White Horse Street

White Horse Street is the most easterly street in the town, it also marks the western boundary of the property of Rice Gwynn which begins on the edge of Fakenham Common where Gwynn built himself a house called Baron's Hall. White Horse Street runs South from the junction of Norwich Road and Norwich Street.

Towards the end of the 18th century a Spinster by the name of Mary Franklin used money from her Grandfather's inheritance to buy property in White Horse Street. Here was a house and Mary converted a room into a chapel. Later she and a group of trustees built a large free-standing chapel on this land. Mary then married one of the trustees, widower Thomas Parker. Mary was in contact with the Methodist founder John Wesley and she invited him to Fakenham to preach in her new chapel. Thereafter the chapel became a Methodist chapel within the Walsingham circuit which caused some of the congregation to leave.

By the 19th century the White Horse had gone, the Parkers had both died and the chapel had gone through the Methodist reformation and had become part of the United Methodists. Later the trustees leased it to the East Dereham Wesleyans but it was in poor repair and the lease was unsatisfactory so the Wesleyans built themselves a new chapel in Oak Street. Initially the new Primitive Methodists met in the street, probably in one of the cottages until they too moved to Oak Street. The Brethren met in their Gospel Hall. This was an odd building squeezed between two cottages in fact it is debatable if it had its own walls!

In 1841 a Police Station was built in the street, for some odd reason it was staffed by members of the Briningham force.

On the other side of the street was the Wharfedale Printing Works, this had started life in Norwich Street and eventually took up half the street on that side the other half was eventually taken up by the cattle market.

At some point the name of the street became one word (Whitehorse Street) as a result of the address of the Wharfedale Works occupying both sides of the street!