



# Fact Sheet

At the time, no one knew the cause of the plague

Doctors used long, wooden canes to examine patients without touching them

Paston village was very badly hit by the plague

Paston had its own church where victims of the plague would have been buried

It was believed that bad smells were one of the main causes of disease. Doctors wore masks with long beaks filled with dried flowers and herbs to prevent them becoming infected

After the plague, the village of Paston had shrunk to under 1/6 of its original size

Patients' symptoms included fever, vomiting, weakness and black swellings under the skin called Buboes

Plague pits were dug in most villages as graveyards became too full

Paston was a very small village with the market town of North Walsham being the nearest place to buy supplies and medicines

Doctors didn't often manage to cure their patients and spent most of their time recording the death and infection rates

Rich villagers such as the Pastons escaped infection by fleeing to isolate in other properties they owned