

Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 39

The Orphans' Home, Norwich

The Orphans' Home was founded on 30 November 1844 by a group of women Quakers (including the author Amelia Opie). It appears that it always catered for girls only. It was originally in Pottergate and in 1870 moved to premises in Chapelfield East which had previously been The Bowling Green Hotel. The home accommodated 30 children. It was entirely unsectarian, although the girls usually attended St Mary's Chapel in the morning.

The Objects and Rules of 1896 state: 'the object is to provide a home for girls, destitute children of married parents, who are both dead; and to educate and train them for domestic service, or some other means of supporting themselves respectably and becoming useful members of society.'

On 8 July 1931 the Education and Management Committee of the Trustees of the Anguish's Boys' Foundation and the Anguish's Girls' Hospital recommended approval of the proposals of the Trustees and Committee of Management of the Orphans' Home, Chapel Field, that all their assets and liabilities should be transferred to Anguish's School of Housecraft. On 20 January 1932 the Clerk reported to the Anguish Trustees that the sale of the Orphans' Home, Chapel Field, for £1300 had been approved, and that certain of the children from the Orphans' Home had been transferred to the Girls' Hospital School but that owing to one of the girls at the Hospital School being ill with diphtheria the Orphans' Home had been kept open for a short time. On 19 October 1932 the Clerk finally reported that the sale of the Orphans' Home had been completed and the money had been invested in stock.

Sources at the Norfolk Record Office

Document references are given in brackets.

- James Hooper, *Norwich charities: short sketches of their origin and history* (Norwich, 1898) pp. 193-8. Available on the searchroom shelves.
- Trustees of Anguish's Boys' Foundation and Anguish's Girls' Hospital minute book, 1925-1934 (N/CCH 127 especially pp. 352-343, 369-370, 379-383, 412)
- Orphans' Home admission register, 1891-1921 (N/CCH 185)
- Orphans' Home admission register, 1923-30 (N/CCH 186)
- Medical certificates and related papers found loosely inserted in N/CCH 185 (N/CCH 187)



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