

Date

Ellingham

Kirby Cane

1757	Thomas Sheriffe of Diss bought the Navigation from his father-in-law, John Meen, in the year of his marriage to Mary Meen, which allowed him to charge dues at all 4 locks.	
	In 1757 an earthquake struck in the early hours of the 15th January preceded by a rumbling noise in the air. It was felt at Great Yarmouth, Diss, South Walsham, Diss, Loddon and Bungay; an area of about 680 square miles.	
1758	A parcel carrier collected every Tuesday from The Bird in Hand, Kirby Fen Row.	Phillipa Leman died unmarried and was buried at Wenhaston, when the estate passed to her "cousin" Robert Wilson (to whom King William IV much later reinstated the barony on 7 th May 1832). North aisle of church was re-modeled.
<i>George III</i> 25 Oct 1760 - 29 Jan 1820	1764 - Dragoons were stationed at Beccles to prevent smuggling. Press gangs were at work. By Act of Parliament, a large House of Industry with room for about 500 paupers was built at Heckingham to serve the 41 parishes of the area, 'for the better relief and employment of the poor in the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering'.	
1765	A negro servant of Mr Lincoln Matchett (miller) was buried. Richard Chase, rector.	Charles Fenn's estate of 72 acres, mostly enclosed freehold, leased to Robert Bartrum until 1768, sold at auction.
1767		The Feoffees tried to remove William Boatwright from Dulles (Farm?), but the case failed as they could not prove they owned it. Poaching had become so prevalent that Robert Harwood, the gamekeeper was moved to post a reward (handsome) for information leading to conviction in the local newspapers.
	Smallpox had been rife but inoculation was beginning to get it under control. In 1767 Bungay advertised that it had only one case of smallpox in the town and 4 in the pesthouse on the common. However the sudden rash of deaths among some of the parishes' prominent citizens may have been due to this disease: John Rudd and Edmund Bonfellow (both yeomen) and John Bird (wheelwright) and his wife Susan. A Menagerie visited Beccles for 3 days. The tiger was especially admired for "the many beautiful stripes".	
1768	14 Freeholders voted in the Elections Thomas Sheriffe died unexpectedly in a drowning accident. At the time of his death he was insolvent, and his father-in-law John Meen, who was closely involved in his affairs, was also declared bankrupt. The Bungay Navigation was bought by Henry Gooch, an ambitious Yarmouth merchant and ship-owner who, from July 1774, was in partnership with a Bungay man, Thomas Cotton.	

