

Price: £8.99

Publication Date: May 2007

ISBN: ISBN 978 184114 583 9

Format: Paperback, 128 pages,
210x148mm,
including over 25
black and white illustrations

Imprint: Halsgrove

GHASTLY TRUE TALES OF THE NORFOLK POISONERS

Pam Brooks

We have a morbid fascination of murder by poison. The crime is usually premeditated, often with detailed planning needed to administer the poison without suspicion either to the victim or to the subsequent investigators. Death may take weeks or months as the poison slowly takes hold. In past times the penalty of death was almost always invoked for such heartless crimes.

Norfolk Poisoners is aimed at readers who enjoy local history and stories of true crimes. This is one of the few books which deals specifically with the murders around Norwich and Norfolk. The book covers 15 or so actual crimes from the heyday of poisoning – the nineteenth-century – introducing us to the murderers, their victims and the investigations, based on contemporary reports, trial records and gallows broadsheets.

Cases and places include: The Hempnall Poisoner, 1839. Charles Daines, executed for the attempted murder of his wife using arsenic in her tea. • In 1825 Mary Neal and her daughter Susan were charged with attempting to murder Mr Hales of Yarmouth and his family. • The Happisburgh poisonings. In 1846 77-year-old Jonathan Balls, his wife and four grandchildren died of poisoning. • The Stow Bardolph 'Wholesale' poisonings, 1850. A family of 10 were poisoned, but whom and why? • The Tibbenham poisonings. In 1847 Mary Pearson and Elizabeth Everett were poisoned by arsenic; the murder was thought to have been committed by the maidservant.

Pamela Brooks is a freelance author, historian and journalist who grew up in Norfolk and, following a degree in English, has lived in Norwich for over 20 years. She has written several books on the history of Norfolk and Norwich, and also writes romantic fiction as Kate Hardy; she was shortlisted for the Romantic Novelists' Association Romance Prize in 2006. She lives with her husband, two children, a Springer spaniel, and too many books to count!



HALSGROVE

Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SS

Tel: 01884 243242 Fax: 01884 243325

www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TRADE PACK

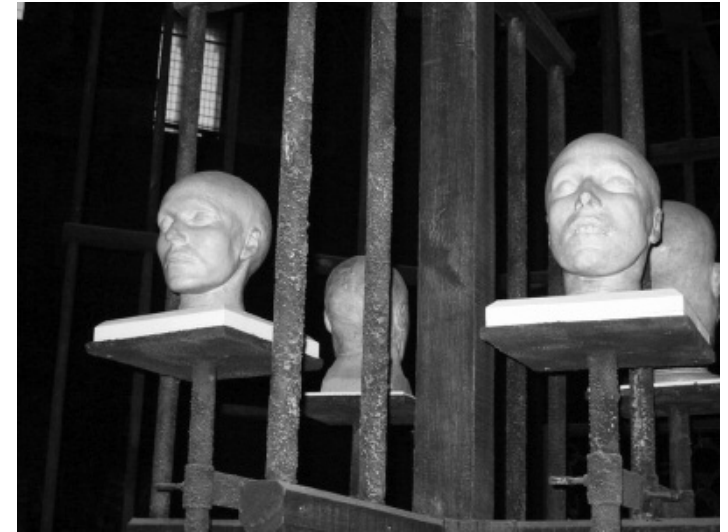


Example of a typical poison bottle.

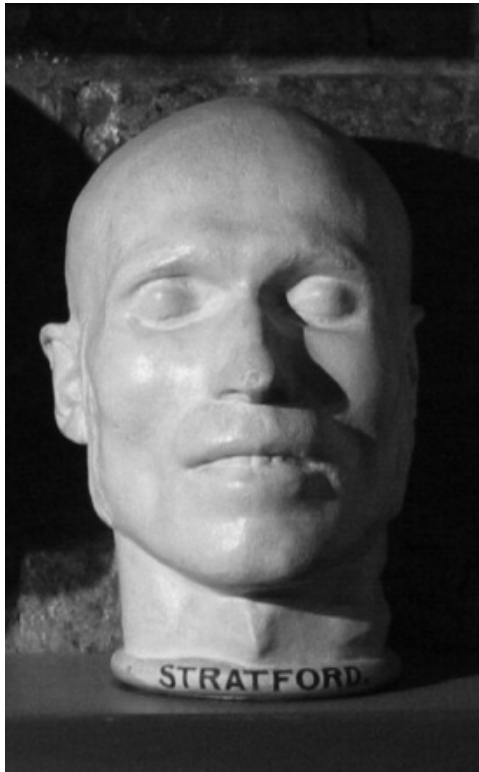


Postwick church where John Stratford taught himself to write on moonlit nights.

THE GALLERY – NORFOLK POISONERS



Death masks of Frances Billings and Peter Taylor on display at Norwich Castle.



Above: The pharmacy at Burnham Market where Billings and Frarey purchased the poison.



Greyhound pub, Tibenham, where the inquest into the murders was held.

Left: Death mask of John Stratford at Norwich Castle.



Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SS

Tel: 01884 243242 Fax: 01884 243325

www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com