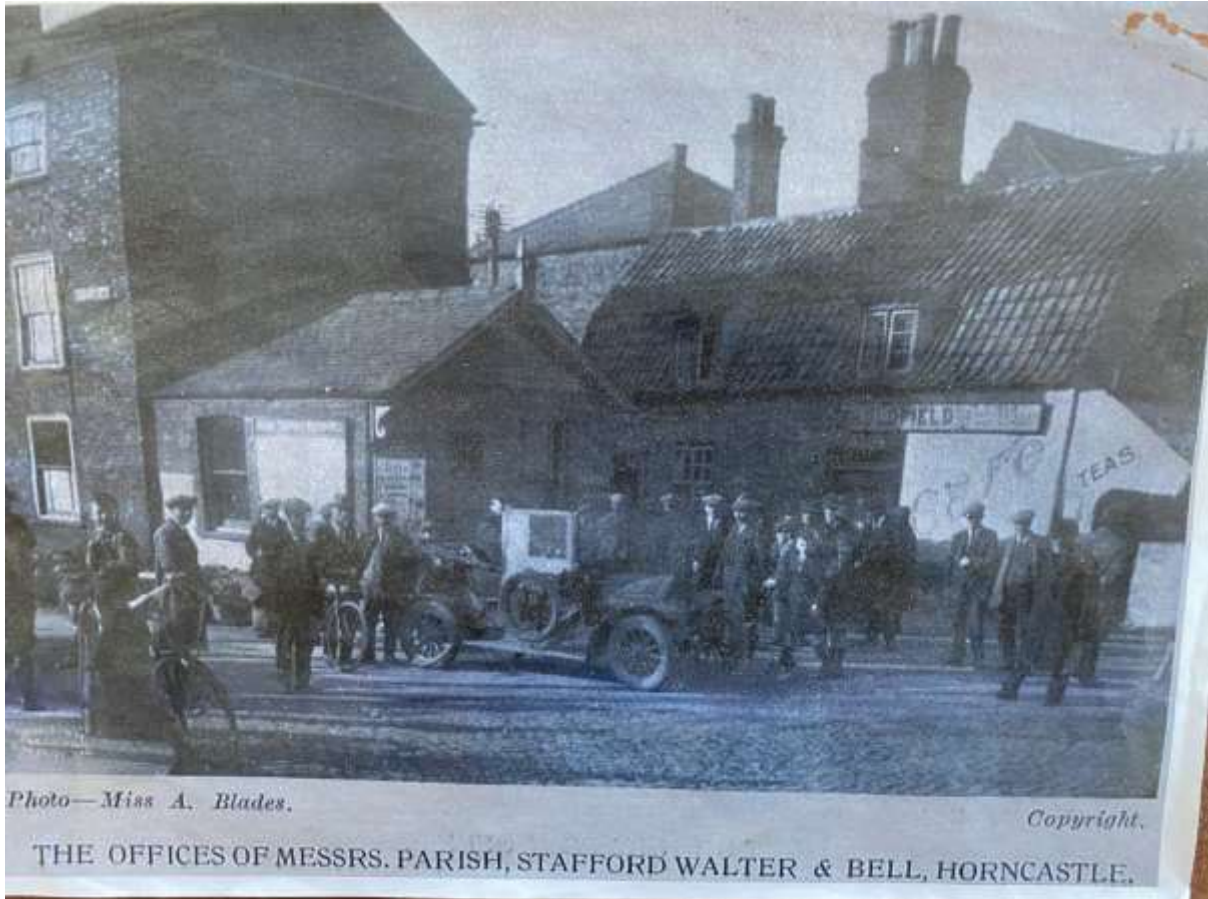


Robert Bell and Company.

This year, 2022, marked 150 years since our firm moved into Old Bank Chambers in Horncastle. Previously the office had been at 10 High Street Horncastle, but the firm's history goes back much further.



This view reflects how Old Bank Chambers appeared in the early part of the Twentieth Century. It had a single storey extension towards the Bull Ring. Inside was a long pine wooden counter, (Wilf Hodson who came as office junior had to have a special step so he could see over it). That single storey was replaced about 1960 with a two storey extension.

Old Bank Chambers stands next to the traffic lights at the heart of Horncastle. It is a three storey Georgian building with 1960's extension towards the Bull Ring. At one time it was the Chambers for the Bank (Garfits) next door: Much of Horncastle was owned by the Revesby Estate, as was Old Bank Chambers until it was bought by Robert Hay Bell from them in 1957.



In the 1980's with it's two storey extension, and the Jubilee Concert Band playing outside on a Saturday instead of the auction "on the stones".

Tom Thumb's House is on the ridge top, there's a similar one on a house in the Market Place at Tattershall. The carved wooden 1573 panelling in the end room came across the road from Stow's Corner off Hammerton Lane and East Street.



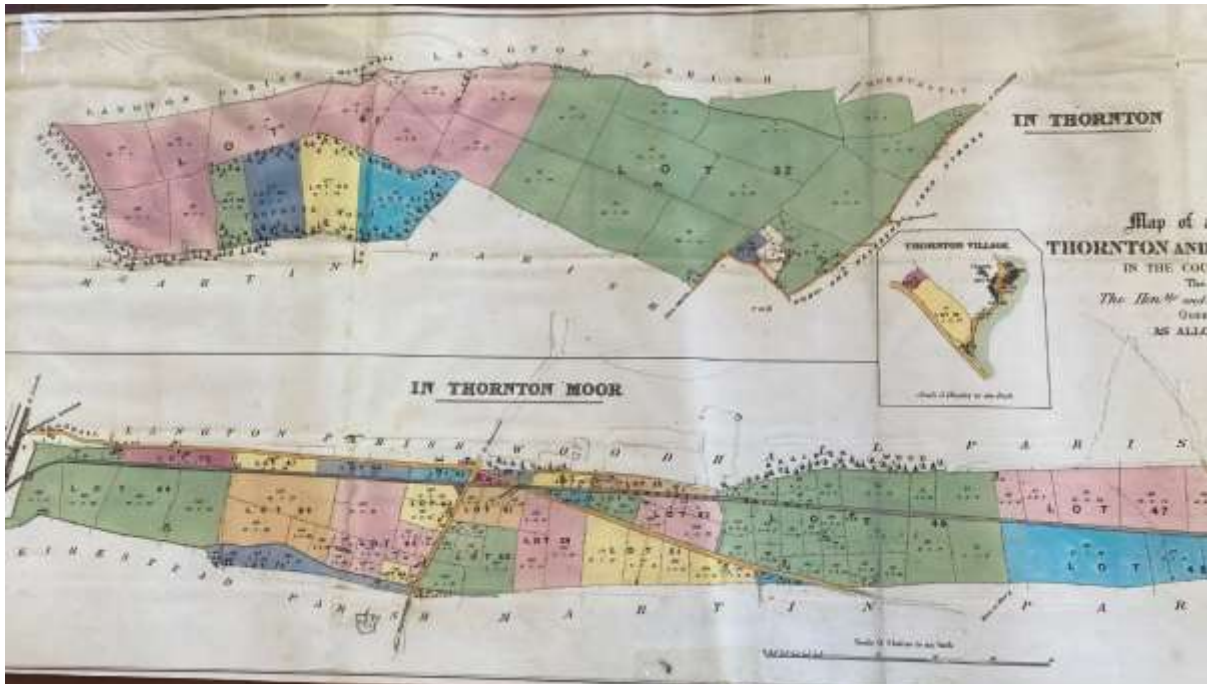
A plaque on the south wall commemorates the 1960 flood – a bit apt because that was the year Mr Bell's lake was excavated at Mareham and flooded down Thunker Beck, carrying a caravan and wedging it under the town bridge outside our office.



Old Bank Chambers window decorated for the World Ploughing Match at Wislington in 1984, and the plaque commemorating the 1960 Flood.

The Office has seen many changes, but it is rare to have continued under one occupation for so long.

The move by Parish and Son to Old Bank Chambers in 1872, almost coincided with a substantial auction, comprising most of what is now Woodhall Spa from Sandy Lane to the River Witham for Rev Frank Dymoke, when there was hardly a house in the village, but split into over 80 lots it led to the development of the Spa as we now know it.



This is one of the plans with that auction in 1872.



Other Offices.

We had an office in Woodhall mentioned on our letter headings in the early 1900's, but our firm opened one in Station Road in 1984. In 2005 we moved to the current site overlooking the main junction in the village.



2005 OPENING
NEW WOODHALL OFFICE



CLAYTON
WOOD

MARGARET
JONG



BECKI

RHS

JWRPH



Following the dissolution of the partnership with Mawer Mason and Bell, (when the balance of the firm was sold to the Leeds Building Society) in 1988, our small firm quickly expanded as Robert Bell and Company.

Premises at the centre of Coningsby were acquired in 1989 and a new office run by Tony Wing, Margaret Done and Jane Leggate opened in 1990. Young Robert Bell's cousin Adam Dean who had trained with the firm, and married our PA's daughter Caroline Low, returned to run the house sales side.





ROBERT BELL & COMPANY
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
AUCTIONEERS
LAND & ESTATE AGENTS

HORNCASTLE:
Telephone: (0507) 522222
CONINGSBY:
Telephone: (0526) 44434
WOODHALL SPA:
Telephone: (0526) 53333
JULY 1990

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CONINGSBY OFFICE



Manager Coningsby & Woodhall Offices

The opening of our Coningsby office on July 18 marks a new chapter in the history of our firm. Based for well over 100 years in Horncastle Robert Bell and Company have strong local links in the Coningsby/Terrington area. As of July 18 we shall have three offices and all being in close proximity they give us good penetration and coverage in the locality and thus a strong base.

We are a family firm committed to integration within the community. Our staff are local and know the area well. We are great believers in our independence. This lets us concentrate on those jobs we do best. Our partners and senior staff have the highest qualifications in the business, and as well as agricultural estates. We are auctioneers with monthly furniture sales at Horncastle Town Hall as well as a weekly cattle market. We are professional chartered surveyors and we advise on mortgages and life insurance. We are the local appointed representatives for the Sun Life of the Gainsborough Building Society.

We have purchased our new office in Coningsby from Mr Schuler (the shoe shop). Situated on the corner of High Street and Silver Street, we consider it to have one of the most prominent positions at the centre of the village. Additionally, there is good car parking which easily reaches on the other side of Silver Street. With a good full time negotiator, our professional reputation and the broad range of services which we offer we consider our people the right one.

We have set out in this booklet a few words about the history of our firm, our staff who will be pleased to see you at Coningsby and about the Gainsborough Building Society. However, we are more than aware it is on YOUR business that we rely. If in the area do call into our new office, even if it is only to say "Hello". Of course if we can be of service.



Receptionist Coningsby

TONY WING will be the manager of our new office in Coningsby as well as our existing office in Woodhall Spa. Tony has been with us since 1982 and one could not wish to meet a more dedicated or enthusiastic, yet unassuming person. Tony's family come from Boston (his grandfather was once a mayor) and he is now looking for a home in the Coningsby area. Age 28, Tony plays hockey for Lincolnshire. He has been in charge of our estate agency side of the business at Horncastle very successfully during the last three years. He is also a capable and keen auctioneer, and studying for his professional qualifications. We are confident he will do his best to help you, and in as pleasant a way as possible.



Saturday Receptionist, Coningsby

MARGARET DONE A female footballing jay preacher has to be someone exceptional! Margaret and her husband Roy have lived in Coningsby for some eight years which means that she knows the village and its people well. Her role as full time receptionist and typist demands an ability to be both charmingly pleasant and expertly efficient.

JANE LEGGATE is to help us on a part-time basis covering Saturdays. A prominent member of Horncastle Young Farmers' Jane has set up her own business as a farm secretary after working for one of the largest farmers in the north of the county.

The above are ably assisted by a full competent staff at both Woodhall Spa (Barbara Blow and Kathy Prisdick) and Horncastle (where two partners and eight further staff and based). Both partners father (R. H.) and son (R. L. H.) are fully qualified chartered surveyors and fellows of the Lincolnshire Association of Agriculture Valuers.

In 1998, we opened for the first time in the county capital. Our first office was in Burton Road, dealing with residential lettings and encouraging farmers to buy and let to students in this attractive new University City.

Advertising Feature

ROBERT BELL & COMPANY

SURVEYORS . AUCTIONEERS . LAND & ESTATE AGENTS
A PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENT FIRM

Bell and Co set to chime in Lincoln

OLD ESTABLISHED Horncastle firm, Robert Bell and Company, has expanded its service further afield with the opening of a new office in Lincoln.

Robert Bell and Company can trace its roots back as one of the oldest firms of surveyors in the country to a period prior to 1800 in Horncastle. The firm has continued an independent, broad based family tradition for two centuries in mid-Lincolnshire offering an unparalleled service as chartered surveyors, land and estate agents and auctioneers.

The firm has offices in Horncastle, Woodhall Spa and Coningsby as well as the newly opened one in Burton Road, Lincoln. Initially, this office will deal primarily with residential lettings which the company has identified a useful and expanding demand for in Lincoln.

Robert Bell reports that the city is opening up with increasing pressure on housing, and is providing an excellent ready-made market for the residential investor. Three expanding target groups have been recognised: students and academics at the university; professionals drawn by the expanding business parks;



and Armed Forces personnel.

"On top of this the increased demand for Lincoln properties would suggest increasing capital values, so if and when an investor decides to sell he may also make a gain on his investment," he adds.

In dealing primarily with residential lettings, the new office aims to provide a complete service to the investor, by finding suitable properties, carrying out surveys, acting in the purchase, organising and supervising renovations, advertising for and finding tenants, drawing up agreements, collecting rents, carrying out periodic inspections, handling the service of notices etc.

The new office was open to the public last Wednesday and an opening ceremony with invited guests was held the day before.

Mr William Gray who has been with Robert Bell and Co since 1985 will be based at the Lincoln office and in overall charge of residential lettings. He has trained and qualified as a chartered surveyor with the firm and for the past two years has been heading the residential lettings department from the Horncastle office.

As part of the company's expansion programme, they now have an association with Tom Wilkinson and Co., Chartered Surveyors, who will help with the ever increasing demand for residential property surveys and mortgage valuations. Tom Wilkinson and Co are also based in Burton Road, Lincoln (tel (01522) 549300).

ROBINSONS

3 10 17 24 31
11 18 25

Then in 2001, we decided to open all our services in Lincoln and new premises in the prime estate agents row of Silver Street were acquired from Lawrence Clarke. They were renovated and extended so that different departments could operate from them.



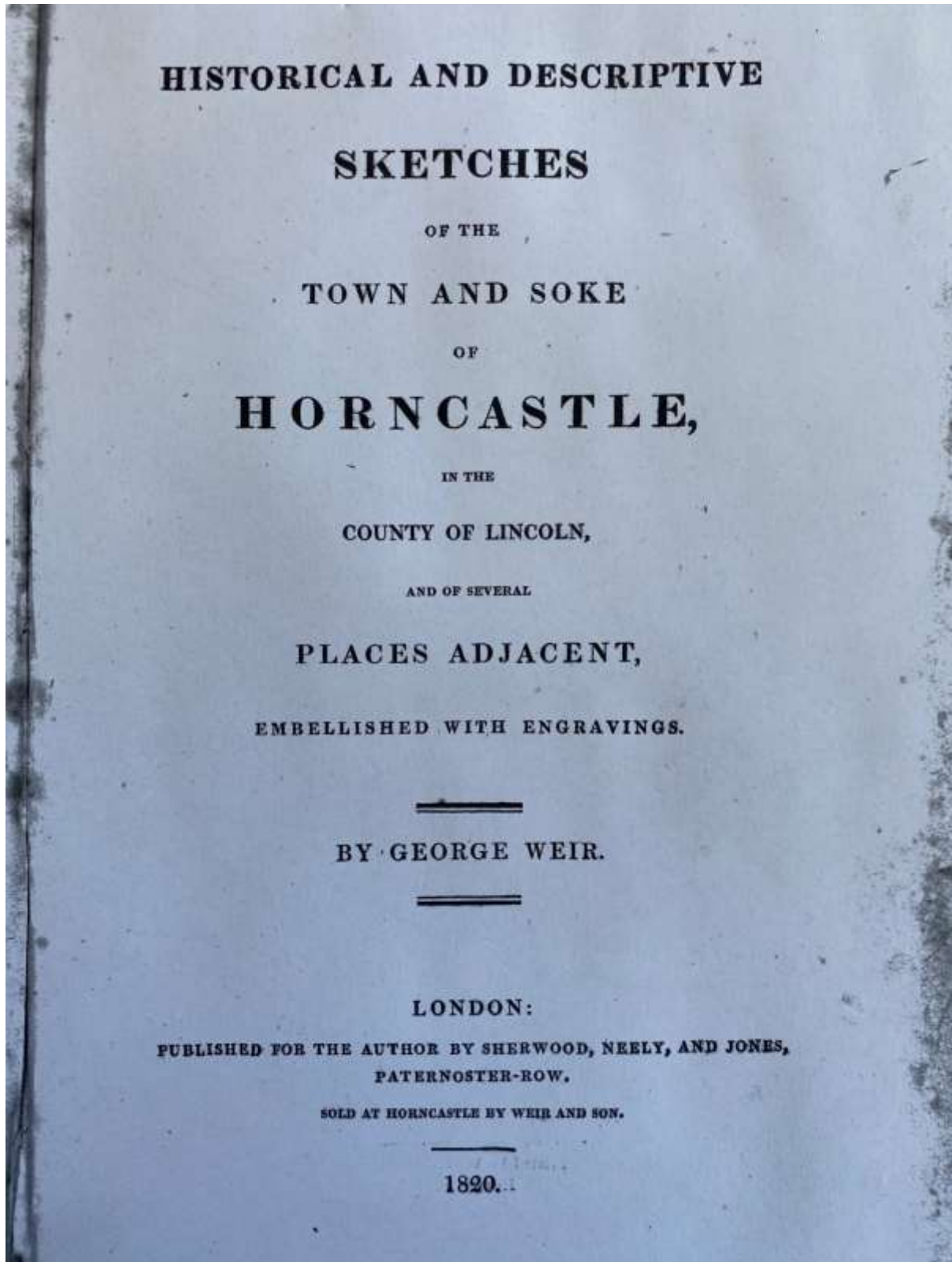
Here Robert Hay Bell shares a joke with Lawrence Clarke at the launch party.

Meanwhile, back at Horncastle, Old Bank Chambers were being out-grown. New premises were bought on the High Street, but planning consent for change of use was refused. Eventually a nearby warehouse at Lindsey Court was acquired in 2017 and refurbished to make offices for our Auction Department, Commercial Department and Residential Lettings Department.

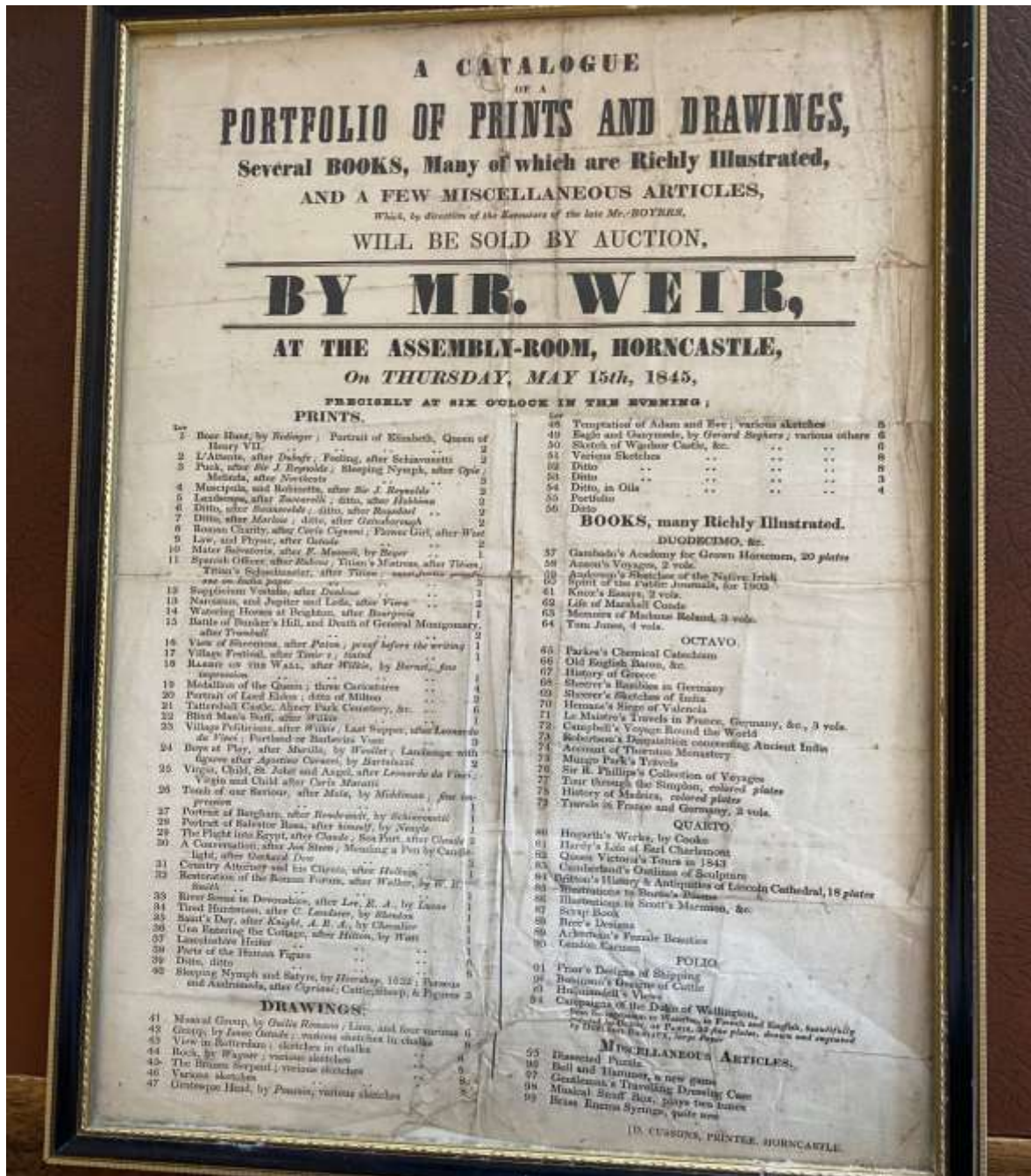


Francis Dymoke cuts the ribbon on the Opening of our Lindsey Court office in 2017.

Our firm's history goes back a very long way – a century prior to our move into Old Bank Chambers.



Its traces, pre-date 1800 with George and James Weir who were auctioneers and printers. James Weir established the first printing press in Horncastle in 1789, and I think was also an auctioneer. George Weir wrote a "History of Horncastle" in 1820 and sold the contents of Revesby Abbey in 1843.



That links our firm back to the Bell family as George Bell came from Scotland in 1842 to be Land Agent at Revesby for James Banks Stanhope. Many of the Revesby farmhouses, cottages, the Red Lion, the school, the Victorian big house, the Park Gates, the Vicarage and new alms-houses date from this period. New woods were planted, drainage carried out, a reservoir dug for the people of Boston, an agricultural Society founded etc. etc. during his time as Land Agent. He had a benevolent client in James Banks Stanhope, and the estate received considerable input which was sorely needed although it was only 22 years after the death of it's former owner, the renowned agriculturalist and horticulturalist Sir Joseph Banks. George Bell was respected and admired by both his landlord clients and their tenants. He progressed the estate through negotiation rather than confrontation for the benefit of all.


If you study the traditional roofs on the pub, estate office, and houses at Revesby, you will notice that the slates have four courses of rectangular slates followed by four courses of rounded slates. These match the roof of the lodge to the Delvine estate, from whence George Bell emanated.

The ability to appreciate both landlords and tenants positions, (and therefore to act for both) has been important in enabling agreements to be negotiated. George Bell must have been exceptional at this because he was esteemed by friends and tenantry as well as landlords both in Scotland and at Revesby. Our clients might be wealthy or relatively poor: they may own estates or only have a share in the tenancy of a small field.


Since it was owned by Revesby Estate, I like to think that George Bell would have been involved with the negotiations between the Estate and Joseph and Walter Booth Parish on their move to Old Bank Chambers. George Bell retired and died in 1872 which was when Parishes opened their offices at Old Bank Chambers.

Mr Joseph Parish, a pupil of James Weir, acquired the business in 1855. He established a name for pub valuations – there were 56 hostleries in 1851 in Horncastle alone. He was followed by his son, Walter Booth Parish and the name changed to “Parish and Son”. It was they that moved into Old Bank Chambers in 1872.

two daughters.



Mr. F. J. North.



Mr. W. B. Parish.

Parish.—WALTER BOOTH PARISH, Stanhope Terrace, Horncastle; son of the late Joseph Parish, auctioneer, of Horncastle; born at Horncastle, September 2nd, 1850; educated at the Grammar School, Horncastle, and the County School, Cranleigh, Surrey. Partner in the firm of Parish and Stafford Walter, auctioneers, valuers, and land agents; in 1855, his father succeeded the late George Weir, whose family had carried on the business of auctioneers prior to 1799; joined his father in 1871, and took over the business on the death of his father in 1875; in 1897 Mr. Stafford Walter became partner with him; appointed Valuer, under the Finance Act of 1894, for the Lindsey Division; member of the Board of Guardians, of the Managers of the Savings Bank, and of the Burial Board. Married Mary Ann, daughter of the late Robert Pigg, farmer, Beauchamps, near Buntingford, Herts, and has issue one daughter, born 1895.

Richardson.—WILLIAM ARTHUR RICHARDSON, The Avenue, Lincoln; son of the late Thomas Beverley Richardson; born at Apley, near Wragby, in the county of Lincoln, June 28th, 1861; educated at the Lincoln and Devonport C.

An extract from W K Morton’s “Lincolnshire at the Turn of the Century” 1900.

HEMINGBY and FULLETTY. LET by MESSRS. PARISH and SON will AUCTION, at the Bull Hotel, Horncastle, on Saturday, Feb. 24th, the following GRASS KEEPERS. Monday next, viz., 100 Acres in five fields on the late Mr. Ed. Elsey's Farm at Hemingby, 50 Acres in four fields upon the late Mr. Wm. Elsey's Farms at Fulletby, 20 Acres in Station Field at Horncastle, recently occupied by Mr. James Dunham. Old Bank-chambers, Horncastle.

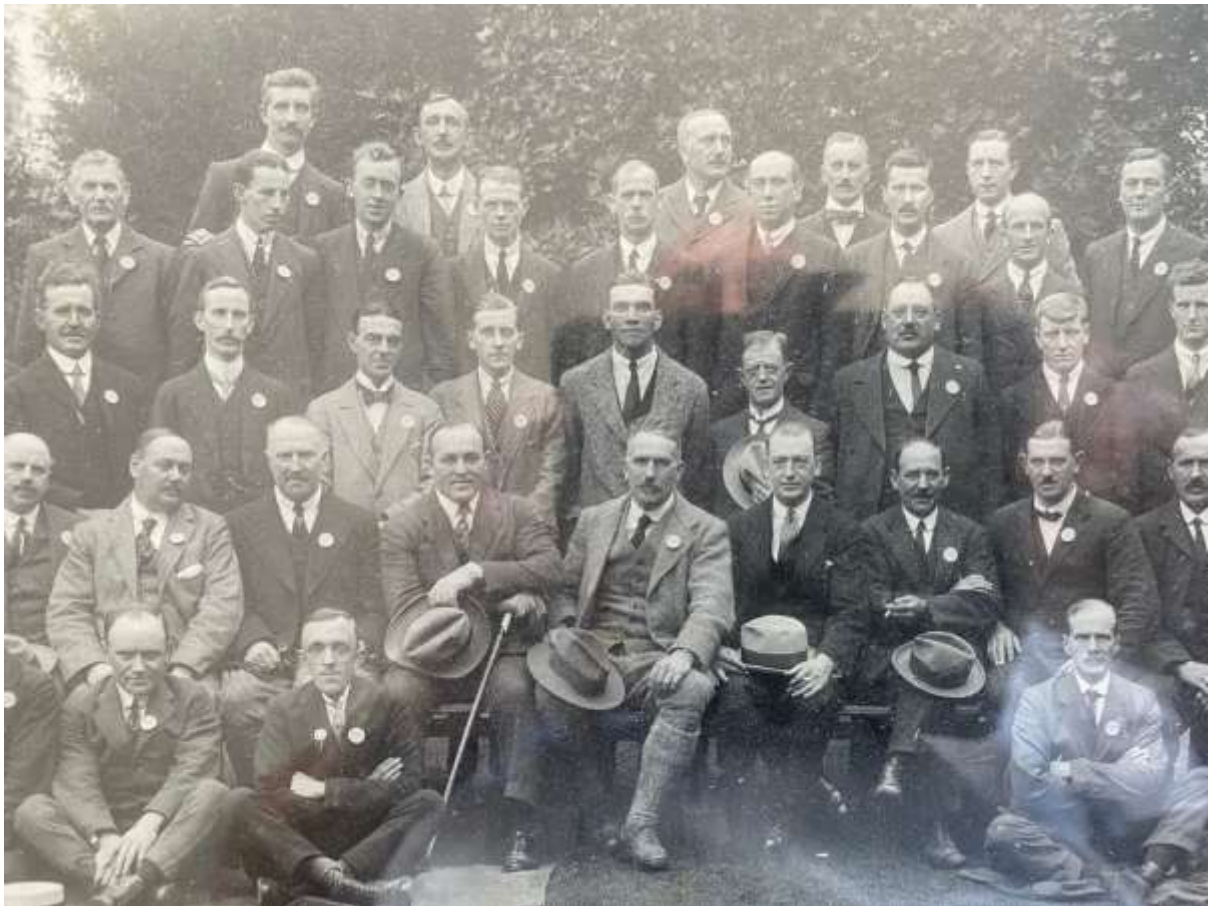
WINGEBY, TUESDAY, MARCH 6th, 1894, by order of the Exors. of the late B. HOBBS, Esq., 25 HORSES, 2 COWS, PIGS, POULTRY, and Farming IMPLEMENTS for 200 acres occupation. MASON and SON, Louth, Joint Auctioneers. PARISH & SON, Horncastle, Auctioneers.

FULLETTY GRANGE, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1894, By order of the Exors. of the late Mr. WM. ELSEY, SALE of 8 Working HORSES, and Farming IMPLEMENTS for 300 Acres. PARISH and SON, Auctioneers.

HIGH HOUSE, HEMINGBY, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1894, By order of the Exors. of the late EDWARD ELSEY, Esq., SALE of 18 Working and Carriage HORSES, CARRIAGES, SADDLERY, and IMPLEMENTS, 200 Acres occupation. Old Bank Chambers, Horncastle. PARISH and SON, Auctioneers.

MESSRS. MACKINDER, PARISH, and ELSEY STOCK MARKET every Monday, 10-30. WEST BRATTON.

In 1895 Mr Parish took in as partner Mr Stafford Walter and the firm became Parish & Stafford Walter. Mr Stafford Walter came from a local farming family, and brought architectural as well as Land Agency skills. The incorporation of his christian name into the firm's title was to distinguish from the rival "Walter" estate agents, who were distantly related. Stafford Walter lived in Hammerton House, now occupied by Chattertons solicitors, with gardens running opposite the Mermaid Fish shop, (Hammerton Gardens), where he kept a menagerie of animals and birds.



This photo shows Stafford Walter who was chairman of the 1920 Flood Committee, here chair of a sporting association, staging an important Boxing Match against Tommy Burns.

He has a pose similar to Sir Joseph Banks, and his dress code reflects his interest in country sports.

Also third from left on the second row is Wilf Hodson.

Stafford Walter was quite a wag, as can be illustrated by the journal he wrote of "The Derelict", in 1910 when he and four friends dressed as pedlars sojourned in a horse drawn caravan from Horncastle up the Trentside to beyond Gainsborough, (like Three Men in a Boat).

LOG BOOK OF "THE DERELICT" .

Over the Land, far away, far away,
Sails the good "Derelict" on her way,
The crew were as merry as merry could be,
Although they were on land instead of on Sea.

Effie M. Walter.

June 25th 1910.

The good Ship "Derelict" set sail from Horncastle at 12 noon, and steered a course N.N.W. She eventually put in at Lincoln at 7.30 p.m., great anxiety having been exhibited as to her whereabouts, she being considerably overdue. Her crew signed on tonight but were allowed a few hours ashore. They are as follows :-

Captain	:-	Stafford Walter.	<i>-66 Spilsby Rd.</i>
Engineer	:-	Mellor Dunham	alias "Ship's Monkey".
Swabber	:-	Henry Marshall	alias "General Utility".
A. B. Seaman	:-	Ernest Shelton	alias "Ship's Mawkin".
Do.	:-	Arthur Cheseldine	alias "Figure Head".

"Elize"	:-	Ship's goat.
"Jim"	:-	Fox terrier.
"Darkie"	:-	Lurcher dog.
"Lily"	:-	Ventriloquist doll.
		Goshawk.
"Blossom"	:-	Brown mare.

Several exciting incidents occurred during the evening, the Ship's Goat played the fool, and the faithful dog James holding the deck against all-comers. The Harbour Master, the Landlord of "The Adam & Eve", said he was upset and did not know about taking us in, his only reason being that he had been led to believe that it was other craft than "The Derelict" that expected a berth, viz. Lady Grosvenor, who is touring the country in a caravan, but we told him that if we were good enough for him he was good enough for us, and we drew in and had a very comfortable time joining at an acre paddock with about seven cows.

Owing to rough seas "The Derelict" sprung a leak and as it was not thought wise to sleep below decks, two of the crew therefore slept ashore; the "Skipper", "Ship's Monkey" and "General Utility" settling down amidships. "The Derelict" had taken a good deal of sea during the day, and her cargo and estates had suffered somewhat.



StaffordWalterabout1910.



AN OLD WORLD GARDEN.

WHERE EVERYBODY IS WELCOME
TO GO.

A Lincs. Beauty Spot.

Mr. Stafford Walter, of The Poplars, South-street, Horncastle, having the benefit of a beautiful and spacious garden, willingly throws it open to the public every day of the week all the year round, unselfishly sharing its many delights and pleasures with his fellow-townfolk, and already the fame of the Poplars Garden has spread beyond the confines of this county, as evidenced by the passing motorists who find their way into this haunt of peace.

Mr. Walter is a typical Englishman of the countryside—tall, broad of shoulder, possessing a twinkling eye set beneath bushy eyebrows, and features tanned by hours spent in the sun or the rain, for Mr. Walter is an all-weather man. His is a familiar figure in the streets of Horncastle and in the pretty villages around, and enjoys the esteem of a large circle of friends.

Mr. Walter is the senior partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. Parish, Stafford Walter and Bell, auctioneers and valuers, etc., of Old Bank Chambers. He is an ex-President of the Lincs. Association of Agricultural Valuers, the oldest association of its kind in the country, and also an ex-President of the Lincs. Auctioneers' Association prior to its being absorbed by the Auctioneers' Institute. He has served his town upon the urban district council, and he is chairman of directors of the Horncastle Water Co. All good causes and sporting organisations find in him a friend and supporter and he is President of the Horncastle August Gala. He is usually to be found with a dog at heel or a gun under his arm, and he

and level—surrounded by a variety of trees, including three specimens of poplars—English, Lombardy and Silver. Another feature is the tulip tree, whose flowers are like delicate green lamps in appearance. The garden also contains, rare in these parts but the delight of the Londoner, a Plane tree, which sheds its bark periodically. Groups of statuary, and flowers in profusion, add to the beauty of the surroundings and make delightful splashes of colour and brightness.

This season the Terrace, with its pagoda of rambler roses in profusion, has been a wonderful sight, with its huge clusters of scented blossoms.

Indicating the general design, Mr. Walter said: "It seemed a big job to tackle to get the garden into order, but the trees and shrubs were there, and with Mr. A. Cottrell I set to work, starting from the house, nibbling a little more each year until the whole show has become passable.

"In making the bowling-green, I found many willing helpers. It contained a great proportion of plantain seed, principally of the lamb-tongued variety. There must have been millions! If you doubt it, ask Mr. Jahnne Parkinson, as it was only through his persevering efforts that I was at all able to get the green clear of this weed. I must say that I am rather proud of the lawn and jealous how it is used, but on the whole visitors do respect the garden and my property, and children have shewn some improvement in this respect.

"To my mind the charm of the garden is its feeling of peace and restfulness and comparative quietude to the streets outside, and with others I strongly resent any behaviour or buffoonery which may tend to destroy these conditions. It is the natural beauty of the garden that pleases visitors. There is no attempt at carpet-gardening."

BIRD LIFE.

Mr. Walter is noted for his kennel of English Springer Spaniels, and may frequently be seen training them in the garden. A collection of varied birds includes Owls of four varieties (Barn, Long-eared, Wood and Lilford); also Archangel, Priest, Orange-croppers, Pigmy-Pouters, and other pigeons, which flit unconcernedly among the "woods." There are Turtle Doves, and among the water-fowl may be found Curlews, Oyster-catchers, Sheldrakes, Gulls and Plovers. Rabbits, Bantams, Golden and Silver Pheasants, all have their place in the collection, as does a unique Egyptian hen or "silkie," whose flesh is black, and also "Muriel" the Sheldrake.

"I have always been greatly interested in all forms of life—including worms—and I fancy that their presence in the garden not only makes for additional interest but also serves an educational purpose. I hope it stimulates in chil-



Mr. S. Walter.

finds equal pleasure in presiding over a "smoker" or dinner in the town, when he is in the spirit of bonhomie. Then he is the ready raconteur, and has been known to try his skill at conjuring or ventriloquism.

THE "NATURALIST."

Although a member of the Lincoln Naturalists' Union, Mr. Walter considers himself an "amateur naturalist." He has an intense love of flowers and trees, of birds and beasts (he seems able to win the confidence of the most timid creatures), and he has acquired a store of knowledge of the habits of wild life in our hedgerows and woods.

When interviewed by an "Echo" representative at Horncastle, who commented on the enjoyment derived from the Poplars Garden being open to the public, Mr. Walter said his landlord, the late Rev. George Ward, of Spilsby, was of opinion that the correct name of the house and gardens should be Hamerton House, a well-known family of that name having in past years owned this and adjoining property, and Hamerton-lane runs behind the house.

"I became tenant some twelve years ago," said Mr. Walter, "and found the greater part of the garden had gone to rack, the house and garden having been unoccupied for three or four years, and the part where the bowling green now is had been allowed to go unattended for a number of years. When I first recollect these gardens they were owned and occupied by Major Armstrong (his daughter, Miss Agnes Armstrong resides in Lincoln). The Major was a great Volunteer, and upon occasions would open the gardens in aid of the Volunteer funds, and their band—the best in Lincolnshire—would play selections. It is more than probable that these recollections have a great deal to do with the gardens being open to-day. I asked friends along to play bowls; others came and were welcome, and to save trouble of asking permission I decided to 'let 'em all come!'"

"It is a far simpler and cheaper method of giving one's friends pleasure and enjoyment," Mr. Walter added with a chuckle, "than inviting them to sit down at your table—and that is my answer to anyone who may ask me 'What is your idea in throwing the garden open?'"

NOVELTY TREES.

The garden is a delight. There are two stretches of typically English lawn—green

fancy that their presence in the garden not only makes for additional interest but also serves an educational purpose. I hope it will have the effect of stimulating in children's minds an interest in birds and other life and also a love for animals and birds. I am often amazed at the questions I have been asked, and it appears to me I must know a great deal on this subject or that my questioners know very little!"

FALCONRY.

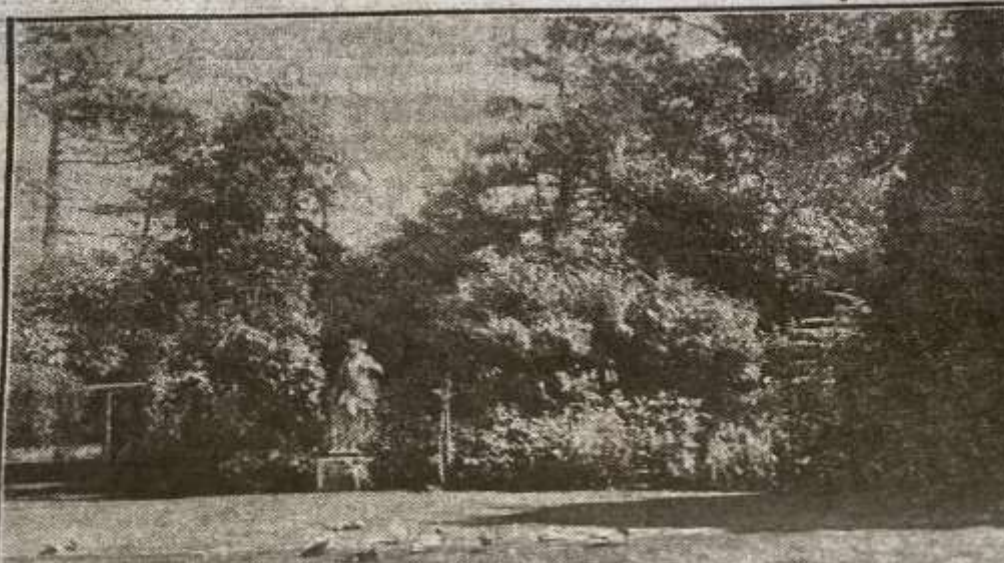
Mr. Walter, who is among the last in the country to practice the ancient art of falconry, particularly commented upon his hawks and falcons, of which he has several in training, including Merlins and a fine Peregrine. After being "manned" these will be distributed among fellow-falconers. This hobby particularly appeals to Mr. Walter, and it carries the mind back to days that are past to see him go a-walking with a hooded bird upon his wrist, quite in the style of the old-time falconer.

Last year Mr. Walter, acting upon a suggestion, that visitors to The Poplars wished to show their appreciation of a visit, placed a box at the entrance gate, on August Bank Holiday, for the Horncastle War Memorial Hospital and Dispensary, and before the end of the season £3 4s 2d had been subscribed.

THE "MOUSERY."

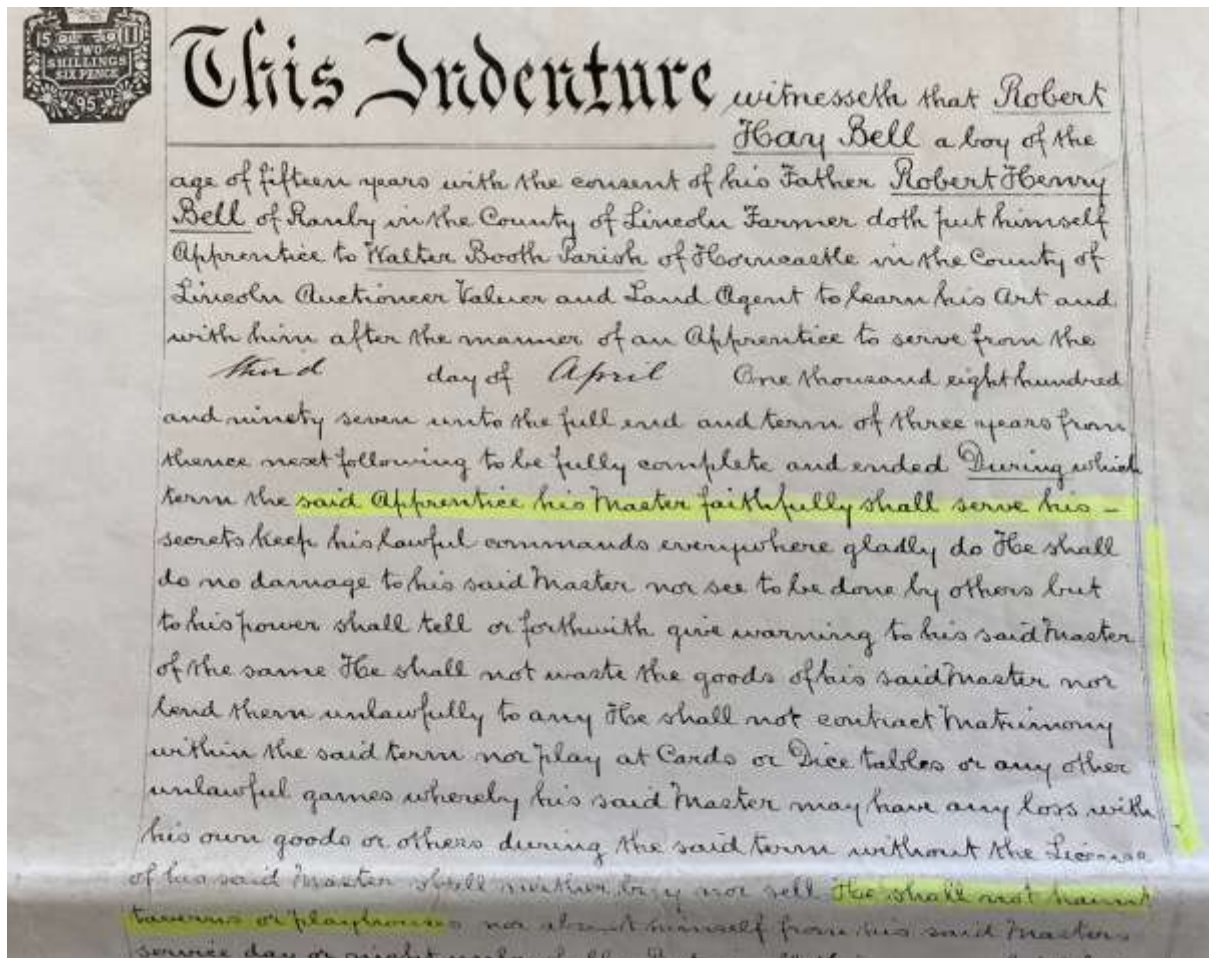
The latest—and at present most popular feature—of the garden is the "Mousery." Mr. Walter recently installed, in a neat little house in the garden, some white mice, and later, some common mice. As they rapidly increased in number and colour, so did the "houses," and then Mr. Walter's ingenuity led him to provide an "amusement park" consisting of spinning-wheels or treadmills for the nimble creatures. At this they quickly proved adepts, the one teaching the other how to spin, and to the wheels were then affixed figures which now work as the wheels rotate. A hospital box was also placed near the "mousery" (as this corner of the garden soon came to be called), and already over £11 has been contributed by interested and highly amused spectators. Rumour has it that they are out to spin and spin, and so endow a cot at the Horncastle Hospital.

Although Mr. Walter himself spends much time with his birds, etc., it remains to be said that his gardener is Mr. Barron (Barnie), and that he is in charge of the numerous family responsible for each getting its share of support.



Extract from Horncastle News 1929.

The grandson of George Bell, Robert Hay Bell (Hay as he was widely known) was articled to W B Parish in 1897. I think he lived above the office. His Articles of Apprenticeship required him to “everywhere, his master orders gladly do”. He must not contract matrimony without his employer’s consent, must not play at dice or cards and must not haunt taverns.



This Indenture witnesseth that Robert Hay Bell a boy of the age of fifteen years with the consent of his Father Robert Henry Bell of Ransby in the County of Lincoln Farmer doth put himself Apprentice to Walter Booth Parish of Horncastle in the County of Lincoln Auctioneer Valuer and Land Agent to learn his Art and with him after the manner of an Apprentice to serve from the 3rd day of April One thousand eight hundred and ninety seven unto the full end and term of three years from thence next following to be fully complete and ended During which term the said Apprentice his Master faithfully shall serve his secrets keep his lawful commands everywhere gladly do He shall do no damage to his said Master nor see to be done by others but to his power shall tell or forthwith give warning to his said Master of the same He shall not waste the goods of his said Master nor lend them unlawfully to any He shall not contract matrimony within the said term nor play at Cards or Dice tables or any other unlawful games whereby his said Master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said term without the License of his said Master He shall neither buy nor sell He shall not haunt taverns or playhouses nor absent himself from his said Master's service day or night unlawfully.

This was a bit ironic as Mr Parish had a name for pub valuations and although he already acted for Mr Stafford Vere Hotchkin at Woodhall, I think Stafford Walter brought a new dynamism and presence in gaining agricultural clients. The form of business changed as it always does. There has generally been a steady flow of auctioneering, but our firm has seen the auctions at Horncastle Horse Fairs, the formation about 1900 of the weekly livestock market in Horncastle, followed by its decline and closure in 2000, as the lack of local abattoirs, foot and mouth, and high commercial risk took its toll. Landlord and tenant negotiations have dwindled in prominence recently, to be replaced for us all by issues of global warming, carbon sequestration, and pollution.

Hay Bell must have done well because he was invited to join the partnership in 1910 and the firm's name changed to Parish Stafford Walter and Bell. They had a share in the cattle market auction on a Thursday and a produce auction on the office front and along the riverside on a Saturday morning. In those days the horse fairs were declining but special store sales of cattle and sheep drew considerable entries.

Reg. No. =
Certificate No. A. 168

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

MEAT (CONTROL) ORDER, 1917.

Stock Auctioneer's Licence.

Robert Hay Bell of old Court Chambers
Horncastle

~~is~~ hereby licensed to sell Live Stock in Area No. 5

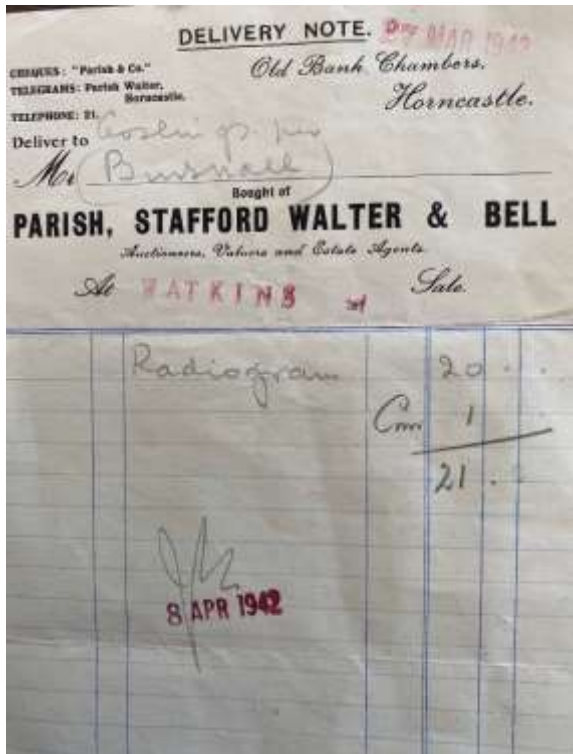
comprising the following counties Derbyshire Leicestershire
Lincseshire Northamptonshire Nottinghamshire
and Soke of Peterborough Rutlandshire

Live Stock Commissioner's Office:
49 Great Gate Derby

Signature of Live Stock
Commissioner F. W. Wright

(Date) December 11th, 1917.

M.C. 11.
(129997)



Typical bill from PSWB and Grampa's ready reckoner.

Hay Bell was born at Ranby, and educated at Louth Grammar School. I never heard anyone say a bad word about him, and his excellent reputation for fair straightforward honesty and integrity was used as a model for his grandchildren. He was Chairman of Horncastle UDC for many years, and the First World War naval shell outside Old Bank Chambers was donated for his efforts as airraid warden after WW1.



Death of Mr R. Hay Bell

Lincolnshire's senior practising auctioneer, Mr Robert Hay Bell, died at his Horncastle home on Sunday morning. Mr Bell, who would have been 88 in July, carried out his usual office work on Saturday and, in the evening, enjoyed a game of bridge.

He was Principal of Messrs. Parish, Stafford, Walter & Bell, Old Bank Chambers, Horncastle, in partnership with his son, Mr Robert Hay Bell junior. At the peak of activity, Mr Bell simultaneously managed over 14,000 acres and farmed nearly 1,500.

At one time he could, with the exception of a few yards, have walked from his home, Lansdowne, Spilsby Road, to Uliceby Cross entirely on land which he either managed or farmed.

His grandfather, Mr George Bell, of Revesby, came to Lincolnshire on horseback from Perthshire in 1842 to be agent

for Mr Banks Stanhope. His father, Mr Robert Henry Bell, farmed at Ranby.

Mr Bell, at the age of 16, was articled to Mr W. B. Parish, auctioneer, and later in partnership with Mr Stafford Walter.

Born and bred from generations of countrymen, Mr Bell had his heart in the life and sport of the Lincolnshire agricultural scene. He was very fond of shooting, fishing and tennis and also played golf. He possessed a tremendous knowledge of agriculture and estate management, but his two special passions were the planting of woodlands and management of water in the countryside.

**Continued
on back**



Mr Bell



PHANTOM SQUADRON

In 1930 they acquired the Burgh le Marsh firm of Willsons and Barney Boulton (Alastair's great-grandfather) was put in charge. He was a Horncastle lad who had trained with PSWB and was very capable. The two firms were run together for a few years (our offices were described as Horncastle, Woodhall and Burgh), until Willsons was fully transferred to Barney Boulton in 1937.

Hay Bell and Stafford Walter were assisted by Wilf Hodson, who started work at Old Bank Chambers in 1907 at the age of 12, when a special stool had to be made so he could see over the office counter. He was also mayor of Horncastle for 18 years and carried on working until 1974. He could add up three columns of pounds shillings and pence faster than you could read it. In 1960 he chaired the Flood Committee, just as Stafford Walter had done 40 years before.

Thursday, FEBRUARY 9, 1967 THREEPENCE

er profit margins are a

SIXTY YEARS IN AUCTIONEERS' OFFICE

MR. WILFRED HODSON, who holds the unique record of having been for 14 years chairman of Horncastle Urban District Council, this week celebrated his sixtieth year in the offices of local auctioneers, Messrs. Parish, Stafford Walter and Bell.

He left Horncastle school at the age of 12 and, after taking the labour examination, went to work as a general clerk in the auctioneers' offices. Partners at that time were Mr. W. B. Parish and Mr. Stafford Walter. Mr. R. Hay Bell is now principal of the business.

Mr. Hodson retired several years ago after his record term of office on the council. He served for 18 years and, during the whole of the time, was chairman of the Housing Committee.

But that is not all. Mr. Hodson is chairman of the County Primary and Junior School managers, vice chairman of the Secondary Modern School Governors, chairman of Whelpton's Almshouses Trustees, and chairman of the Hurstcroft and Snowden Charity. He was, for 40 years, secretary of the Horncastle Conservative Club.

The church has played a big part in Mr. Hodson's life and he has graduated from chorboy to a churchwarden of 30 years' standing.

He and his wife, formerly Miss Joyce Kirkham, attended a celebration party in Mr. Hodson's honour on Tuesday when a presentation, in appreciation of his services, was made by Mr. Bell.



Mr. Wilfred Hodson.

W. Hodson

HORNCastle FLOOD
OCTOBER 7th. 1960


ROBERT,
HEREWITH ATTACHED YOUR
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT (RE-STAPLED
BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL STAPLES WERE
DISINTEGRATING) PLUS ONE COPY OF
THE TRANSCRIPT.

MANY THANKS,

John

As Chairman of the UDC, Wilf Hodson was the natural choice to chair the 1960 Flood Committee. This dealt with claims for compensation and offers of help, as well as tidying up after the ordeal on 7th October 1960. The plaque on the south wall of Old Bank Chambers records the event.

Hay Bell's son, Robert Hay Bell Junior was brought up at Lansdowne off Spilsby Road, Horncastle, and educated at Horncastle Grammar School. He joined the firm in 1935, but the war interrupted his apprenticeship. He finally qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1947, getting 4th highest marks in the country. That period and just after the war saw Hay Bell, and Wilf Hodson both Chairman of the Horncastle Urban District Council (Mayor) and we were paying wages on estates from North Ormsby down the Bluestone Heath Road to South Ormsby.

 THIS DEED made the 24th day of August One thousand
nine hundred and thirty five BETWEEN ROBERT HAY BELL
(Junior) of Horncastle in the County of Lincoln Auctioneer's Clerk of the first
part ROBERT HAY BELL (Senior) of the same place Auctioneer Valuer and Estate
Agent (father of the said Robert Hay Bell (Junior)) of the second part and
STAFFORD WALTER of the same place Auctioneer Valuer and Estate Agent of the
third part WITNESSETH as follows:-

1. The said Robert Hay Bell (Junior) with the consent of the said Robert Hay
Bell (Senior) hereby places and binds himself clerk to the said Stafford Walter
to serve him from the day of the date hereof for the full term of three years
and shall during the said term well and truly serve the said Stafford Walter in
the arts or businesses of an auctioneer valuer and estate agent and diligently
attend to his business and affairs at the offices of the said Stafford Walter
or elsewhere as he shall direct and shall keep his secrets and shall not do or
commit any damage default or waste to the said Stafford Walter or his business
or affairs nor knowingly suffer the same to be done if within his power to
prevent it and shall in all respect behave and demean himself as a true and
faithful Clerk

2. The said Stafford Walter in consideration of the sum of Fifteen pounds now
paid to him by the said Robert Hay Bell (Senior) (the receipt whereof he hereby
acknowledges) and in consideration of the services of the said Robert Hay Bell
(Junior) and of the covenants by him and his said father herein contained hereby
covenants to pay to the said Robert Hay Bell (Junior) the sum of Three shillings
per week during the first year of his service the sum of Five shillings per week
during the second year thereof and the sum of Seven shillings and six pence per week
during the third year thereof and according to the best of his skill knowledge
and ability to teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed the said
Robert Hay Bell (Junior) in the several arts and businesses of an auctioneer
valuer and estate agent and in all matters incident thereto

3. The said Robert Hay Bell (Senior) hereby covenants with the said Stafford

...the said Robert Hay Bell (Junior) shall faithfully serve



Robert Hay Bell at an auction about 1985.

We are Survivors

(For those born before 1940....)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens, before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes..... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought "fast food" was what you ate in lent, a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "Crumpet" we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and "sheltered accommodation" was where you waited for a bus.

We were before daycare centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us "timesharing" meant togetherness, a "Chip" was a piece of wood or fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts and "software" wasn't a word.

Before 1940 "Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams, "stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker bus to the terminal. In our day, cigarette smoking was "fashionable", "grass" was mown, "coke" was kept in the coalhouse, a "joint" was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and "pot" was something you cooked in. "Rock music" was a fond mothers lullaby, "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a "Gay person" was the life and soul of the party. While "aids" just meant beauty treatment for someone or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today....."but

By the Grace of God.....we have survived!

Yes, we have survived

But 1940 is as but yesterday!

Before moving from High Street to Old Bank Chambers in 1871 we'd been selling farm stock, furniture and lands some 2 or 3 working generations from the time of the Mad King and Napoleon.

We worked for the farmers round Horncastle and some of the landowners like Mr.Hotchkin and we valued Hotel contents, when whisky was 18/- a gallon as evidenced in our old record books. In those days all primary figures were in the firms code (to be free from prying eyes).

With the end of the South African war things began to change. We had a Bertlet car from the local garage man, J.T.Friskney at £1500 odd and telephones and typewriters about 1903. So our young junior, Wilf Hodson (who was very young and had to have a small stand behind the counter), went to the technical school in Queen Street to learn shorthand and typing. He got so good that Stafford Walter had a £5 bet with a man that Hodson could type 100 words a minute and take shorthand at 200 - and he won!

Hodson was very very capable and very faithful and added up all the bills at sales in his head and made it all balance that night.

There have been upsets and scandals, wars, financial failures, strikes, marches, fairs and tragedies. We have seen social changes unimaginable in our earlier days. Robberies and frauds, abscondings and other crimes in between the wars. Twice flooded out. A team of horses into our front window. Yet we have survived.

As a firm we have had moments of glory and moments of disappointment, but we have, so far as we know, never lost business, and enjoy our local reputation.

Obituary

Robert Hay Bell

ROBERT Hay Bell of Mareham Grange, Mareham on the Hill, died at home on August 20 aged 89.

He would have celebrated his 90th birthday on August 24.

Robert was born at Lansdowne, Spilsby Road in Horncastle and was the grandson of W K Morton.

He leaves his wife Heather, children Alison, Pauline, Robert and Ruth and grandchildren Lawrie, Charlie and Joseph.

Robert was well known in the area as a land agent, auctioneer and chartered surveyor and was a senior partner of Robert Bell and Company.

Robert's father was a land agent and came from a family of land agents who had started in Delvine,

Pethshim.

His great grandfather took up a prominent resident land agency post on the Revesby Estate in 1842 - the year Revesby Abbey was built.

Robert's schooling began with the fields and River Waring at the back of Lansdowne and it was the variety of wildlife there that instilled his love of the countryside.

On leaving the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, he spent a year on a farm at High Toynton before starting in his father's office in February 1935 as an articled pupil to Stafford Walker the senior partner.

His evenings were spent studying for the Chartered Surveyors exams and he passed his finals with the fourth highest marks in the country in

1938.

The onset of the Second World War saw Robert selected for officer training in Aldershot in 1940.

With brief spells guarding airfields and time in London during the blitz, he was then posted in autumn 1940 and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope to Mombassa in Kenya.

Enlisted in the Lincoln Regiment, Robert was seconded to the Nigerian Regiment, learnt the African language of Hausa and fought the Italians.

By now a lieutenant, his company were often leading the advance against an enemy who was on the run through Somaliland, Mogadishu and Abyssinia.

It was one of the fastest pursuits in

military history.

At Addis Ababa Robert was in the victory parade for the return of the Emperor Haile Selassie.

After a posting in Kenya with the Kings African Rifles and learning the African language of Chinyanja, he was posted to Ceylon where he heard the news that his only brother Tony was wounded and missing in Italy.

With this grim news in the back of his mind, Robert joined the Seafords between Kohima and Imphal in Burma to repulse the Japanese invasion of India.

On December 12 1944, his company was clearing for the advance down The Chinwin Valley when he was shot in the left shoulder.

For some time his left arm and

hand were paralysed but with further operations he was able to grip.

The war finally over, Robert joined his father and brother Tony in the family firm.

Both he and Tony farmed as well. They bought and sold the Stainfield Estate with help from the Baxter family and Robert then bought a small farm in Thimbleby.

In 1950 he bought Mareham Grange which was to become the Bell family home.

Robert had a profound interest in all things agricultural and his perseverance kept Horncastle Cattle Market going beyond its natural life.

Robert was for many years the secretary of the Horncastle Fatstock Show and on the committee of the

Farmer's Club.

He was one of the first club leaders of Horncastle Young Farmers Club as well as a trustee for a variety of charities and private individuals.

As a member of the Royal Forestry Society he was responsible for planting many woods on local estates as well as on his own farm.

Robert was also a past president of the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers and a honorary member of Woodhall Spa Golf Club.

The funeral service, conducted by Canon John Thorold, was held on Friday August 31 at St Mary's Church in Horncastle.

The funeral directors were R H Turner and Son of Horncastle.

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COME AND TALK TO US

Family mourners: Heather Bell, her son Robert with wife Becki, daughters Alison with husband Ken, Pauline and Ruth with son Lawrence. Other mourners were: Adrian Massingham-Wendy, John Barker, Miss Perceval, Mrs M. Elliott also representing Ray and Mr and Mrs John Elliott; Peter and Peggy Starr; T. Smithson, Ray Nightman; Michael Conroy, Derek Thorpe; Gordon and Joan Jackson; Eric and Gwen Young; Neville Oliver; Sue Walker and Richard Smith also representing Sheila and John Beatty; Shirley Oliver also representing Helen and Andrew; Angela Drake; David Shelton also representing Eileen; Roger Booth also representing Iol and family and Mr and Mrs Steven Read; Sam and Pam Wright; Angus and Anne Carmichael; Tony and Kay Wing; D W Hodgson; John Colcott; Mr and Mrs William Cabbell; V Rangard also representing J Brodson; Mary Merholc; Arthur Robinson representing Mr and Mrs Neville Robinson; R B Wignall; Lawrence and Mary Jane Clarke; Miss A. Mead; Lorraine Bourne; Mr and Mrs W Baxter also representing Mrs D. Baxby; Mr and Mrs W Renshaw; Joan and Derek Littleworth representing the family; and Mrs Geoffrey Grant; Eric Toot; Adam Dear; Jill Greenwood; Tom and Janet Harrison representing Bobby Holland and Ann and Bill Moreland; Peter and Jean Robinson; Mr and Mrs Les Bowser; Colin and Julie Low; Caroline Dear; Evelyn Casford; Allen Barr also representing Robert Barr; Rosie and Fred Davasia; Mr and Mrs James Tagg also representing Gerald Tagg; Mr and Mrs G. Calvert also representing Mrs Melonie Edwards and Graham Calvert, Jr; Nick Morlan also representing Henning; Aine Housar; Jonathan Read; Peter Chatterton; Mr and Mrs William Heald also representing Mr and Mrs J. Roe also representing Mr and Mrs P. Roe; Dick Roberts also representing Tom and Ian Roberts; Elizabeth Bourne; Hugh Bourne also

Brewer, Dennis Bull, Peter Silver and Muriel Willis, Guard of Honour Royal British Legion; Mr D Gault and Mrs W Gault also representing Mr J Gault and Mrs R Gault and Family; Debbie and Tony Lank; Penny Elson also representing Mr and Mrs P Grant; Steven Roberts; Ann and Tony Scruby also representing Francis Dear; Philip Cales also representing Charles Meynell; Pam Robinson; Colleen Hoat also representing Mr and Mrs Brakeborough; Lois Wood; Stuart Cox also representing Chattertons; Roland Freeman also representing Chattertons; Solicitors Mr and Mrs Richard Archer; Rosemary Bentor; Roy Sanderson; Gavin and Sue Bowser; Eric Burton; John Harrison also representing Wendy; Peter Wilkinson; Mr and Mrs Gordon Dear; Mr and Mrs Richard Smith; David and Catherine Beater; Anthony and Kathleen Beater; Robin and Vy Dear; Sue Dear; Graham Bond; Mr and Mrs Andrew Nittam; Mrs Walford; Mr N. Leggate; Mr and Mrs Hobbs; Mrs I Furness and R. Furness; Russell Garby; Judy Hickson; Philip Hawkins representing Scorer and Hawkins; Col. John Dymoke also representing Mrs Susan Dymoke and Mr Francis Dymoke; Andrew Needham representing the family; John Dear; Beth Dear; Elizabeth Duffin and Anthony Duffin; P. Houldershaw; Mr and Mrs Tony Connell; Penny Russell also representing John; Michael Lawson-Johnson; Clark; Mr Michael Elliot representing the

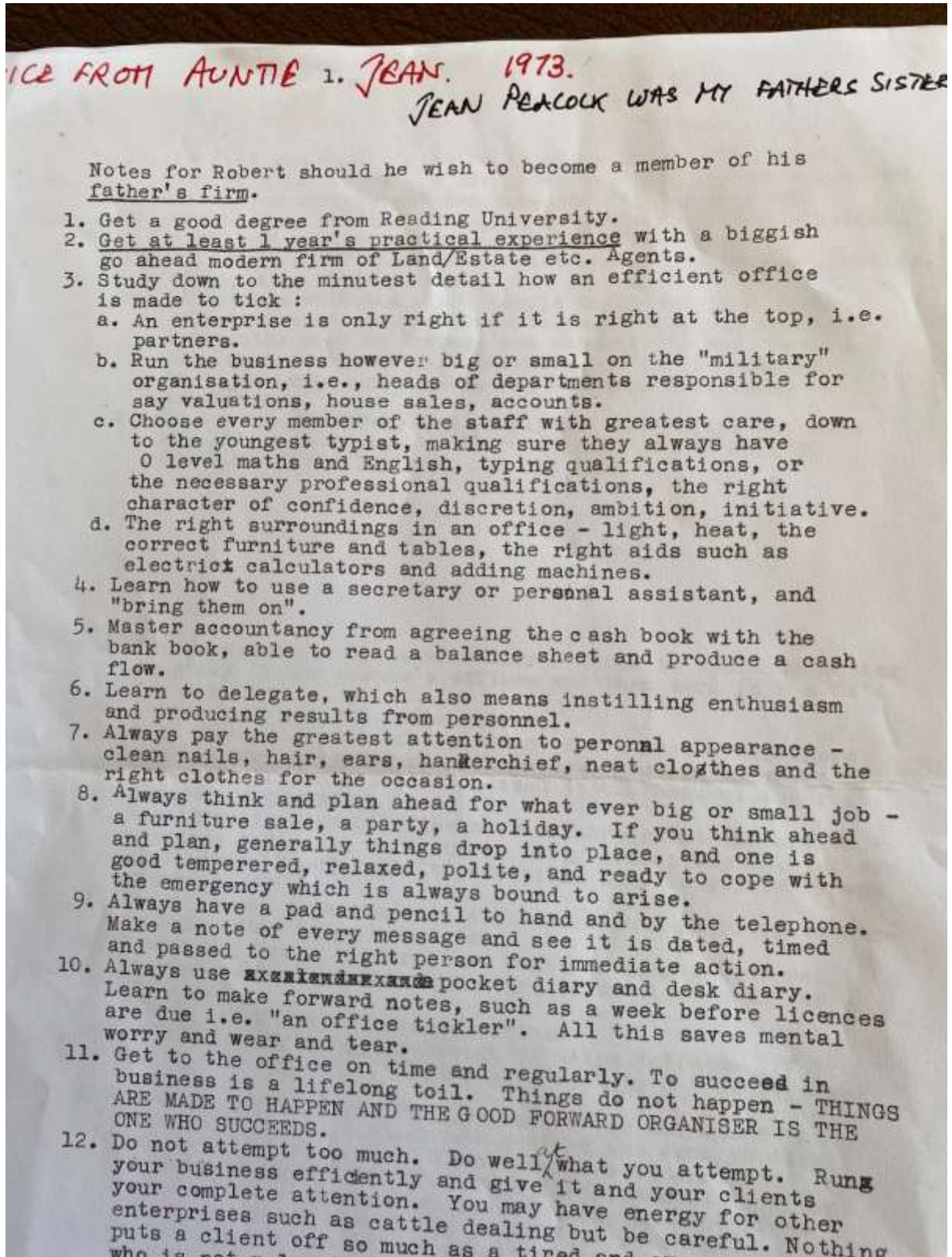
representing Midge Ward; Christopher Oliver; Nina Clayton also representing Horncastle District Nurses; Gordon Malby; Margie Ward-Read also representing Mr Clark; Mrs Edor; Mrs Wood; Mark, Fiona and Jessie Richards; W Raintorpe and Mrs Raintorpe; Robert and Jill Lingard also representing Rosemary Morris and Dee Parker; Keith Clarke also representing the Clarke Family; Clarke's Garage; Frank Soley and family; Neville and Maureen Turner; D H Mower also representing John Epton; Richard Briggs; Mr & Mrs David Carr; Mr & Mrs David Read; Mr & Mrs Andrew Read; Ian Gray; William Gray Snr also representing William Gray, Jr and family; Margaret Clark also representing Alec Clark; Geoff and Sue Stawson also representing Christopher and Katie Stawson; Martin and Jessica Reed; John and Shirley Read; David Pettigall also representing Revesby Estate and Gavin Wiggins-Davies; Peter Wiggins-Davies also representing Revesby Estate; Mr & Mrs Law; Mr & Mrs Robert Howell also representing Southwold Hunt; Michael and Sheena Read also representing EE Read & Son; Morris Ward; Morris Epton also representing Paul Brown; John and Margaret Grant; John and Betty Morton; Mrs M. Jones; William Prior; Mrs R. Norton; Mr & Mrs Richard Read also representing Jennifer Gallard; Johnathan Merwick; Roy Hainsine also

Hugh Bourne; Anabel Hawkins; Phillis Chappell; Charlie Bryant also representing Tom White and James O'Brien; Tim Bryant also representing Roger and Pauline Stawson; Richard Walter also representing Mrs T Walker and GW Walter; Michael Walter; Mrs Sue Robinson; Mr & Mrs A. Collard; Mr & Mrs Paul Kime; Mrs Anne Lohman; Mr & Mrs Alessori; Diana and Michael Ward; Peter and Sue Ward; Joe and Sue Ward; Mr and Mrs Sam Fazlam also representing Mr & Mrs N. Rafter; Kay Wing; Neil and Mary Boulton; Samuel Kinning; Jane Rees; Malcolm; Anthony; Melis; Mrs M. Hoagh also representing Dexter and Sharpe; Mrs Russell Danby; Mrs Peter Flucke also representing Mr & Mrs Nick Flucke; Andrew Smith also representing Horncastle Fatstock Show Committee; Keith and Joan Bennett also representing Ivan and Anne Bennett; Tim Spurrer; Angie Bennett; Robert England; Michael West; Mark Clayford; Stephen Ireland; Nick Westbank; Wendy Kime also representing Bill Kime; Anne Kime; Tim Beatt; Stephen Parker also representing Mrs D. Parker; Mr and Mrs Henry Parker; Lucy Harrison; Jeremy Cooper; William and Fiona Ekington; Mr and Mrs James Hayes; Edith and Cliff Harding; J. Stanley also representing Mr and Mrs H. A. Stanley; Mr Birch; Mr and Mrs Charles Baxter also representing Mrs H.E. Baxter; Archie Sault; Mr Andrew Craven also representing Judy Craven; Mr Hugh Massingham-Wendy also representing Mrs A. Massingham-Wendy; H. Smith; Ben Smith also representing Mrs Christine Smith; Mr A.I. Smith and family; Roy Shuttleworth also represents Peggy Shuttleworth; Kay Wright also representing Mr and Mrs P. Dickson; Mrs Deane; David Ashton-Hill; Philip H. Sharpe; Joe Ward also representing Annabel and Vivienne Reynolds; Gill Dromingham; Mr and Mrs E. Oliver also representing D. Pobjoy for the Mrs Christine Tol; Anne Slade; John Looat; Christopher



Anna Glenc-Chistowska (Principal) **Jubilee**

From an early age, I, Robert Lawrence Hay Bell accompanied my father on annual valuations, and helped run sheets at auction sales. My first auctioneering experience was in 1973 at the sale of house contents at Belchford. My father asked his sister Jean Peacock to set out advice for me.



After University and a year at Wells Cundall at Malton, I returned to Horncastle at fathers request. I could see that whilst Land Agency and auctioneering were enjoyable, we had to develop the estate agency side for our bread and butter.

SIXTH GENERATION MOVES IN



Mr Robert Bell — the sixth generation of his family to be an auctioneer and land agent.

Mr Robert H. L. Bell, of Horncastle, has become the sixth generation of a family of auctioneers and land agents. The firm of Mawer, Mason and Bell, have announced this week that Mr Bell, son of Mr Robert Hay Bell, has been taken into the partnership.

Mr Bell, a bachelor, also a Bachelor of Science and an Associate of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, has worked with his father at the Horncastle office of the firm for a number of years.

Educated at Gresham's School, Norfolk, he read for his degree in Estate Management at Reading University and, after a period in Yorkshire, joined the firm as an assistant in 1978.

He became an Associate of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a member of the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers in 1981.

Mr Bell, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Horncastle and a Round Tabler, is currently a liaison officer for the World Ploughing Championships to be held at Woodhall later in the year and is an enthusiastic cricket and hockey player.

By 1968 father and grampa (aged 87) knew they needed some help and sought applications. I believe the one that stood out most was from Mike Perkins of George Mawer & Co at Market Rasen, but they didn't want to let him go and instead we had a loose association between the two firms that lasted until 1980 when we went into full partnership including Masons at Louth to form Mawer Mason and Bell. As a partnership of 10, the new firm had good ideas and expanded to 10 offices from Brigg to Alford.

In 1987 an approach was made by the Leeds Building Society. It was a time of frenetic buying of estate agents by financial institutions and they were paying good money. But father was dead against selling - "you can only sell once" and we decided to go on our own and keep our independence. This was a huge worry at the time, but a decision I have never regretted.



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HORNCAS
News
Thursday, April 14, 1988

HORNCASTLE 6868

**OLD FIRM
BACK IN
CONTROL**

Tradition lives on

Horncastle and Woodhall Spa are once again to have their own local firm of estate agents. Following the takeover of the Lincolnshire conglomerate Mawer, Mason and Bell by a national building society, the Bell family of Horncastle have decided to regain their independence.

The name Robert Bell & Company will be displayed at the Old Bank Chambers in Horncastle, maintaining a family tradition which goes back many generations.

"We feel that, by being independent, we will get more enjoyment out of our work," commented Mr Robert Bell junior, "and that this will lead to a better service to our clients. We felt that bigger was not necessarily better and that we could be far more effective by being independent," he added.

Robert has certainly been born and bred into the land agency business. His great great grandfather came into this area to manage the Revesby Estate, and there have been at least six generations in land agency work.

The Horncastle connection can be traced back to Weir & Co., (the author of the well-known local history.) It was transferred to W. B. Parish who, in 1872, moved from High Street near the Old Bank, Chambers. This was the year in which Parish sold all of Woodhall between Sandy Lane and the River Witham, thus laying the foundations of the modern Spa town. Parish was joined by Stafford Walter in 1895, a local man, full of character, who lived in the large house now used as offices by Chattertons. He had quite a menagerie in Hammer-rose Garden.

It was in 1897 that Mr Robert Hay Bell, Robert's grandfather, was introduced to the firm. He became a partner in 1910 and continued to take an active part in the firm until his death in 1969 at the age of 89 years.

After the Second World War, Hay was joined by his son Mr Robert H. Bell. Five years ago he was, in turn, joined by his son, Mr Robert L. H. Bell who is now 32 years of age.

"I was destined to become the fourth Robert Hay Bell, but I think my mother must have put her foot down and insisted on another initial," commented Robert.

The name of Parish, Stafford Walter and Bell dominated Horncastle for the greater part of this century until, relatively recently, they helped to form Mawer, Mason and Bell.



Robert Bell Jr pictured in the office where his grandfather's picture, the late Mr Hay Bell has pride of place on the wall. He would surely have approved of the family tradition being kept alive.



*R HAYBELL
Portrait.*

WILLIAM GRAY IRENE COX (W SPA). JULIE HARNARD (MARRIED GUN) LOW TONY WING.

JANICE TONG MARIA PELL KATHLEEN LOW LIZ KING RHB RHB ANNE SUDDABY

We were supported by our excellent landlord clients, and the house sales and other sides benefited from being able to give a unique and independent service. Our firm rapidly expanded from a staff of 9 in 1988 to over 35 with new offices at Coningsby in 1990, Woodhall in 1992, Lincoln in 1998 and a second office in Horncastle in 2017. Our services have been departmentalised into agricultural, property sales, commercial, residential lets, surveying and auctions enabling us to offer a wide variety of specialised advice.



Selling Lincoln Red cattle at Horncastle Market about 1985. Father in the ring.



Installation as President of the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers (as Hay Bell and Robert H Bell had also been), about 2003. Philip Day, (secretary), John Maitland (guest speaker), RLHB, Ian Walter (outgoing President), and Andrew Read (guest).

KATHLEEN LOW 1972 - 1999

KATHLEEN CAME FROM ABERLOUR IN SCOTLAND, WHEN HER HUSBAND CHARLIE MOVED TO LINCS POLICE. HER SON COLIN HAS WORKED FOR THE FIRM SINCE 1995+. HER DAUGHTER MARRIED MY COUSIN ADAM DEAN.



Retiring bid for Kathleen Low

KATHLEEN Low is a very well known lady in this part of the world and within the estate agent and auctioneers business her expertise will be sorely missed. On the brink of retirement, Kathleen reviews her progress with one of Horncastle's most respected family businesses and looks forward to the future full of optimism and opportunity.

Kathleen was born and grew up in Aberlour-on-Spey, a splendid Scottish village which is acclaimed throughout the world. When she left school, Kathleen trained as a shorthand typist at the prestigious Webster's College in Elgin and went on to work as secretary to a Writer to the Signet for three years and following her marriage to Charlie, the happy couple moved to Cleethorpes, where the Constabulary beckoned.

"Cleethorpes was different," Kathleen told me. "But I did enjoy it and we soon settled in there. Our daughter Caroline was born at Nunsthorpe and is a 'Meggie', then David was born at Cleethorpes and he is a 'Lincolnshire Yellowbelly'.

"Charlie was posted to Horncastle in 1961 and we moved here on a very chilly January day in 1962. I wondered what I was coming to. Everything was so bleak. I suppose I didn't see the district at its best that day but of course I have been so very happy here. Everyone extended a warm welcome which just kept on growing."

Kathleen worked for Woodroffe Walter & Son from 1964 to 1968, and after her youngest son, Colin, was born, went on to work on a part time basis, for about a year at Horncastle Residential College, for the first Principal, Stan Josephs.

In 1972, Kathleen came to work with John Lucas, at Parish, Stafford Walter & Bell in Horncastle. Mr Lucas, was also Clerk of the Course at Market Rasen and Secretary of the South Wold Hunt, Point-to-Point, therefore, as well as residential sales and farm valuations, there was a variety of work in connection with bloodstock sales and equestrian events. Eventually, around 1974, Kathleen worked for both John Lucas and Mr Bell, Senior.

Horncastle News Nov. 1999

"I then learned about the various landed estates which the firm manages and the varied work involved in this," Kathleen said. "There was tree planting, water abstraction, cropping, farm rents, footpaths, and so many different jobs. On the days when we had an auction sale, I would be alone in the office typing upstairs and dashing downstairs to attend to clients or building society customers."

"Eventually I began to be involved in various auction sales as booking clerk or cashier. In those days sales were held at the Queen Street saleroom and the Town Hall - then there were livestock and machinery sales on various farms. The sales were great fun and because everything had to be written down in those days - vendor number, description of items, price, and name and address of each purchaser - it was very busy. The adrenalin flowed and those days were most enjoyable. I got to know the 'regulars' and what they might bid for, where they were likely to sit and so long as they didn't change their seating habits or clothes we could easily spot the bidder."

"They were always good-natured and responded by bidding vigorously if the auctioneer made a little joke. The system is now computerised and it's all numbers, of course, which is a bit of a shame but that's progress. One thing which hasn't changed though: horses, rams and bulls are still sold in guineas!"

"When Robert Bell, (then junior), joined the firm, we 'inherited' each other and I worked for father and son. The business began to expand and my job with it. From 1986 to 1994, I was involved in the rapidly growing residential lettings and that is now a successful department on its own. I reverted to the agricultural area of the business, which is what I enjoy most, although my day in the office is so varied that it encompasses most of the diverse aspects in this firm."

"Booking for the last time, on Wednesday, at an excellent antique sale, was still exciting although, quite sad and arranging for the Horncastle Christmas Fat Stock Show is another tradition which I shall miss. For about 20 years I have dealt with so many lovely people and have been most fortunate to have had such an interesting working life. I have never been bored - there was no time for boredom - and the years have simply flown past without my noticing."

Having three children, and now six grandchildren, the prospect for retirement is also very busy and Kathleen will also take on the role of archivist at Robert Bell and Company where she has been so happy during her career thus far.

"When I arrived here, there were two partners, a trainee surveyor, a receptionist, two clerks, a part-time accountant, and a part-time secretary. Now the firm has four offices, three partners, and 21 members of full-time and part-time staff, including two trainee surveyors and three auctioneers. My youngest son, also works for the company, and we can thereby say that it is 'family firm'."

"Charlie and I will be kept busy with our grandchildren who range from the oldest at 20 - and now studying at the University of Rhode Island - to the youngest, born just three weeks ago, in Wimbledon. There will be more time for my hobbies and interests including painting. I'm sure that a slower pace will take some getting used to, but I am looking forward to it."

"I would like to thank everyone within the company and so many friends and customers who have made every day interesting and enjoyable. I will certainly miss them but will keep in touch, of course."

"Well done to Kathleen and good fortune for the future. I bet there will be a rash of 'bidding' for her retirement time."



Bidding for a change of pace, Kathleen Low has seen many changes within the estate agency and surveying business but the 'bells' are ringing now, heralding her retirement.

Kathleen Low was personal assistant and secretary to both Robert H Bell and R L H B, starting in 1972 until 1999. Her daughter Caroline married my cousin Adam Dean, who was an assistant from 1973 -1979. Her son Colin started in 1995, and continues as an excellent auctioneer.

100 years of Bell family association with historic Horncastle company

FAMILY histories are a fascinating subject, not only for those directly descended from a certain line, but for all of us. They give a rare insight into the past and personalise the life and times of those who are no longer with us, bringing them closer, giving us a better understanding of where and how they lived and the problems which they faced in their own lifetime.

Five generations of the Bell family have carried on a deep rooted tradition of service to the community and to the Lincolnshire countryside, since George Bell came to Revesby from Scotland in 1842.

George Bell, like his father before him, had been Factor to Sir John Muir McKenzie, Bart., of Delvine, Perthshire, for several years and when he retired from that post, to come south, it was said that he had carried out his duties with 'much honour and credit to himself'.

Friends, who were sorry to see him depart, were reported to say that the 'sincere friendship and esteem which they entertain towards him and the respect and admiration in which they hold his character and talents, as a man of business and a gentleman of the strictest integrity, most agreeable manners and most extended liberality of sentiment and disposition, which in his intercourse with them, they have with so much satisfaction and delight found him uniformly to exhibit'.

With this reference to his good character, George Bell travelled to Lincolnshire on horseback, to take up the post of agent for J. Banks Stanhope Esq., a position he held for upwards of 20 years.

At the time he arrived, the Revesby estates were said to be 'neglected', and 'almost ruinous' and it was in a great measure due to his painstaking perseverance and industry, that it became one of the best managed estates in Lincolnshire.

It was about the same time as his arrival that Revesby Abbey was rebuilt to the design of fellow Scot, William Burn.

When he retired from his post, Mr Bell was congratulated as being 'a gentleman whose honour and integrity were beyond reproach, as a man of business, whose punctuality, courtesy and straightforward dealings were proverbial and as a friend whose sincerity and kindness of heart endeared him to all who had the privilege of meeting him in the social intercourse of private life'.

When he died in 1872, aged 68 years, he was a hard act to follow, or as was said at the time, 'Mr Bell was a man whose place it will be difficult to supply'. That challenge fell to his surviving relatives.

An example of how his family did carry



Attention focuses on the auctioneer, Mr R.H. Bell, (front right) senior partner in the long established family business of Robert Bell & Company, which now has a century of experience to call upon.

on those traditions of service, was brought to my notice recently, when I came into possession of a copy of the 100 year old Indenture and Bond papers, which were signed in April 1897, by his son Robert Henry Bell and his grandson, Robert Hay Bell.

On the 3rd of April 1897, at the age of 16, young Robert Hay Bell, who was one of eight children, was article to Mr W.B. Parish, auctioneer, land valuer and estate agent of Horncastle. Mr Hay Bell's father, named in Ramby in this time and later, when he retired, he became the landlord of the Red Lion Hotel in Horncastle.

The Bell family association, with the long established company, which has now developed into Robert Bell and Company, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers and Land Estate Agents, had begun with the signing of these documents.

As an example of how times have changed, an extract from the Deed of Apprenticeship, for which the apprentice had to pay, reads: 'He shall not contract matrimony within the said term, nor play at cards or dice tables or any other unlawful games whereby his said master may have any loss with his own goods or others during the said term, without the licence of his said master; shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not haunt taverns or playhouses nor absent himself from the said masters service day or night, unlawfully... Very strict rules applied in those times, as you can see.

The company history now extends for more than 200 years and the firm moved to

their present offices, The Old Bank Chambers in the Bull Ring at Horncastle, a mere 125 years past.

The foundations which were laid by Mr R.H. Bell, senior, who was to become Principal of Messrs Parish, Stafford, Walter and Bell, were developed and progressively modernised and his son, also named Robert Hay Bell, joined the partnership.

As Lincolnshire's senior practising auctioneer, Mr R.H. Bell (senior), who lived to be 87 years of age, carried on working right up to the day he died, in May, 1969. He had certainly 'taken a leaf' from his grandfather George's book.

He had a tremendous knowledge of agriculture and estate management and his two special interests were in the planting of woodlands and management of waters in the countryside. He was very fond of shooting, fishing and tennis and also played golf.

At the peak of his career, Mr Bell simultaneously managed over 14,000 acres and farmed nearly 1,500. At one time, with the exception of a few yards, he could have walked from the River Witham to Ulceby Cross, entirely on land which he either managed or farmed.

He also took a keen interest in the town of Horncastle and rescued historic panelling from condemned buildings at Stow's Corner, incorporating it in his office in 1968. The tiny 'Tom Thumb' house from the same building now graces the top of the company offices.

BILL board



Bill Anderson takes a personal look at life in Horncastle and beyond.

Mr Bell was a member of the Horncastle Old Volun Chairman for many years of Horncastle Urban District Court Justice of the Peace, a county councillor, a director of the Horn Water Company, governor of the Horncastle Queen Elizabeth grammar school, a member of the Witham Internal Drainage B a member of the Lincolnshire Branch of the Auctioneers and E Agents Institute and was their chairman in 1943.

He married Miss Elsie Morton, daughter of Mr W.K. Mo printer and publisher of the Horncastle News and they had two and four daughters.

Through Robert Hay Bell's first association and subsequent partnership with Mr Stafford Walter, one of Horncastle's longest est lished family businesses was formed.

Various changes have taken place since that time but I am that George Bell would have approved of those developments, their continuing independent status.

The present partners, Mr R.H. Bell and Mr R.L.H. Bell are ju proud of their family history and the 100 year old association w their company has, within the business and social life of the co and in particular with the community in Horncastle and district



Keeping family name and interests associated with the business is important for Robert Bell. He is enthusiastic about the future, whilst acknowledging the efforts which have been made by his forefathers during the past 100 years.

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AUCTION SALES.

We sell everything, including the kitchen sink.
Often house clearances were held on the premises.
In the 1980's collective sales at the Town Hall enabled us to
bring several clearances to one sale (and helped us with house sales).



CIRCA 1976

RITA selling

Adam Dean
booking.



CIRCA 1980
Charity Produce Auction
Belchford?

RITA
Potter.

TIM HEATH
Selling.

Auctions

Our presence at the Livestock Market helped secure instructions on specialist sales such as this sale for Joe Ward at Carrington when he went out of sheep in the early 1980's. The pens were brought from Homcastle market



AUCTIONS.

The Town Hall sales attracted a good crowd inside & out.



Special picture racks helped display.



Outside effects were moved first thing in the morning ready for the auction at 10 am.

CARRINGTON AUCTION

From the mid 1990's we helped the Rally by conducting the sale on the Saturday. This could be manic with all sorts of lots turning up (as well as all sorts of characters). Sometimes we had to have 2 auctions going at the same time (+ consequent staff).
Often it rained: this is a very hot dry one!



PAUL KIRK

BECKI

+ R.H.B

PAUL has helped since the early 1980's + is extremely capable,



AUCTIONS : FARM MACHINERY



Hugo Richardson
& Karl Atkin
at South
Ormsby
1999

farming@wrights-register.com

Jan 2007

www.wrights

Machinery sale attracts large crowd

A FINE autumn weekend attracted a large crowd to a collective machinery sale held by Lincolnshire auctioneers Robert Bell & Company at Minting near Horncastle.

The sale on 9 November came about primarily as a result of the disappointment of having to cancel the established annual collective sale held at Carrington Steam Rally in May.

With about 500 lots ranging from collectables and bygones through to modern farm machinery, there was something for everyone as the large crowd proved.

Notable results were as follows:

MF 399 tractor with loader £7000; Blue Line flat trailer £1050; Manco Dingo grass cart £300; International enamelled carved sign £205; Sandstone Mill wheel £340; Dowdeswell three-furrow plough £200; Bamford 8577 hedger £875; Massey-Ferguson discs £430; Parmeter elevator £180; twin axle car trailer £460; Tantic 125 trial bike £200 and copper milk churn £362.



The Massey-Ferguson 399 tractor with loader, left, realised £7000. FRED NEEDHAM



SOME OF OUR STAFF



BRIAN AYRES: a stalwart of our audio team. Brian knew everything about agricultural bygone coins, etc etc.

Worked as head porter from early 1980's to his death about 2010

MARIA PELL

Started with us about 1985 on leaving school & ran the Halifax Building Society agency. Has consistently & always pleasantly done accounts at auctions. Now front line on res lets at Horncliffe.



SUE LEGGATE

Started with us at Horncliffe in the early 1990's. Always calm and very capable, she now works at the Woodhall office.





SOME DO IT BY THE RAISING OF AN EYEBROW.



SOME BY A SLIGHT INCLINATION OF THE HEAD.



SOME WITH A WINK.



SOME BY ADJUSTING THEIR TIE.



SOME BY ELEVATING THE CATALOGUE—



OR A FOREFINGER.



SOME BY THE REMOVAL OF THEIR SPECTACLES.



ANOTHER BY REPLACING THEM.



UM BATEMAN.

BUT THE HEATHEN—HE DOES IT BY WORD OF MOUTH.

THE ART OF BIDDING

PARISH STAFFORD WALTER & BELL
CODE.

1	T
2	L
3	I
4	>
5	p
6	∠
7	8
8	p
9	∅
0	Δ

EVERY FIRM OF VALUERS USED TO HAVE ITS OWN CODE SO THAT BOOKS OF ITEMS BEING VALUED COULD BE COMPARED WITHOUT DISCLOSING ONE'S OWN VALUATION.

ABOVE WAS P SW B'S CODE.

WE HAVE VALUATION BOOKS GOING BACK TO 1871



A hockey match against Chattertons about 1986. Chris Sutton with the ball went on to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor & heads a firm in South Wales.
Mike Perkins waiting to pounce.



Six a side football about 1997

HUGO
RICHARDSON

OLIN
LOW

FERRETT
COOPER

DUNCAN
CHAMBERS

TONY
WING

ED
FINNEY

Hanes Contracting sale:

Business ceases after 75 years

A comprehensive sale of contracting equipment occurred in April when Noel J Hanes Contracting dispersed its range of kit. This may have been the biggest sale of Deutz-Fahr tractors in recent years

Robert Bell and Company were instructed by Noel J Hanes Contracting to disperse the entire range of contracting kit at East Fen Farm, Tickney in Lincolnshire. The range of machinery on offer was extensive and this will have been one of the biggest sales of Deutz-Fahr tractors for years. The tractors had not been sitting idle, clocking up many thousands of hours between them; however, they were all in a tidy condition. The majority of the kit was sold on the day of the sale.

"Noel Hanes was an agricultural contractor who started in business during the Second World War and then carried on for 75 years," explains auctioneer Robert Bell. "He had an extensive business across Lincolnshire, carrying out direct and conventional drilling and all agricultural operations through to sugar beet harvesting. Although Noel died about 11 years ago, the business had continued with his son Neil and the agricultural machinery firm of JT Friskney.

"This was a complete dispersal sale, held in the yard now rented from James Dyson. Smaller items were displayed and sold in the machinery sheds, whilst the impressive range of 10 tractors, mainly Deutz, dominated the yard which contained the larger machinery. The auction included a six-row 2011 Vervaet sugar beet harvester, a Deutz 2006 combine, 2005 Cat digger, 2009 Manitou telehandler, 11 trailers, six various drills, three balers.... There were just over 400 lots in total, and the sale grossed well in excess of £500,000."

The firm's 2006 Deutz Fahr MD 5690 combine with a below-average 1,850 engine hours



and 7.2m header sold very well at £43,000, whilst the beet harvester didn't quite make its money on the day and was sold after the sale. Leading tractor price was awarded to a

2015 Deutz-Fahr 6210 C-Shift with only 1,365 hours and a front linkage plus weight block; it got to £61,000. Other tractors included a 2012 Deutz-Fahr M640 on 6,790 hours at



This line-up of Deutz tractors was probably the largest sale of this brand's models in recent years with a wide selection to choose from.



The 2009 Deutz-Fahr TTV 630 seemed good value for money. At 5,600 hours and the tyres at 40%, bidding finished at £27,000.



This 2010 Deutz-Fahr M610 model with 6,700 hours on the clock and a front weight made a respectable £25,000.



Tyres were getting down on this 2012 Deutz-Fahr M640 on 6,790 hours with front linkage and weight. The hammer price was £27,250.

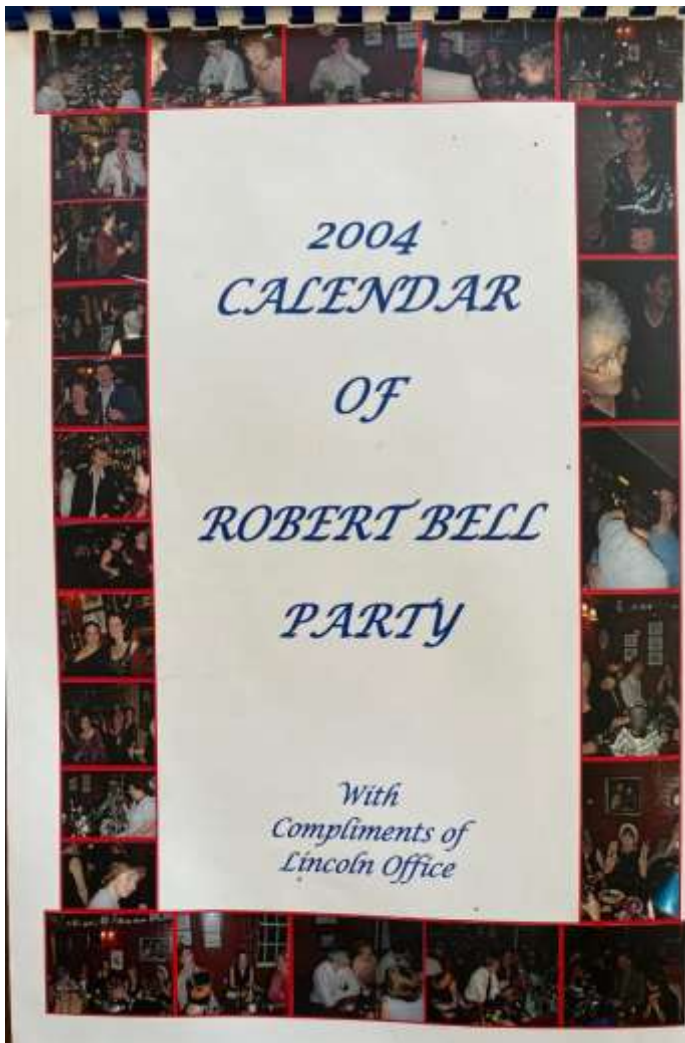


Leading the way on the day at £61,000 was this 2015 Deutz-Fahr 6210 C-Shift. It showed 1,365 hours and again had a front linkage and weight to add to the spec.

The sale of machinery for Noel Haines Contracting in 2018 was one of our larger farm machinery sales.



PUGLIA
 Family
 AS
 Barbara
 WIL
 (BRIAN)
 UB
 KATHIE
 ANTON
 BOBY
 TREN
 FRANK
 ARIA
 ELA
 BELLA
 JAMES
 WAD
 LOW



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 OF
 ROBERT BELL
 PARTY

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ROBERT BELL ROCK

Written & performed at our Christmas party 2003 Abbey Lodge.

ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL ROCK
 WE ARE ALL HERE TO SING YOU A SONG.
 WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT, SO PLEASE CLAP ALONG
 IT'S THE ROBERT BELL ROCK!

ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL ROCK
 WE ARE THE GREATEST, WE ARE THE BEST
 WE ARE THE ONES TO HELP YOU ON YOUR WAY
 WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY.

TC, THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR STRESS,
 CLAYTON, TRY NOT TO LEAVE YOUR DESK IN SUCH A MESS.

ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL ROCK
 WE ARE THE BEST, WE'RE SURE YOU'LL AGREE.
 IF YOUR NOT SURE, JUST LOOK AT US
 AND WERE SURE YOU WILL SEE!

HELEN, OUR PAY IS THE BEST THING YOU DO,
 LAURA, HOWARD IS SO PROUD OF YOU,
 JANE, THE WHOLE BUILDING ROCKS WHEN YOU SNEEZE,
 YOU FRIGHTEN TOM TO HIS KNEES.

ROSS, LOTS OF KIT KATS FOR YOU CHRISTMAS DAY,
 MARIA KEEP YOU COOL ON SALE DAY,
 JOHN WE ALL WONDER WHATS UNDER YOUR KILT,
 BRIDGET, MEETINGS MAKE YOU WILT.

JEREMY THE PUDS WILL MAKE A FORTUNE OUT OF YOU,
 WE ALL KNOW, THAT COLIN WILL BE THERE BESIDE YOU TOO.

JOAN, TONY WING CAN MAKE YOUR FACE TURN BLUE,
 GILL, DO YOU WONDER WHAT YOU'VE COME TOO
 ANGELA, DO THE ADVERTS IN YOUR SLEEP,
 SUE SAYS THEYRE YOURS TO KEEP!

JANICE, THESE WILL KEEP THE ANIMALS AWAY,
 TONY WING, AAAA WHAT CAN WE SAY,
 SUE, SOON YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY WITH YOUR MAN,
 DAVID, KISS YOU IF WE CAN.

MARGERET, WE SEND CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU,
 DENISE, TUESDAYS YOU PUT UP WITH SUE,
 SUE GRANT, CHEERFUL YOU ARE WE ALL AGREE,
 LIZZIE LIKES HER CUP OF TEA!

ROBERT WE ARE ALL SO GLAD THERE'S ANOTHER ON THE WAY,
 DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE WILL ALL, ALL GET EXTRA PAY!

ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELL ROCK,
 WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS,
 WE ARE ALL FAMILY HERE AT BELLS,
 MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS,
 FROM THE ROBERT BELL ROCKS!!

Three of our major agricultural clients during my tenure of the firm have been A J Massingberd-Mundy Esq at South Ormsby, Neil Hotchkin Esq at Woodhall Spa and the Maitland Family at Somersby, all lovely estates. We used to pay staff wages on each estate as well as collect rents, organise repairs and insurance, advise on new buildings, drainage, forestry, negotiate tenancy agreements, adjust rents, let summer grazing, etc etc.

I was fortunate to have a close relationship with the "Squire" Adrian Massingberd Mundy, (but no say in his desire to leave his ancient estate to the Secret Services). The whisperings in the Massingberd Arms could have formed the basis for a novel, but for me it opened up meetings at Thames House in London, with people who seemed more like Welsh accountants than James Bond. I am so grateful to the Squire's companion, the talented Sarah Perceval, who made the running of the estate easier for the executors.

A. J. MASSINGBERD MUNDY (1927-2012)
SEE FILE ON SOUTH ORMSBY ESTATE.



Adrian was quite remarkable in his ability to remember people. He knew the names of even the farmworkers who were employed by his tenant farmers. He started farming on his own account when one of his farms came free. He established a herd of Lincoln Red cattle in the Park, and faithfully sold through Horncastle market. He also enjoyed breeding race horses, and had stables designed with anti-roll cavities that would enable a pregnant mare to right herself. He was a very accomplished fly fisherman and had great fun with his friends the McCorkodales on the Helmsdale River. He was also a very good shot, and a certificate for a left and right at woodcock (at Guy Fawkes Wood in December 1993) lay on the dining room mantelpiece. He was lucky enough to employ one of the most respected gamekeepers, John Barker for over 40 years. John would catch up and breed from wild pheasants which were kept in the walled garden, (rather than buy in and release huge numbers of game). In this and many other ways, conservation was at the forefront of the Squire's mind.

LETTER FROM MI5 FOLLOWING SALE OF S.O. ESTATE.

Dec 14 2016

Dear Robert,

Just a line to thank you for your help, sound advice and efforts over the year. He did not envisage being in this position this time last year. If I was a suspect the CO was the arrival of Jon Thomas! I do hope that he will continue the estate's connection with you and your company.

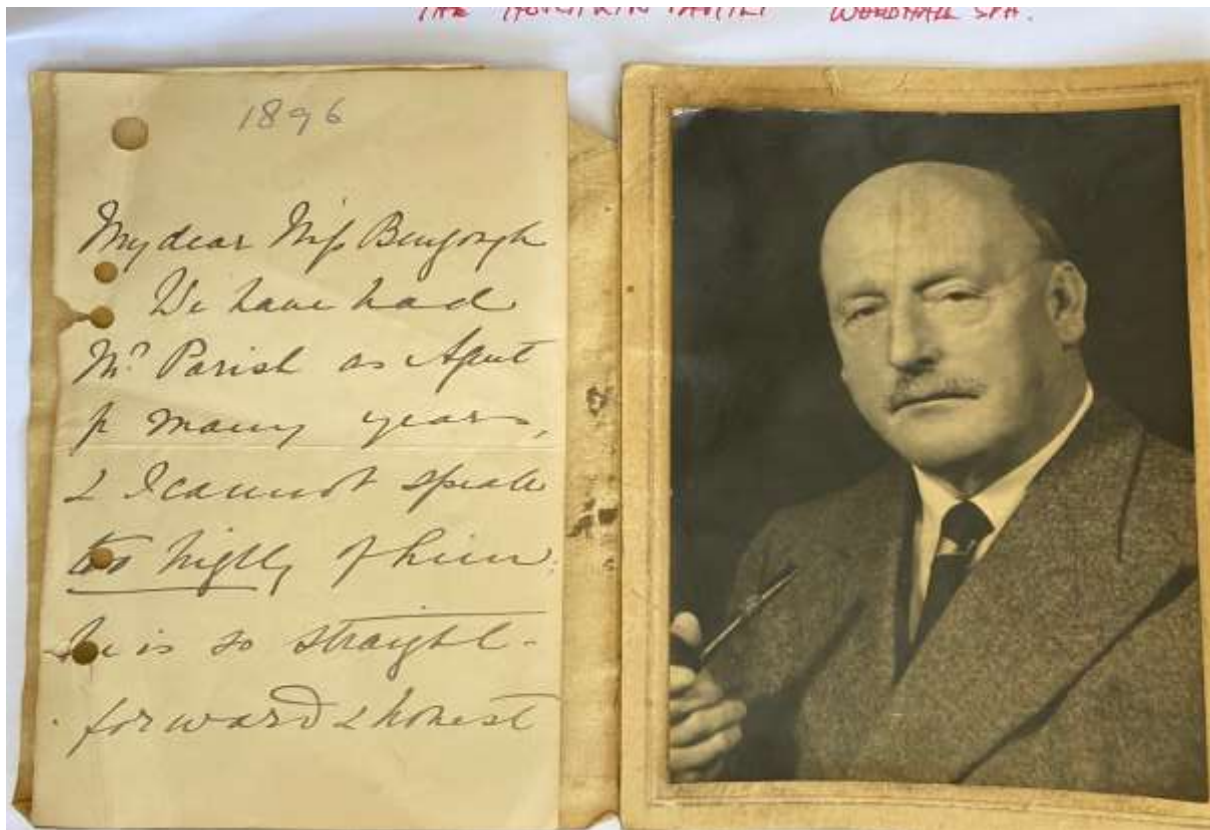
The Trustees wish to thank you too and from a personal perspective, though I am a complete amateur in matters of estate management, I have greatly enjoyed the experience and my dealings with Bell & Co.

I trust you, George, Boss and others a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2017 - with perhaps a little less excitement.

With best wishes

Mike

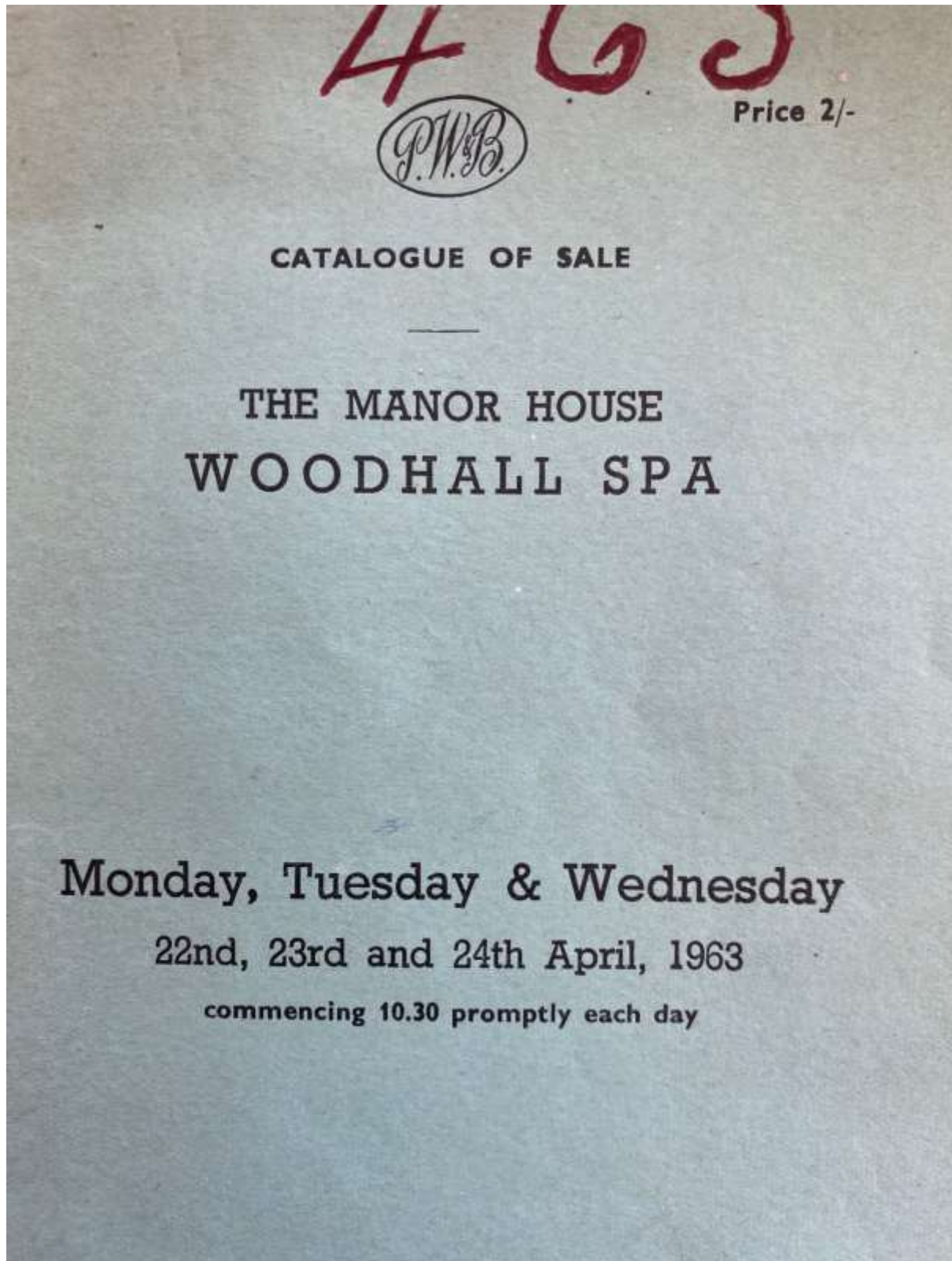
Letter from a representative of MI5 following the sale of the entire estate in 2016.



Reference for Mr Parish in 1896 from Stafford Vere Hotchkin Esq.

As regards the Woodhall estate, again a unique estate with its excellent golf course, but also a unique client. Neil Hotchkin held the record for the number of runs scored in an Eton/Harrow cricket match. He had served in the Chindits behind the Japanese lines during the War. He was an autocratic figure to be treated with great reverence. I recall manning the front office on my own one Saturday morning in the early 1980's. The phone rang, but when I answered it was silent. It did this three times. I thought there was someone playing a joke so when it rang shortly after I replied in my best Chinese "Hallow, Hong Kong Chinese restaurant". I was horrified to hear Mr Hotchkin's voice say "OH, I'm so sorry. I've got the wrong number!"

In 1963 we had a sale of the remaining contents of The Manor House, prior to its occupation as "Agriculture House" by the NFU. My sister Alison aged 10, got bitten on her finger by a red squirrel.



Tel: 01526 352127
Fax: 01526 353302

Womersley House,
27 Horncastle Road,
Woodhall Spa,
Lincs., LN10 6UY

15/12/06.

Dear Robert.

I am writing to thank you, Lucy, Ross, Helen, and all your staff for the exceptional way everyone has looked after the Hotchkin family. In the firm's case in the region of 100 years, but in my case for less time!

I have always found everyone I have had dealings with to be so very helpful and unfailingly polite. This, of course, comes from the top.

The sale of the Woodhall Estate is a very sad & traumatic experience as it is the end of an era, but fortunately I shall be able to retain my association with your firm for the remainder of my land.

Please will you convey my sincere and genuine thanks & appreciation to everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely,
Sally Hotchkin

Letter of thanks from Sallie Hotchkin, on the sale of the Woodhall Estate in 2006.

ROBERT BELL & COMPANY

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Country House



Womersley House, Woodhall Spa.

Possibly the most attractive house in this sought-after golf haven, set within four acres of mature grounds. Womersley House was built by the Hotchkin family who were instrumental in the development of the adjoining Hotchkin Golf Course (Now the headquarters of the English Golf Union)

- Four acres of mature gardens adjoining the Hotchkin Championship Golf Course
- Secluded position at the heart of this popular Spa
- Drawing Room, Dining Room, Morning Room & Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom Suite, Guest Bedroom Suite, Six further Bedrooms and Two further Bathrooms
- Potential to divide for staff accommodation
- Garaging for up to four cars and stores
- All Mains Services

19 Station Road, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6QL
Tel: 01526 353333 Fax: 01526 352600
E-mail: woodhallspa@robert-bell.org
Website: www.robert-bell.org

After Neil Hotchkin died in 2004, Womersley House, his prestigious home on Horncastle Road, was sold as the market crashed in 2008. It took some time to sell again, which we did for the buyer in 2010. It remains one of the principal homes in this sought after resort.

THE MAITLAND FAMILY
- SOMERSBY x HARRINGTON
ALSO ROUGHTON HALL v THIMBLEBY ESTATE.



Top photo shows the Maitland Family about 1960 at the wedding of Sally, now Lady Bruce Gardyne. The bottom photo is of the current home at Somersby House.

I well remember visiting Sir John Maitland ill in his bedroom at Harrington Hall, but still a commanding figure. He arrived after the Second World War to be Conservative MP for the Horncastle Constituency. He purchased the Thimbleby Estate from the exors of Rueben Roberts, and lived at Roughton Hall. Grampa managed to buy the Somersby Estate and Harrington Hall for him. Consequently, Roughton Hall was sold and became a school. (I went and ran away aged 7).

Roughton

By Direction of Holliday Hardley, Esq.

*Bruce
Walter
Stuart*




HARRINGTON HALL
SPILSBY
Lincolnshire

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REGD. NO. 232 (20-444)

PARISH, STAFFORD WALTER & BELL
Old Bank Chambers, Horncastle, Lincs.
Horncastle 221

By direction of Commander J. F. W. Maitland, R.N. (Retd.) M.P.

ROUGHTON HALL
Near Woodhall Spa
LINCOLNSHIRE



For Sale by Private Treaty

by


Messrs. Alfred Sewell & Sons,
51a, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, W.C.2.
(Telephone: Holborn 8741)

Parish, Stafford Walter & Bell,
Old Bank Chambers,
Horncastle, Lincolnshire,
(Telephote: Horncastle 221).

P.W.B.

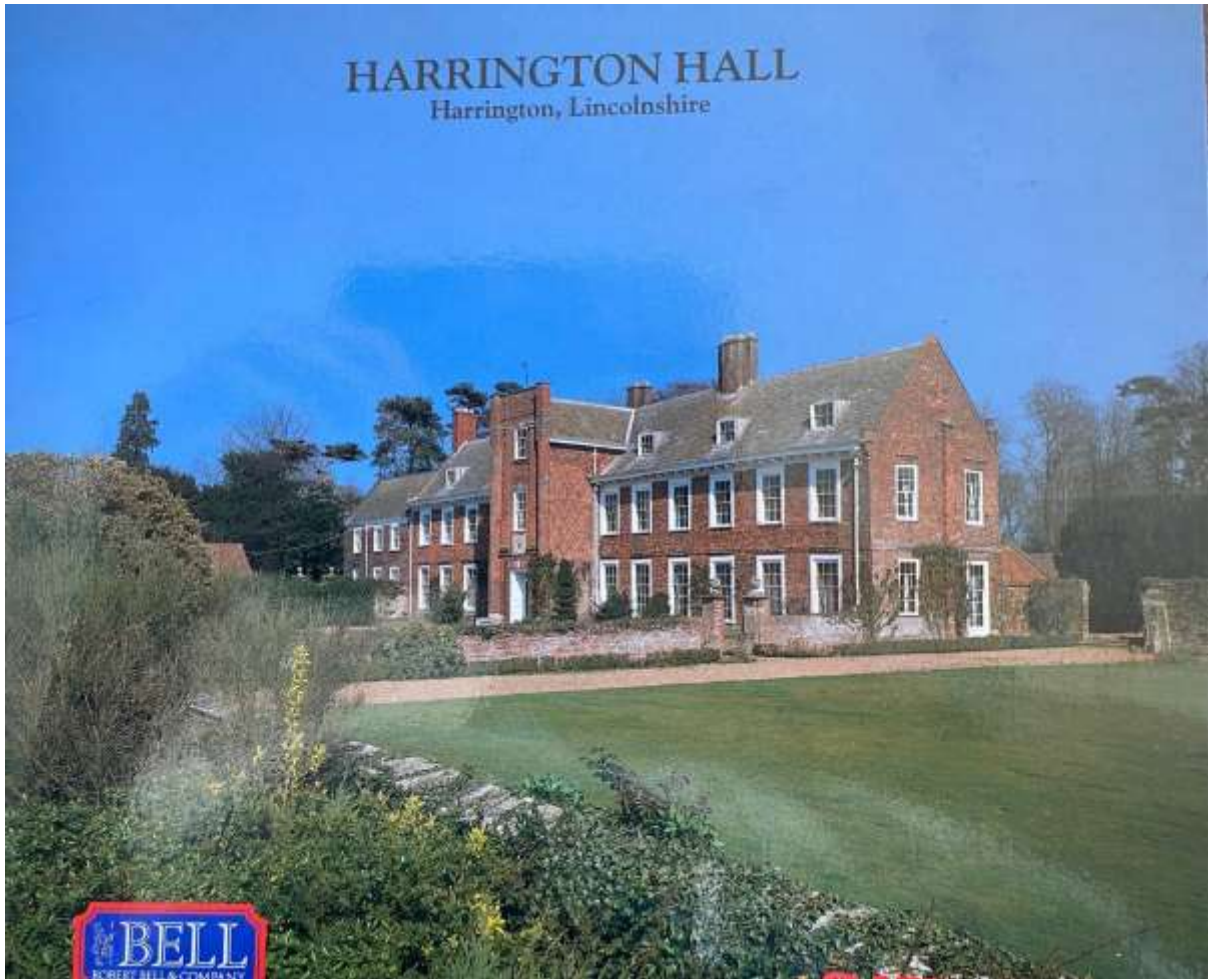
Wednesday, 29th September, 1971 at 1 P.M.

In The Park, Aswardby Road
HARRINGTON
Near Spilsby, Lincs.



The Entire Herd of
Blue Grey Cattle
(and 30 Feed Troughs)
for W. W. MAITLAND, Esq.

PARISH, STAFFORD WALTER & BELL
AUCTIONEERS
Old Bank Chambers, Horncastle
Telephone 221/2 and at Market Rasen, Wragby and Brigg.



In the early 1990's we sold Harrington Hall for the Executors of Lady Maitland. After a year the purchaser needed to sell and we knew a prospective buyer from earlier would be interested, and consequently sold the Hall again, this time to the Price Family who despite the Hall being raised to the ground by a fire on November 4th, have transformed it into a lovely home, and bought additional land to successfully resurrect an agricultural estate.

My grandfather (Hay Bell) said that during his lifetime nearly every farm along the Caistor High Street had changed hands.

I have been fortunate enough to have overseen the sales of Harrington Hall twice, of the Woodhall Estate in 2006 and the South Ormsby Estate in 2016.

Our firm has had the good fortune to be instructed in many of the loveliest homes across Lincolnshire.



Reaching 65 in November, I knew I needed to look to secure the future of the firm with a younger team at the forefront. This has been put into effect with Tony Wing, Alastair Boulton and George Harrison taking over responsibility, and I can now call myself "consultant", and take time away. They make up and head a good team, and they will have a great future ahead.

I have been fortunate enough to have had exceptional staff over many years. Quite a few friends and relations have had their initial professional experience with the firm. It seems only yesterday that

Retirement beckons in 2020.