

# Keep Off My Pitch

In the course of revising the *Dictionary of Norfolk Furniture Makers* entries for BIFMO I was entertained by the following extracts from three successive numbers of *The Norwich Gazette* which I thought would bear repetition in the *Newsletter*. My original extracts included a number of ellipses which I have silently expanded. The original newspapers were destroyed in the Norwich Library fire of 1994 and as far as I can ascertain no digital or microfilm copies survive.

29/6/1734: 'To be Lett, to enter at Michaelmas next, at Wisbich in the Isle of Ely, being a large Market-Town, a very good House and Shop, now in the Tenure of the Widow of Will. Richars Upholster deceased, standing over against the Rose-and-Crown Inn in the Market-Place; being a very good Shop either for an Upholster, Woollen Draper, Mercer, or any other Business; but especially the Two first, there being great Want of them in Town: Inquire of Mr. Richard Marlow of Wisbich aforesaid, and be further satisfied.'

13/7/1734: 'Wisbich. Whereas there was an Advertisement in the St James's Evening Post of the 25th of last Month, in the Stamford Mercury the 27th and likewise in this Paper, that a very good House and Shop, now in the Possession of the Widow of William Richars Upholster deceased, is to be Lett. This is to certifie, that the said Widow Richars is so far from leaving off her Business, that she is only about removing within a few Doors of the said Shop. There is no Occasion for any other Upholster, or Woollen-Draper, in Wisbich. The said Shop would be more convenient for a Baker, Linnen-Draper, or Undertaker.'

27/7/1734: 'The Widow Richars having advertised that the House and Shop is very convenient for either a Linnen-Draper, Undertaker, or Baker, obliges me to acquaint the public that I am in the 2 former Branches and will not dispose of the Shop to any Person who shall follow the same; but if any Person who has been brought up a Woollen-Draper, Mercer, or Upholster, has an Inclination to settle, he will scarce find a Place where there is so good a Prospect of Success. R. Marlow.'

Clearly there was no love lost between Widow Richars and Mr Marlow.