

PLATE XXVIII



Henry Read, aged 58.

WHITNEY AND READ: TWO REGENCY ESTATE-AGENTS

With a short account of the Worlingham Estate 1755-1851

By NORMAN SCARFE, M.A.

This essay was suggested by the manuscript reminiscences of Henry Read (Plate XXVIII), written in March 1852, a few days after his seventy-third birthday; so I begin with them. I have retained the original spelling but substituted full-stops for the dashes which the author uses throughout; I have also split up his text into paragraphs.

I was born at Cratfield, an Agricultural Parish within 6 Miles of Halesworth, and about the same distance from Harleston, on the 7th of March 1779. At an early age I was sent to a School at Laxfield kept by Mr. Simon Lenny, where Arithmetic and some of the higher branches of the Mathematics were taught. My Master was a good Mathematician and an excellent penman, but as a Grammarian he was very deficient. In short, his whole and leading Passion was to distinguish himself as a Mathematician and a penman. He was a large man, and his Temper was violent in the extreme. When I first began to write, a Blot on my book was no unusual thing and it was punish'd with a Ferula, or what the Boys call'd a Custard, which was no less than two severe Blows on each hand. At the time I am now speaking he had nearly 100 Pupils, and the best Scholar had the enviable Situation of being his Usher. I had a brother two years older than myself (John) and he held this post of Honor two years. In consequence of my father being a Farmer, occupying about 100 Acres of land, and having a family of four sons and one daughter, it was arranged, as soon as I was able to attend to the operations of the Farm, that my brother Jonas should go to School one day, and I another. This was rather a fortunate circumstance for me, as Jonas would never pay much attention to Literature and I had, in the course of a short time, two days out of three.

I omitted to mention that before I was a month old my Mother died; and her Sister, who was a clever woman, and between 30 and 40 years of Age, came and kept my father's house; and about four years afterwards they were married contrary I believe to Law. Be this as it may, a more fortunate circumstance could not have happened.

It was through her Advice that I and my brothers went to School six or seven years each. To return to myself—From 15 to 17 years of Age I was generally employed on the Farm, but before I attained my 18th year I went to Yoxford to assist my brother John, who, tho' not 20 years of age, had establish'd an excellent School.

After two years close application to the School I obtain'd the Situation of Mathematical Teacher in the Grammar School at Bungay. In the room assigned to me I had four young gentlemen who paid an extra £5 a year for living with me. One of them, the celebrated Francis Turner, the Conveyancer, taught me Latin, and in return I made him acquainted with Algebra, and when we parted he well understood Quadratic Equations. I had not been in this comfortable Situation scarcely six months, when my brother John wrote and offered me the School at Yoxford, he having fail'd in obtaining the approbation of a Medical gentleman (a rich old dog) to marry his daughter. I accepted the offer, and was extremely fortunate and happy.

I will now give a hasty sketch of the Adventures of John. After leaving Yoxford he obtain'd an Appointment in the Army commanded by Sir Ralph Abercromby, and assisted in driving the French out of Egypt. In the Battle of Alexandria he was twice taken Prisoner, but managed to escape from them. He afterwards went with his Regiment to the West Indies, and afterwards to the East Indies, where, in a Battle near Poonah, he lost his life. I believe this is a correct Statement, but I am not quite certain.

I had not been at the School two years, when I was call'd upon to assist Mr. Benjⁿ Whitney in making out a Valuation of an Estate at and near Kelvedon in Essex, belonging to General Sparrow.¹ After having done this, we (that is Whitney and myself) went over the whole of the General's estates in Huntingdonshire, in the Isle of Ely, and in Essex. This completed, I made out a Book containing every particular and it was approved of by the General and his father Mr. Sparrow of Worlingham—no sooner was this done than Lord Wodehouse sent for Mr. Whitney

¹ He was the son of Robert Sparrow, Esquire, of Worlingham, see five lines below. He rose from Lieutenant in one of the New Independent Companies of Foot in September 1793 to be Colonel, 1 January 1801. In 1804 he was on the English half-pay list as Lieutenant-Colonel in Roberts's Regiment, the 111th Foot. The perfunctory obituary notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (LXXXV, Part 2, 1805, p. 1073) says merely: 'August; On board the Severn, of the yellow fever, Brigadier General Sparrow.'

to value and let a considerable portion of the Kimberley estate, thro' the recommendation of Mr. Sparrow, who in a letter to Mr. Whitney on the subject said, 'Of course you will take Mr. Read with you'. I was rather flatter'd by this.

After spending about 3 Weeks on this estate, and afterwards letting the Farms, we returned to Yoxford, but it was only for a few days. Some one had mention'd Whitney to Colonel Harbord of Blickling (afterwards Lord Suffield) and we went and let some 3 or 4000 a year for him. This induced his father Lord Suffield of Gunton Hall to employ us, and we let as much, if not more, for him. It is time that I should state that I had sold my house and School at Yoxford, to Mr. Wm. Girling, the Auctioneer, who conducted it for several years. I had made up my mind to embark with Whitney, and to take leave of the School.

So rapidly did the Fame of Whitney gain ground that in a year or two the following Estates were under his Management

Sir John Blois's, Yoxford
 Rob. Sparrow's Esq.—Worlingham
 Lord Wodehouse's—Kimberley
 General Sparrow's—Huntingdonshire &c
 Admiral Harvey's—Essex [Chigwell]
 Chaloner Arcedeckne's—Gleivering by Wickham
 Market.

Besides these there were many others where we did not receive the rents but only let the farms.

The Labour thus thrown upon me was very great, as Whitney could not assist me in keeping the accounts. So deficient was he in this respect, that when he had to settle an account with another person, his rule was "Pay me and I will pay you" for he could not subtract one sum from another. Ten Years was I employed in this way, when I became a Benedict, and took to the Business of Measuring and Planning Estates. I still however received rents for Whitney. In one year I measured and plann'd 10,000 acres of land, and my employment, altogether, was lucrative. When at Chigwell (Admiral Harvey's seat in Essex) one morning he [Whitney] inform'd me that he and Sir Charles Blois had agreed to part, and that both wished me to take the Stewardship. I agreed to do this, but to be at liberty to transact business elsewhere. At Mich^s 1813 Mr. Whitney left Yoxford, and I took his occupation of 210

acres. This being near to Cockfield Hall, was very convenient. At Mich^r 1816 a Farm of 150 acres was added, and thus a respectable occupation of 360 a. with the Stewardship employed my time very agreeably. There was a sameness in the employment which renders it unnecessary to go into details; and the Life of one year was very much like that of another.

In December 1821 Whitney died, and in the following March Mr. Sparrow followed him. Lord Gosford succeeded Mr. Sparrow, and the late Sir Charles Blois recommended me to be his (Lord Gosford's) Steward. I was also appointed to the Gillingham Hall Estate. In the early part of 1822 Mr. Merry of Herringfleet Hall appointed me to the Agency of his, and I still transact the Business of the Estate. The late Mrs. Fowler of Gunton Hall near Lowestoft, also put the Management of her Property into my hands, and I continued it till her death. The Estate was then divided and a Portion of it is still with me. Besides the above there are several small Estates which I need not mention.

During the Time I was with Mr. Whitney several Events of rather an extraordinary character occurred, amongst them the following. In November 1807 we had been transacting some Business with Lady Olivia Sparrow² when she gave Whitney a draft on her Bankers, Childs &c. by Temple Bar for £570 to pay some Tradesmen's bills at Huntingdon. He was anxious to get the Money for it, but I prevail'd upon him to take it to the Huntingdon Bank and have it cash'd there. This turn'd out a very fortunate circumstance, for early in the Evening, when within three Miles of Royston, we were stopt by two footpads. Whitney lost all his Money, about £15, and his Pocket Book with the above draft, and an old Silver Watch. He had a very narrow Escape for his Life. He had a Pair of Nankeen small clothes, over these his Cavalry Pantaloons, and over these what he call'd Petticoats, which were a thick Covering of Camlet. His Pocket Book and Watch were soon deliver'd up, but to get at his Purse took some time, and Fordham, the Robber, thinking that he was feeling for a Pistol clapt his to Whitney's head and snapt it down but luckily it flash'd in the Pan. Fordham then obtain'd one from Harvey who was robbing me, but by this time Whitney had given all up. Harvey came on my side and presented a Pistol at my body, but I lost nothing. I had a Watch and

² The General's wife.

a Pocket Book with 3 one Pound Bank of England Notes in it, and some money in my purse, but I told Harvey that I was only a Servant and had no Money.

After the Robbery they desired us to drive off, or they would blow us to Hell, and they retired into a Gravel Pit where they threw out all the Papers, except two or three five Pound Notes and left the Pocket Book with them. A short time afterwards a shepherd was leading his Flock by the Pit, and he collected the Papers and carried them to his Master, who forwarded them to Whitney. Fordham and Harvey belonged to a Gang of Seven Thieves in London, and the Bow Street Officers told us afterwards, that London had not so desperate a set of Villians [*sic*]. The Gang afterwards broke into Mr. Spence's house at Ponders End, and having drove all the Family into the Kitchen and placed two Sentinels at the doors the remaining five plunder'd the house. The best of Mrs. Spence's Clothes they pawn'd and in doing this were found out—one turn'd Kings Evidence, and gave an account of all the Robberies the Gang had committed within twelve months, and amongst the rest was our's.

We were summon'd to Hatton Garden where the Magistrates inform'd us that Fordham and Harvey with the others would be tried for robbing Spencer, and in the event of being acquitted they would be tried at Hertford for robbing us. In March they were found Guilty, and Fordham, Harvey and two others, weighing their weights, as it is call'd, were executed at Newgate. Whitney and I went to Newgate after the Trial, and I could readily recognise my friend Harvey. Whitney asked the Goaler [*sic*] if he might give them a Shilling to drink with—and being told he might, he did so contrary to my advice. Fordham never thanked him, but laying it unto his Thumbnail, canted it up, and said "this will do damn'd well for me to buy some Gin with"—after this we traveld well arm'd. Whitney with a Brace of Horse Pistols and I with two Rifles which I now have. We pledged ourselves never to be robb'd again without fighting.

The first time we rec^d Lord Wodehouse's rents, Jan: 1804 we dined at Kimberley Hall. The Party about 60. Those who never din'd there before had *to be shod*. After about 15 or 20 Bumper Toasts, an old Silver pint is fill'd with wine, and this must be drunk in one draft. This is quite enough. Drunk you must be. Enough of Kimberley. At one of our Audits at Brampton Park [Huntingdonshire],

an old Clergyman dined with us, being a small tenant. A splendid Dish of Apples (it was in Jan^y) was placed near him, and whilst eating a pretty large quantity he fill'd his pockets. He was detected and made to replace them. On another occasion when walking from Huntingdon to preach in the Country he saw a Figure placed in a Beanfield to frighten Crows and on inspecting the Hat he found it better than his own, and exchanged. Notwithstanding this precarious mode of living, when he dined with Lord Sandwich and other gentlemen he would stake 3 or 4 guineas on a rubber of Whist. Enough of Brampton.

For several years we did Admiral Harvey's business. He commanded a 98 Gun Ship at Trafalgar, and took an 84 and a 74 Gunship.³ He was descended from Dr. Harvey who first discover'd the Circulation of the Blood. The Admiral was an uneven temper'd man, as will appear by the following Anecdote. I had been receiving his Rents and presented him with a copy of each tenant's account. This was by no means what he wanted, and requested that I would make one something in the manner of those kept on Shipboard. On the following morning I attended again, and he being in a good temper highly approved of it and gave me £10. This was the very account he had previously objected to.

For several years we let Lord Maynard's farms in Essex, and once a year attended the Court for the Manor of Dunmow, where the Lord of the Manor is under an obligation to present a Flitch of Bacon to a Couple, who having been married 12 months have never quarrell'd nor wish'd themselves unmarried. A couple presented themselves to claim the Flitch, but the Bag was too small. "There John I told you it was too small, but you would persist to the contrary and we had many angry words about it" of course the Claim was disallowed. His Lordship has a good deal of Property at the bottom of Oxford Street, London. Meux the Brewer and others hired it—it is in Maynard Street, St Giles, &c &c I had to value and let a great many houses and shops and when employed there the Bugs were sure to attack me.

³ At Trafalgar, Capt. Eliab Harvey commanded the *Téméraire*. In the thick of the great battle, boarding-parties from the *Téméraire* boarded and captured both the *Fougueux* and the *Redoutable*. He was promoted Rear-Admiral next month. Court-martialled for abuse of Lord Cochrane, May 1809, he was dismissed the service. Re-instated March 1810. K.C.B. 1815. M.P. Maldon, 1780; Essex 1803-12 and 1820-26.

My friend Whitney was a very amorous chap. He and his wife had not slept together for many years, but he kept a woman at Darsham by whom he had several Children. He did not confine himself to her, and one occasion the Dairy Maid's dimensions were somewhat too large. She was sent away but he did not know that she was with Child. One Sunday Evening the old couple were sitting with me in the keeping room when a Servant came in and said there was a person with a letter and he able to deliver to him only. The old man took it and began to read 'Honor'd Sir—I am sorry to inform you that I am with *Child*'. 'Whats that?' the old lady say. Nothing that concerns you, and so it ended. He could scarcely write his own name; and once being obliged to write to a Mr Peter Portway near Saffron Walden, being himself without me at this Time he began his Note thus 'Sur, Hadmrl Havey rent day is fixd &c &c'. This Note was shown about, and did him some damage. I then begged that he would never write another. Enough of Whitney.

Mr. Sparrow was a man of considerable Talent, but wanted to make every one afraid of him. Haughty, imperious and selfish. His first Wife was a sister of Sir Robert Barnard's—by her he had General Sparrow and Lady Gosford. She was a Match for him. They lived some few years together and then parted. His Second Wife was a Miss Rand from Hackford in Norfolk, by whom there was no Children. His third wife was the Widow of The Rev. Mr Perry, near St Ives—she was shrewd, but low and somewhat deform'd. She had £500 a year settled upon her for life. They soon parted and she went to Seven Oaks in Kent where she died. His first Wife lies at Thorpe near Peterborough. His Second at Henstead, and his third at Seven Oaks. He lies at Worlingham. His second wife was subservient, and he govern'd her severely. In the coldest night in Winter she was obliged to leave the bed room and go into another, if a certain Utensil was wanted. Enough of Mr. Sparrow.

The late Sir Charles Blois enjoyed the Cockfield Hall Estate for more than 40 years—he was a good husband, an excellent father, a good Landlord, and a good Master. He purchased several farms and made his Estate very complete. I first rec^d the Rents in 1801. Lady Blois was a Miss Price of Yorkshire, who with her sister, was Heiress to an Estate of about 1500 acres. The present Sir Charles was brought up in the Army, and was twice

wounded at the Battle of Waterloo—after this he sold his Commission and left the Army. I have been writing the Lives of others and have forgotten my own. At present I am living comfortably at Beccles, having as much Public Business as I wish to transact, as my Nephew Henry is quite equal to transact it. A little of him. By accident I met him one morning going to a School in North Cove, and on questioning him about his Lesson I found he had Talents worth cultivating. I put him to a good School at Beccles for Seven Years, and had him taught Latin, English, Arithmetic, Mathematics &c. He is now able to get his own living.

[POST-SCRIPT]

The late Mr. Sparrow had many peculiarities, and amongst the rest, would make assertions quite contrary to the fact, without once moving a risible muscle. I remember being at the Crown in Huntingdon one day when He and his Groom Sam. return'd to it, at Six o'Clock in the evening, after having been on Horseback at least ten hours without eating or drinking. I shall never forget the Serious and positive Look he gave Sam when he addressed him in the following Words. 'Sam, you are a positive Beast. You are always eating and drinking and will shortly be as fat as a Bacon Hog.' Poor Sam was so exhausted from the Want of Food, that he could scarcely stand.

Another Anecdote he told of the late Sir Robert Barnard whose Sister he married. Sir Robert kept a very pretty woman in his house, and a Clergyman in the neighbourhood had once noticed the Circumstance, and said 'It was a beastly thing to say the least of it.' One morning this Rev: Gentleman was sitting with Sir Robert when the Lady came into the Room and put her Bonnet on. When she left the room he said to Sir Robert 'What a beautiful Woman she was'!!! Very true said Sir Robert, but what a beastly thing it is that we should live as we do!!! The poor parson was so confused that he left the room in quick time.

[signed]

12 March 1852

H: Read.

These artless reminiscences of an elderly man in 1852, in his own careful hand, were inserted at the front of a large and methodically-compiled scrap-book devoted to the sale of the Worlingham

Estates over the previous three years.⁴ His narrative shows how he became agent at Worlingham. The estate is fully described and illustrated in the scrap-book, which is made up mainly of a large number of engravings and etchings, notices and advertisements in the local press, autograph-letters of those concerned in the sale, and a notable sales-catalogue. The engravings and etchings are mostly the work of, or based on drawings by, Henry Davy. They include his etching of Mutford church, with the Galilee porch, published in his *Suffolk Antiquities* (1827) and one of his best works. (There are also two or three original water-colours and ink-wash drawings, including one by Davy of the simple Norman north doorway at Redisham.)

Of the letters, the most interesting are from Dawson Turner (as surviving trustee of the will of old Robert Sparrow who built up the estate), written in characteristically fine hand; from the Rev. Alfred Inigo Suckling, the historian of this north-east corner of Suffolk; and from Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, whose 'rustic' marine-residence, Cliff Cottage at Lowestoft, was in the sale and was purchased by its eminent occupant.

The auctioneers' catalogue, devoted to Worlingham Hall itself, is remarkable for its decorative illustrations: a set of wood-cuts, apparently by Henry Read's brother.⁵ Read was clearly on friendly terms with Benjamin Rix, the Ipswich auctioneer, who conducted the sales, and was presumably very instrumental in compiling the catalogue. From it we learn that he himself was no longer living on the small Yoxford estate he described in his narrative, but at Worlingham Cottage. This is the subject of one of the romantic little wood-cuts, which enables us to identify it with the house now called The Grove. Those illustrations earned the catalogue a patronizing commendation from the contemporary *Art-Journal*. Read, perhaps gratified, has kept the cutting in his scrap-book. The writer in the *Art-Journal* was reminded of 'the palmy days' of George Robins, 'whose eloquence enhanced the value of an estate many *per cent.*' The catalogue is certainly both evocative and instructive.

'Worlingham Staith', now a forlorn mud-bank, is described as 'a commodious quay, maintained at the cost of the haven and pier commissioners'. Here, says the catalogue, 'the estate possesses

⁴ This scrap-book, at present in the author's possession, is destined for the East Suffolk Record Office.

⁵ This is deduced from a letter by the Rev. A. I. Suckling, who does not give the brother's name. I know of no connection between this family and the Victorian artist Samuel Read of Needham Market.

the great advantage of an unobstructed communication by water with Lowestoft and Yarmouth, towards the sea, as well as with Norwich, North Walsham, Beccles and Bungay, in the interior.' Another point is added to this persuasive sales-talk by the charming vignette showing a boat-house, two ladies being rowed on the river, and another with parasol being gently borne over the reedy water by a small sailing-boat. There are English willows and a Dutch marsh-mill to complete the picture.

An even more romantic wood-cut shows Castle Farm (Plate XXIX), a delightful folly with its red-brick and silvery-flint round tower and corbeltable, that stands now beside a Beccles council estate conceived in a very different spirit. It was erected by Mr. Sparrow 'in the Norman style of architecture', to serve as a prospect from his home, Worlingham Hall, which was largely remodelled for him by the architect Francis Sandys.

Sandys' career is outlined in Mr. H. M. Colvin's *Biographical Dictionary of English Architects*, and three of his works—Ickworth House, Bury Athenaeum and Finborough Hall—are fairly familiar to Suffolk people. There is not so much to be learnt about his commission or about his design at Worlingham from the auctioneers' catalogue as there is by comparing the house itself with a sort of 'official' obituary of Robert Sparrow written by his friend Dawson Turner. A copy of it appears in the scrap-book. We see Robert Sparrow's public features: they are not incompatible with the talented, selfish, unlovable figure sketched by his agent, Read.

His father's family came from Kettleburgh. The father married one of the co-heiresses of Lawrence Bence of Henstead, lived in Woodbridge, and bought Worlingham, in 1755, for £3,850. (The estate was then about 250 acres, including the park of about 100). The boy was educated at Bury Grammar School, a remarkable establishment in those days: 'long celebrated,' as Dawson Turner says, 'for a series of masters of distinguished learning and taste.' There he evidently acquired his one real love, his passion for literature—especially for the Roman poets Virgil, Horace and Martial. The tastes of a scholar and lover of ancient Rome, more than the dictates of fashion, governed the re-modelling of his house. The extensive means of gratifying these tastes he inherited from each of his parents. His inheritance included the libraries of Sir Oliver St John, the Chief-Justice, and of Sir Francis St John—'a man of a very literary turn of mind.'

Sparrow's brief attempt at political life was as unfortunate as his three marital essays in private life. Through the interests of his first wife's family, he was returned to Parliament for Bedford in the general election of 1774. He and his colleague were opposed by Mr. Whitbread and Howard the Philanthropist. 'Party

PLATE XXIX



Castle Farm.

spirit ran very high in the borough and Mr. Sparrow was unseated by a petition. He never subsequently endeavoured to enter public life.' In the 1790s he became a Pittite Tory. 'He was never happier than when forwarding the interests of his friends the earl of Stradbroke or Sir Thomas Gooch for Suffolk, or of lord Wodehouse for Norfolk.'

'Very many of the principal improvements of the neighbourhood owe their origin to his influence as chairman of the Sessions.' His friend's claim for him would doubtless be borne out by the records of the Sessions. We are concerned here with the improvements to his own estates. In 1800, Francis Sandys exhibited his designs for Worlingham at the Royal Academy. So presumably the work was done some time in the period 1798-1802. It involved a completely new main block of principal rooms. The façade, with the feeling of the front of Bury Athenaeum but taller and lighter, is entered through a pleasantly-coved front hall that sets the key of the whole composition. The larger of the two libraries has delightful alcoves and curved side-walls. The central hall is the most exciting feature of the building, with beautiful double staircase, delicate balustrading, classical medallions on the walls, and domed and coffered ceiling with lantern. On one side of the house a glass colonnade leads off to a picture-gallery that by the time of the sale in 1849 had become a billiard-room, and subsequently became a squash court. On the opposite side a colonnade led to an orangery, now removed. The whole house is light and cheerful. It must have served Sparrow's scholarly and aesthetic needs to perfection. Yet, with his personality, and with a double bereavement in 1805, it can hardly have been a very cheerful house in his day.

An ambiguous clue to Sparrow as man of taste may be seen in the south aisle of Worlingham church. It is the earliest known example of Chantrey's sculpture, and Sparrow commissioned it. It is not beautiful but it may be thought ingenious, and it is certainly expressive of the old man's grief at the loss of both his only son and his son's only son. The son, General Sparrow, died at Tobago in 1805, the grandson at Nice in the same year. Did Sparrow discern Chantrey's future distinction? It is a striking coincidence that the artist's best work in the future was commissioned to express parental grief. On the other hand Sparrow *may* have been governed by mere consideration of economy . . . We cannot be sure. In 1822, when he himself died and was buried in Worlingham church, he was not commemorated at all.

His only daughter married in 1805 her brother-in-law, the 2nd earl of Gosford,⁶ Governor-in-Chief in Canada immediately

⁶ He was created Baron Worlingham of Beccles, in 1835.

before lord Durham's famous mission. She, too, had an only son. He inherited the Worlingham estates on the death of his father in 1849. His immediate action was to sell them, and the sale provided both subject and materials for this article. At the time of the sale a letter was written at Polstead Hall, and presumably forwarded to Henry Read:

'Mr. Tyrell's compliments to Messrs. Rix and Burton [the auctioneers] and he begs they will accept his best acknowledgements for their favour in sending him the illustrated catalogue of the Worlingham Estate. Mr. T. cannot but express regret that the spot on which had spent many a happy hour in witnessing the care and pleasure his old friend the late Mr. Sparrow evinced in accumulating the property, should so soon be doomed to pass away into stranger's hands.'

Henry Read moved soon after the sale to live in Beccles. He had to quit his house on the Worlingham estate. But he came back a year to two later to be buried in Worlingham churchyard, under a plain and solid table-tomb that stands to the east of the church.

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REPORT FOR 1959

During the year 46 Ordinary, 22 Associate and 3 Honorary members were elected. After taking into account losses through death or resignation we have a net increase this year of 44 members. It is very satisfying to note that membership has increased by 135 over the past ten years.

The total membership at the year's end was:

Ordinary members	428
Associate members	118
Honorary members	7
Life members	49
	602

Excursions.—The following excursions were arranged:—

May	12	Ixworth Church and Ixworth Abbey; Ixworth Thorpe Church; Bardwell Church and Hall; Pakenham Mill.
June	8	Saffron Walden Church, Museum, and Castle ruins; Audley End House.
July	24	Dennington Church; Bruisyard Hall; Burgh Castle.
Sept.	15	Redgrave Church; the Chapel-of-ease in Botesdate; Rickinghall Inferior Church; Cotton Church; Bacton Church and Bacton Manor.

Lectures.—The following lectures were given at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds; those at Ipswich being held in conjunction with the Ipswich Historical Society:—

Jan.	22	Lecture on 'The Dark Ages in Ipswich' by Mr. S. E. West, A.M.A.
Feb.	19	Lecture on 'The Great Plague in Suffolk' by Mr. A. G. E. Jones.
March	26	Lecture on 'Arthur Young' by Mr. J. Saltmarsh, M.A., F.S.A. All the above were at Ipswich.
Nov.	21	Lecture on 'The Evolution of the Chair' by Mr. L. J. Wickes at Newton.
Dec.	5	Lantern lecture, 'Air Photography in East Anglia: some recent discoveries', by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph, at Bury St. Edmunds.

Finance.—The Hon. Financial Secretary reports:—

Our cash balance at the end of 1959 shows an increase of £137 on the year, and I think we can claim to be in a sound financial state once again.

The position with regard to covenanted subscriptions has now been clarified and we are once more entitled to reclaim tax paid on such subscriptions. During the year we have recovered tax owing for the years 1957, '58 and '59 amounting to £161. A special effort has also been made urging more members to pay their subscriptions in this manner, and we are greatly encouraged by the support we have received. At the moment some 200 members are subscribing under covenant and we hope even more will follow their example, and so benefit the Institute without any extra cost to themselves.

In view of the more favourable balance in hand your Council has agreed, for the time being, to expend an extra £100 on publishing in our *Proceedings* a part of the wealth of local archaeological material which has not yet appeared in print.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 1959

- Barron, J. B., 2 St. James Green, Southwold.
 Bird, Terence, c.b., and Mrs. Bird, Old Rectory, Little Bromley, Manningtree.
 Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert W., Brendon House, Great Cornard, Sudbury.
 Burke, Lady, o.b.e., Melton Mead, Woodbridge.
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