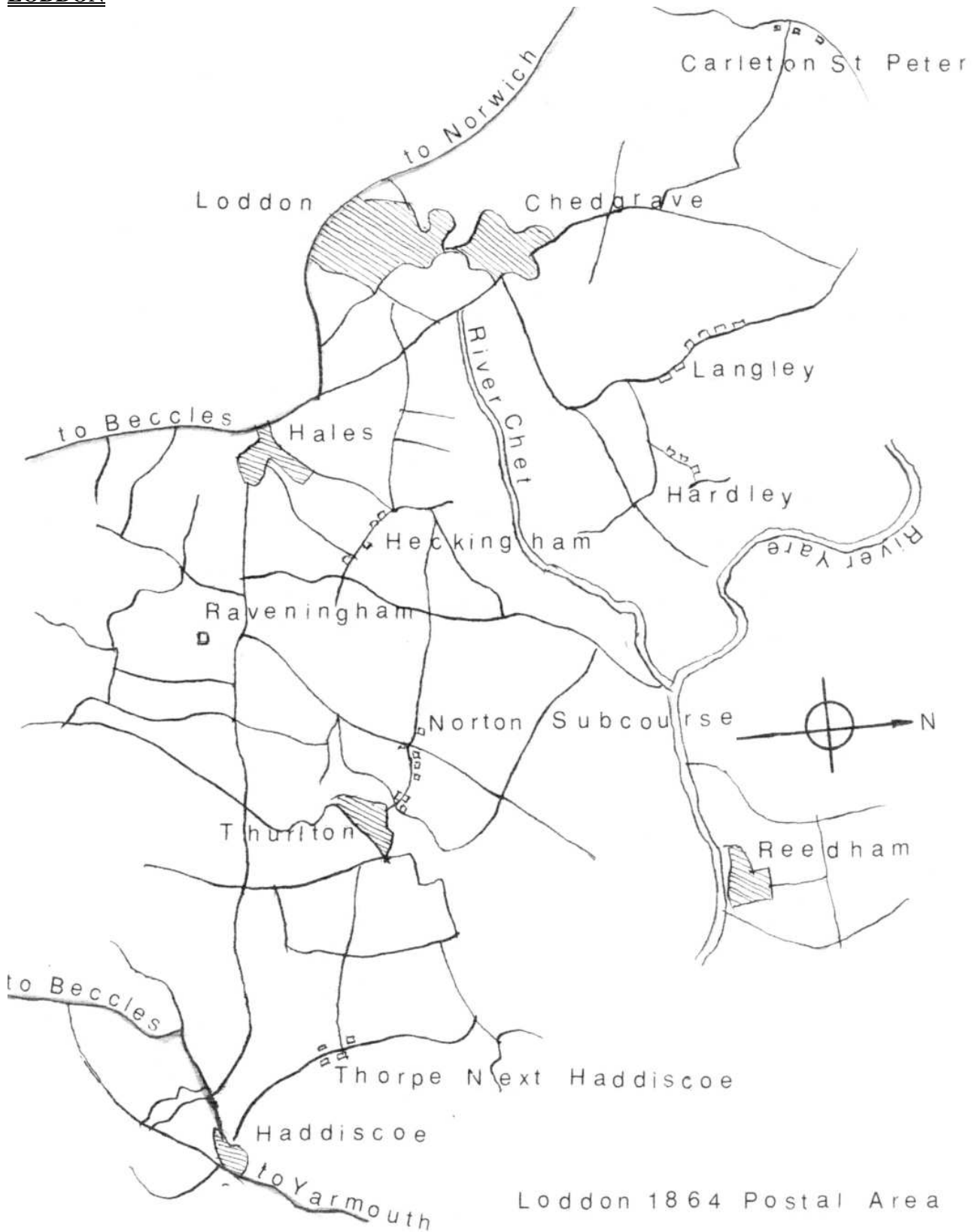
1892 Wall letter box cleared at 5.5pm week days only. Letters through Swaffham, via Litcham, arrive at 8am. Litcham is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

WEST LEXHAM/SWAFFHAM 20.01.1893

WL 22 ½ x 2 ½

S 21 ½ x 2 ¼

**LODDON**



**CARLETON ST PETER**

1864 None.

1892 Letters received through Norwich arrive 9.30. Loddon the nearest money order & telegraph office.

**CHEDGRAVE**

1864 None.

1892 Letters received through Norwich, arrive at 8am. Loddon is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

### HADDISCOE

1864 James Bee, receiver. Letters dispatched via Loddon to Norwich at 1.35pm.

1892 James Bee, subpostmaster. Letters arrive from Norwich, via Loddon, at 8.15am & 2.30pm & dispatched at 2.55pm; no Sunday post. Letters for Waveney Valley works, Haddiscoe & St Olave's junction station & "Queens Head", through Great Yarmouth. Tofts Monk is nearest money order office; Reedham is the nearest telegraph office for delivery & the railway station for collection of telegrams.

HADDISCOE/NORWICH 02.10.1899

H 21 x 2 ½

N 22 x 3

### HALES

1864 None.

1892 James Bane, receiver. Letters through Norwich arrive at 7am; dispatched at 3.40pm on week days only. Loddon is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

HALES/NORWICH 22.11.1894

H 17 x 2 ¼

N 21 ½ x 2 ½

HALES/NORWICH

05.09.1913

H 16 x 4

N 21 ½ x 3 ½

HALES/NORWICH

01.01.1915

02.08.1915

B

H 19 ½ x 3 ¼

HALES/NORWICH

(sales list)

1920



### HARDLEY

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Norwich, arrive at 7.30am. Wall letter box cleared at 2.50pm. Loddon is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

### HECKINGHAM

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Norwich, arrive at 7.30am Loddon is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

### LANGLEY

1864 None.

1892 Letter boxes cleared at 2.15 & 6.15pm Letters through Norwich, arrive at 9am; no Sunday post. Loddon is the nearest money order & telegraph office. Post office opened later.

LANGLEY/NORWICH 16.06.1905

L 21 x 2 ¾

N 22 x 2 ¾

LANGLEY/NORWICH

23.12.1912

22.05.1914

VG

L 22 x 3

N 22 x 3

### LODDON

1864 Elizabeth Gunton, receiver. A money order & savings bank, letters dispatched at 4.15pm.

1892 Thomas William Ellis, postmaster. Money order & telegraph office, Savings bank & Annuity & Insurance office. Letters are received from Norwich at 6.5am; dispatched per mail cart at 4.20pm; by special messenger at 7pm to mail train at Buckenham.

### NORTON SUBCOURSE

1864 None.

1892 George John Ellett, subpostmaster. Money order & savings bank & Annuity & Insurance office. Letters through Norwich, arrive at 7.45am; dispatched at 3.5pm. Reedham is the nearest telegraph office. No Climax dater issued.

10 /47

**RAVENINGHAM**

1864 None.

1892 Mrs Elizabeth Cuddon, receiver. Letters through Norwich, arrive at 7.15am & 3.25pm; dispatched at 3.30pm. Norton is the nearest money order office. The telegraph office is at Loddon.

RAVENINGHAM/NORWICH 22.11.1894

R 22 x 2

N 22 x 2 ¼

RAVENINGHAM/NORWICH

06.09.1913

10.10.1917

VG

R 22 X 2 ½

N 22 x 3 ½

**THORPE-NEXT-HADDISCOE**

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Norwich, via Loddon, arrive at 8.15am. Letter box cleared at 2.40pm. The nearest money order office is Norton Subcourse & telegraph office is Loddon.

**THURLTON**

1864 None.

1892 Letters through Norwich, via Loddon, arrive at 8am. The nearest money order office is at Norton Subcourse & telegraph office is at Loddon.

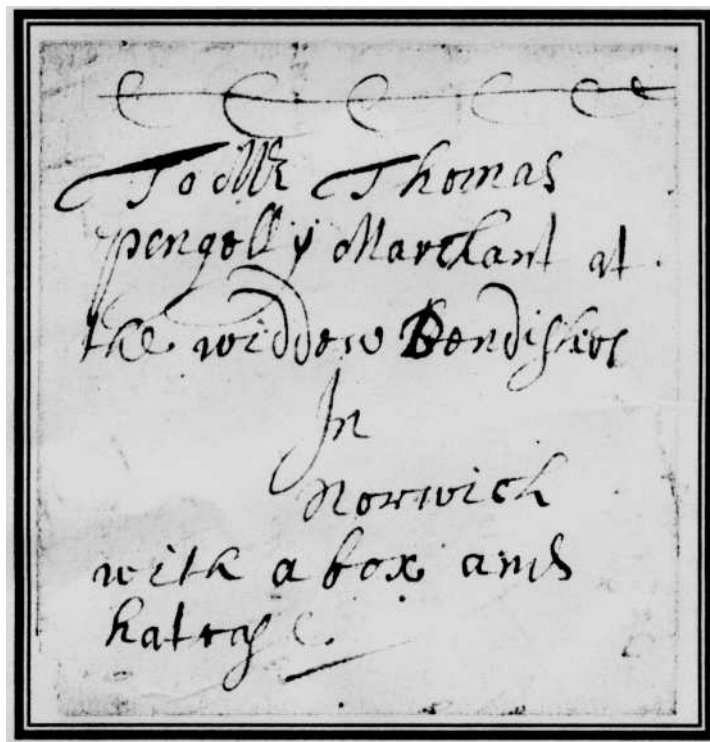
*(to be continued)*

**Letter by Carrier – with Goods**

By Malcolm Ray-Smith

Entire dated Yarmouth 25<sup>th</sup> January 166 (/4?) from George Harper.

*To Mr Thomas / pengally Marchant at the widow Bondighos / In / Norwich with a box and hatcase*



The endorsement about the box and hat-case served to remind the carrier of the items in the consignment to Mr Pengelly, a well know merchant, as well as justifying the carrier in taking a letter for gain (which would otherwise be strictly illegal) and alerting the addressee of what items he should expect from the carrier.

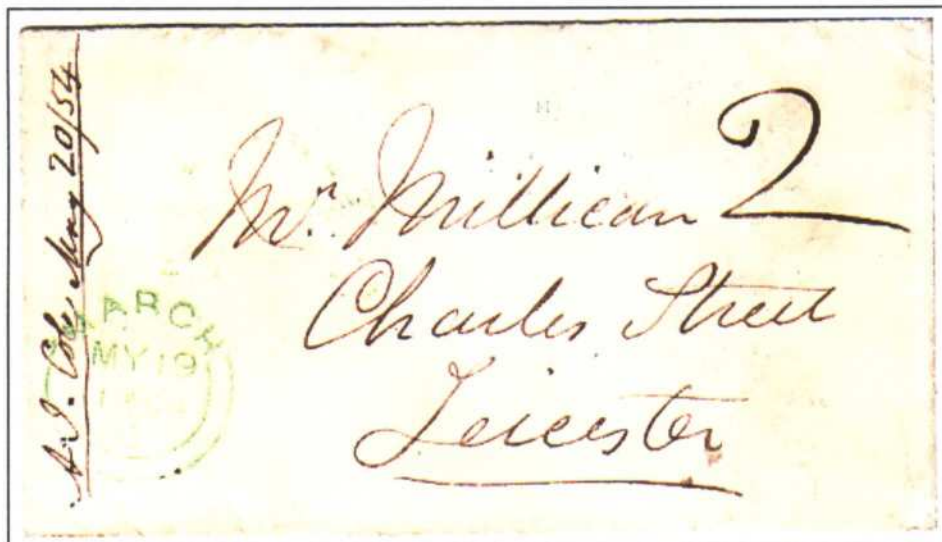
Under the Act of 1660 there was a general prohibition on anyone except the Post Office carrying letters as a business – excepting **common carriers** could deliver letters if they were taken **with goods** to the **same address**.

## The Postal History of the March & Chatteris Areas of Cambridgeshire

9<sup>th</sup> Supplement By Martin Evans

**MARCH - Page 48** Number of Delivery Points in 1963 - 4,550 (Town) 1950 (Rural area)  
1950 Show was at Doddington Not March, see Supplement 8.

**MARCH - Page 77 & 78** New early & late dates.



**19 May 1854. 2 Manuscript charge mark of March. Shows postmark Type 11 in Green, the earliest date recorded for this colour.**

Type 20 MARCH Recorded from 6 December 1870 to 10 January 1871.

Type 31 MARCH Recorded from 28 March 1888 to 11 May 1898.

Type 33 MARCH Recorded from 23 December 1901 to 4 June 1905.

Type 48 MARCH/CAMBS Recorded from 10 May 1936 to 25 January 1952.

**8 ST PETERS ROAD - Page 100**



Cambs Times - 4 July 2008 St Peters Road PO March

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**Post Office axe looms over St Peter's Road post office, but sub-postmaster Kiran Brahmhatt and staff member Mandy Simpson are ready to fight the government plan. Cambs Times - 8 July 2008**

A Sub-postmaster, whose post office serves hundreds of elderly March residents, has promised he will fight the proposed closure of his branch.

Kiran Brahmhatt's post office is one of four in Fenland facing the axe, under the Government's plan to close up to 2,500 post offices across the UK

The future of March's other two post offices - at Tesco Express in Broad Street and in Wisbech Road - are secure, but Mr Brahmhatt thinks his post office will also survive with the support of councils, North East Cambs MP Malcolm Moss and the public.

"It's devastating, but a bit of a surprise as well," said Mr Brahmhatt, who runs the post office within Leeson's in St Peter's Road. "I just don't understand why the axe has fallen on us, but if we get your total support we will survive. We have got lots of elderly people and care homes at our end of town and they walk here. I don't know how they will manage without this post office. The Post Office says people will be no more than a mile away from a post office after the closures but, if this one is taken away, people living on the Cavalry Estate or along Wimblington Road will not be within two miles of Tesco Express. We actually have a number of customers come here from Tesco Express, because they are waiting too long. Those queues will just get worse if this closes. If logic, prudence and common sense prevail this post office will be kept open."

Mr. Brahmhatt, who took over at Leeson's about three years ago, says his post office is "borderline" for closure, under the Post Office's guidelines.

He said: "I don't know what the guideline is, but I very much believe we are short of it by about seven per cent. But all my customers are devastated. They're furious. They do not want to loose their post office."

Two jobs are at risk under the proposed closure - one full-time role and one a part-time role. Mr Brahmhatt said: "They do not deserve this, they work really hard and I am really proud of them. I have never had a customer leave with a long face and that is down to them." A petition has been launched at the post office counter for people to lodge their objection to the proposed closure. Public consultation will finish on August 26 and a final decision will be announced shortly afterwards. If the branch is permanently closed it will take place in October at the earliest.



**Protesters take a stand one last time outside the St Peter's Road sub-Post Office. Cambs Times - 12 September 2008**

Angry customers rallied to support Kiran Brahmhatt as he made an 11th hour plea to save his March post office.

The deed may have been done, the decision probably already made, but customers of the St Peter's Road sub post office still cling to the hope it will stay open.

Mr Brahmhatt said he expects to hear in the next few days what the future holds, but he fears the post office will close.

"I am just concerned for all our customers, especially those who are elderly," he said. "They do not want to be walking long distances to other post offices, and then having to queue for a long time."

He added: "I just want to thank everyone who has signed petitions and fully supported the campaign to keep the post office open."

"I just hope the post office can come to some arrangement for our elderly customers, who are all really upset."

The sub-post office is one of 23 across the county earmarked for closure but that didn't stop customers staging another protest this week against the impending loss.

Many elderly residents use the post office and there is a fear they will struggle to make the journey to the Broad Street Tesco Express post office, and even if they do, they will end up queuing for too long.

March councillor Fred Yeulett, the county council's cabinet member for communities, said: "We do not have a bottomless pit of money and we would have to reduce our spending on other services to find the money to bail out post offices."

### **From Post Office Limited. Network Change Programme. Area Plan Decision Booklet**

Post Office St Peters Road branch.

The main concerns expressed by respondents during local public consultation regarding our proposal to close this branch related to what were said to be frequent queues at the nearest alternative branches and the potential impact the closures might have on the community particularly as a large proportion of customers are elderly. Respondents stated that Post Office St. Peters Road branch was busy and conveniently located. A number of petitions were also submitted during the local public consultation, opposing the proposed closure.

Post Office Limited has considered all responses received during the public consultation period and a review of this proposal has been undertaken.

There are two alternative branches within 1.5 miles of Post Office St Peters Road branch. The nearest alternative branch, Post Office March branch, is located just over half a mile away in March town centre, together with many other high street retailers including a supermarket. The journey to this branch from Post Office St Peters Road branch is along level footpaths and there is some parking available outside the branch. The branch also has level access and automatic doors to assist disabled customers. Whilst there is no direct bus service from Post Office St Peters Road branch into March town centre, a Hail-and-Ride scheme is in operation from Morton Avenue which is within 600 yards of the branch.

The second alternative branch, Post Office Wisbech Road branch is also accessible for customers with mobility difficulties and there is roadside parking available nearby.

Taking these and all other relevant factors into consideration, including the needs of our more vulnerable customers, Post Office Limited has decided to proceed with the proposed closure of Post Office St Peters Road branch.



**Staff at St. Peter's Road, March heard the news on Wednesday. Mat Carpe and Mandy Stimpson, above will both lose their jobs.**

**June 2010**

Cambs Times - 19 September 2008

All four Fenland post offices threatened with closure had the decision confirmed on Wednesday.

Massive opposition - particularly to keep sub post offices in March and Wisbech - was cast aside by Post Office Ltd.

The four which will be closing from next month are:

- March, St Peter's Road
  - Benwick, High Street (hosted outreach proposed at Five Alls pub three hours a week)
- (others excluded as outside March & Chatteris area)

It was left to Postwatch, the independent watchdog for postal services, to confirm the decision by the Post office following a round of public consultations.

Postwatch said it had scrutinised each of Post Office Ltd's proposals, encouraged customers to engage in the consultation process, and worked to ensure Post Office Ltd took into account responses submitted.

Office closed on the 14 November 2008.

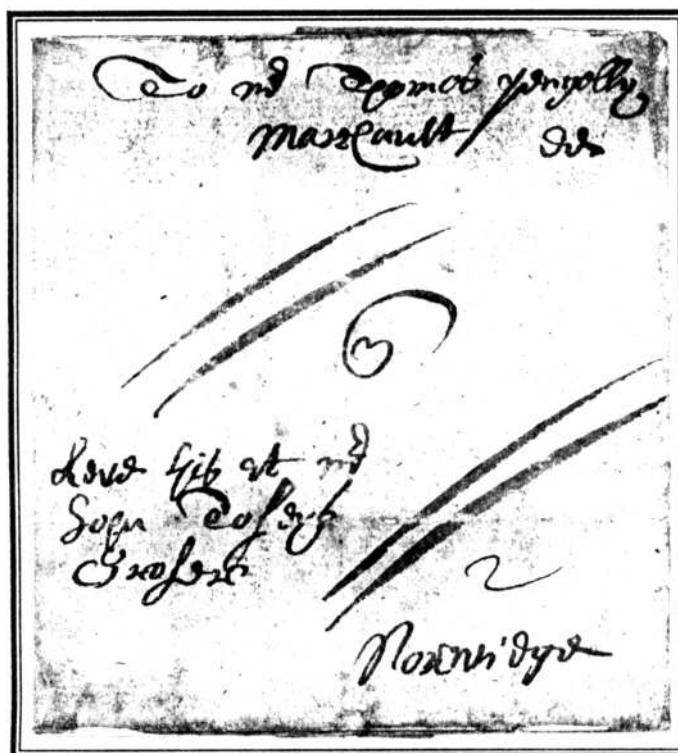
*(continues with Benwick Post Office 1910)*

### 1659 London to Norwich – Jason Grover

By Malcolm Ray-Smith

Entire from L Gonings dated London 7<sup>th</sup> Maye 1659.

*To Thomas Pengelly merchant / in / leave this at the / Sign of the / Grocer / Norridge*



Very clearly charged only 2d when the official rate from London to Norwich, being over 80 miles, was 3d and it therefore appears almost certain that this letter was carried by **Jason Grover** who styled himself as the **Postmaster of East Anglia** and openly advertised that he undercut the official rate.

Jason Grover was later imprisoned for persistently breaking the Post Office monopoly to carry letters after repeated demands to stop.