

# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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### COVER ILLUSTRATION:

Photograph of Harry Proudfoot - "Mr. Aylsham" - from the *Norfolk Chronicle*, December 1934



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY

## **JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER**

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### **HORSHAM ST FAITH IN THE LATE 18th CENTURY**

**Julian Eve**

#### **Introduction**

Horsham St. Faith is sited four miles north of Norwich neatly by-passed just off the road to Aylsham. The hamlet of Newton St Faith lies one mile to the north of Horsham and together they form one parish. It has retained its rural character and been protected from Norwich's urban sprawl by Norwich Airport, a former RAF station built in 1939. Today the population is approximately 1600 and the area of the parish about 2000 acres. The Norfolk Structure Plan is to conserve the village's present rural setting.

This essay was written as part of course work for a series of lectures on "Georgian East Anglia - Economic and Social History" and is confined to the examination of some records which refer to the later part of the 18th. century. These are the relevant church registers, a coloured estate map of 1791 and the overseers' accounts which date from 1794. There are also over 300 settlement and other papers in the parish chest. These records, with various contemporary writings, when put together, give us some idea of what life was like for the inhabitants of the parish in the later part of the 18th. century.

#### **Early History**

The history of Horsham and Newton St Faith is closely associated with that of St Faith's Priory. The Priory was founded in 1106 by Robert



Fitzwalter and his wife Sybil. They presented the "township of Horsham, with its inhabitants, lands, woods, and pastures to the Priory dedicated to St Faith". In addition they also presented the advowsons and tithes of several churches in Norfolk.<sup>1</sup> A succession of priors then acted as lay lords of the manor from their first appointment in 1125 until 1536 when the priory was dissolved by Henry VIII.<sup>2</sup>

After the Dissolution the monastic estate was purchased by Sir Richard Southwell, one of the Suppression Commissioners for Norfolk, who demolished the priory church and chapter house but converted the monks' refectory to a private house in which he placed his mistress, Mary Darcy, and his three illegitimate children<sup>3</sup>. St Faith's Priory has been continuously inhabited since its construction. It is unique in that it is the only medieval refectory in Europe which retains its original painted reredos (c1250). The Southwells sold the manor, in 1612 to Sir Henry Hobart (1560-1626), and it became known as Abbey Farm (325 acres) while the whole estate extended to some 2,500 acres<sup>4</sup>. It remained in the Hobart family until 1693 when it was purchased by Walter Norborne from Wiltshire. His descendant, Lord Botetourt,<sup>5</sup> sold the estate to Philip Stephens in 1766 and he was Lord of the Manor for the period we are studying.

St Faith's was also the site of one of the largest yearly cattle fairs in England; Scottish cattle being driven down from Scotland to be sold for fattening on the Norfolk marshes. At its peak in the mid 18th. century, some 20,000 beasts were sold over a period of three weeks.

### **Admiral Sir Philip Stephens (1725-1809).**

Philip Stephens was a man of great enterprise and ability. As a young man he worked in Harwich as an Admiralty clerk but in 1744 his ability was spotted by Captain George Anson (1697-1762) who had just

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1 Blomefield gives the foundation deed in full (in Latin) vol X. 439. See also Victoria History of Norfolk vol 11. 346.

2 The monastic records of St Faith's Priory are held in the NRO and are extensive. There are more than 150 reference cards. Manor court rolls survive for almost every year from 1265. There are many grants, leases and disputes also recorded.

3 Their fourth child was legitimate as Sir Richard married Mary Darcy after his wife died. Sir Richard's son, also called Richard, was the father of Robert Southwell, the poet and Catholic martyr, who was born in St Faith's.

4 Sir Henry Hobart bought several other Norfolk estates at this time, including Blickling Hall.

5 He was born Norborne Berkeley but claimed his ancient title in 1764.



returned from his famous voyage round the world loaded with 'enemy' booty<sup>6</sup>. Anson took him up to London and made him his private secretary. As George Anson's career prospered so did Philip Stephens. Anson became Admiral of the Fleet and Stephens became Secretary to the Admiralty - a post he held for over 30 years. On his retirement, in 1795, he was made Admiral of the White, one of the Lords of the Admiralty and a baronet. When Philip Stephens purchased the St. Faith's estate in 1766 he was following the example of Lord Anson who had purchased the Paston's Norfolk estate near Yarmouth several years earlier.

Although Sir Philip was an absentee landlord and owned other estates in Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex he seems to have been in direct contact with the parish officers and many documents are signed by him and not his steward. He died in 1809, aged 84. His son had been killed in a duel at Margate, in 1790, and the baronetcy became extinct. The estate passed to his illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth, who had married Viscount Ranelagh. She died in her father's house at Fulham, shortly after her father's death while giving birth to her first child. It was her husband who inherited the St Faith's Estate. He appointed William Repton of Aylsham as his local steward.

### **The Extent of the Manor**

The coloured estate map of 1791<sup>7</sup> shows every house in the parish. Those Sir Philip owned are coloured red and each field is marked with a letter according to which farm it belongs. The finely printed key gives the names of the fields and the exact acreage. Like an admiralty chart it has a compass rose in the middle and lettering of the finest quality. It is headed by a fine cartouche. We can see that much of the work in abolishing small holdings and engrossing the larger farms had already been done but some areas still show the remnants of open field strip farming. Some of the land was still half-year land and subject to right of shack. After the harvest was gathered large areas of stubble

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6 Lord Anson was away for three years and nine months. His ship the *Centurion* captured one Spanish galleon which alone contained 1,313,000 gold pieces-of-eight and 35,682 oz. of silver and plate. He sold the empty galleon to the Chinese at Canton for 6,000 dollars before sailing for England.

Altogether the booty he brought to England was worth over £500,000.

7 NRO Aylsham Collection - map 790.

were available for grazing. This feed was known as shack and the lord or certain tenants had right of shackage. Michaelmas shack was on the harvest fields and Lamas shack on the meadow after the hay had been cut and gathered.

Sir Philip owned 2,038 acres in Horsham and Newton, and 552 acres in the neighbouring parish of Horsford (two farms). He owned Horsham common, of about 30 acres where the village workhouse and windmill stood beside a rabbit warren, but the common was of little use to him because of local grazing rights. He also owned part of the large heath and waste north of the village which extended into Horsford and Hainford. The land was poor here, mostly sand, and certain villagers had the right to gather firewood, heather and flags as well as cutting turf.

The productive part of his estate consisted of nine principal let farms, varying in size from 150 to 350 acres, a windmill, also a water mill, several small holdings and two pubs. However, he did not own all the land in the parish and there were 395 acres held by others either freehold or copyhold. Eighty-four acres in Newton were owned by Lord Suffield and another 114 acres, towards Spixworth, belonged to Francis Longe of Spixworth Park. The remaining land in the parish was divided amongst 56 freeholders and copyholders, many of them having just a pightle or no land attached to their cottage. Sir Philip made several agreements with tenants to enlarge the principal farms and make them more attractive. He seems to have had a good relationship with his tenants. They wrote him a pleasant congratulatory letter when he was made baronet.

#### **Enclosure<sup>8</sup>.**

In 1781 Sir Philip jointly with Lord Dacre, lord of the manor of Horsford, tried to bring a private bill before parliament to enclose the commons and wastes but Lord Dacre became ill and the project was abandoned. Nearly 20 years later, in 1800, Lord Dacre's widow, the Right Honourable Ann Leonard, Baroness Dowager Dacre, agreed to join Sir Philip in presenting such a bill. The Act was concerned with

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<sup>8</sup> The Enclosure Act for Horsford and Horsham is in the NRO Ref. S/Sca. 170 & 171

"dividing, allotting or inclosing the half-year or shack lands, warrens, commons or heaths and wastes within the parishes of Horsford, Horsham St Faith and the hamlet of Newton St Faith".

The appointed Commissioners met and made suitable enquiries. The landlords, the Church and the poor were represented and maps were drawn up. Forty-eight local inhabitants had various rights over the wastes and commons. The Rev. John Day from Horsford was farming quite a few acres as he had no glebe land. On 4 December 1802 the Commissioners made their award. They extinguished all Commonable Rights, Rights of Common Shack and all Rights of Sheepfold in both parishes. They expunged the church tithes and in compensation awarded some land to the Horsford church incumbent. The poor in each parish were awarded allotments and trustees appointed to control them. Horsford was given 208 acres, Horsham 50 acres and Newton 68 acres. The poor were defined as inhabiting cottages valued at less than £5 p.a. The rest of the land was shared between Sir Philip and Lady Dacre. The shared costs came to £2,412, of which Lady Dacre paid £894 and Sir Philip £1,070. All the same Sir Philip gained 468 acres most of which he could divide and let. The new tenancies he created in 1803 increased the number of rate payers in Horsham from 62 to 81.

### **The Tenant Farmers**

The important men in the village and main employers in 1791 were the tenant farmers. They were as follows:

Property	Acreage	Value	Tenant
Abbey Farm	328	£259	Stephen Coulston
Heath Farm	273	£230	Isaac Burcham
Wood Farm	235	£195	James Nash
Elm Farm	188	£166	Sam Lovick (jun)
East Farm	183	£140	William Hewitt
Middle Farm	182	£164	Thomas Clerk
West Farm	177	£163	John Burcham
Meadow Farm	135	£125	John Hickling

Most of the farms had cottages associated with them to house some of their labourers. There were two smaller farms, Mill Farm



(Thomas Towell) of 44 acres and Lilac Farm (George Christmas) of 55 acres.

These ten men, with Stephen Ewing, the miller, took it in turns to hold a parish office. Every year at the Easter Vestry meeting the ratepayers elected two churchwardens, two overseers of the poor, two road surveyors and a village constable. The churchwardens might serve for several years as did the road surveyors who needed to own wagons and employ men, but the overseers of the poor changed every year. It was not a pleasant job and required a lot of extra work. The two men elected for the year, who had to be landholders, took six months each and then handed the money and accounts over to the other. Each was responsible for collecting and distributing the money and calculating the rate in the pound required. Their appointment and their accounts had to be approved by magistrates. It is clear from the accounts that some overseers were more generous than others. There were, in 1794, fifty-three rate payers in the parish but 80% of the cost of poor relief came from the 16 better off inhabitants. Any dwelling valued at £2 or more was rated. The onset of the war with France had raised the price of corn and in 1794 the cost of poor relief in St. Faith's rose to £891 or 8/3d in the pound. Worse was to come as we shall see later.

### **The Villagers**

The population of the parish in the 1790s was about 900<sup>9</sup>. Examination of the church marriage registers for this period shows that about 80% of the young bridegrooms were agricultural labourers. The occupation of the bride is rarely given but where it is she is recorded as either a weaver or seamstress. Although weaving was depressed at this time there were still weavers in St Faith's and the overseers were still prepared to buy a spinning wheel "so a poor man could earn his living".

The overseers' accounts list all the ratepayers of the parish with the value of their house and land. We can see that the village was self supporting in that it had a butcher, baker, grocer, dressmaker, saddler, cobbler, blacksmith, builder, wheelwright and many other services. The vet, often referred to as the horse doctor, lived at Lilac Farm. The

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<sup>9</sup> The average number of Baptisms over ten years multiplied by 30. The 1801 census recorded 883.

doctor in the village, Robert Mandall, in 1793, drew a lot to serve in the militia and had to find a substitute. The parish paid half the cost. He was paid a salary to attend the workhouse but he charged extra for attending confinements - one pound. The church curate, William Lance, lived in one of Sir Philip's cottages with two acres of land. Sir Philip held the rectory and took the church tithes. St Faith's living was a perpetual curacy as no proper financial provision had been made at the Dissolution of the priory. The number of inhabitants who owned their own house prevented the village from being a 'closed' parish under the will of the lord of the manor. Copyholders and freeholders could sell their houses to whom they chose and take in lodgers. The better off included Richard Twining (1749-1824) of Twinings Tea, whose family later became great benefactors to the village. They considered their house to be a country retreat from the City of Norwich. There were some other well built houses with a few acres and several inns had land attached.

There were nine inns in the parish, two up at Newton, the rest in Horsham. Three of them, the Black Swan, King's Head and Cross Keys were substantial inns with plenty of stabling. Inns were needed because of the annual fair.

### **St. Faith's Fair.**

The Royal Grant to hold a weekly market and annual fair was granted to the lord of the manor back in Henry I's time (1100-1135). The weekly market faded out but the annual fair continued to grow and became the largest fair in Norfolk. It was held on the feast of St Faith, October 6, but after the Gregorian calendar came into use, in 1752, the date was changed to 17 October (to replace the 'lost' 11 days). Contemporary descriptions of the fair date back to 1382 and the accounts of Thetford Priory and Carrow Abbey record the purchase of horses from St Faith. The Paston letters reveal that in 1460 Sir John Paston bought three horses from "Seynt Feythys Feyer". in 1679 Sir Thomas Brown<sup>10</sup> of Norwich wished to show his grandson, Tom, "the greatest fair in these parts" but they were unable to go because of the "very raynie wether".

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10 Batty Shaw A. *Sir Thomas Brown of Norwich* 1982.

For 18 century accounts we can refer to Parson Woodforde (1740-1803). on 17 October 1777 he writes, "We set forth with Mr du Quesne with us for St Faith's Fair . . . going there the road was crowded with people . . . it is a very large fair for all things and lasts a fortnight, a great concourse of people there." From then on he mentions the fair most years. The best descriptions are however in the writings of William Marshall<sup>11</sup> who visited in 1780 to '82. He describes the Scottish drovers, the sleek healthy appearance of the cattle, in spite of the 300 miles they had travelled, and was surprised at the vast amount of Suffolk cheese sold. No Norfolk cheese would keep, for they had not mastered the art, he claimed, they were full of maggots within weeks.

The first day of the fair was the "High day" and all of Norwich attended, rather like today's Norfolk Show. Every sort of food was available from oysters to roast pork and every sort of produce was for sale. Hiring of servants took place and recruiting officers would take the opportunity to enlist men when they were the worse for drink. The local hostelrys stayed open all night and every fiddler in Norwich is said to have stayed for the singing and dancing that went on.

The sale of bullocks continued for two or three weeks according to demand. Sales depended on the success of the Norfolk turnip crop but in many years the Navy required beef urgently for the fleet and prices remained high. The cattle were fattened over winter and when spring came driven to Smithfield, another 100 miles, and sold. The fair and the rearing of cattle was important for the local economy. Many cattle dealers lived in Horsford or neighbouring villages and there were cattle dealers in this area until recently.

The fair was closed in 1830 following William IV's royal proclamation against vice; (it is still in the church chest) but the sale of cattle continued until 1873 when Lord Ranelagh obtained a closure order from the Secretary of State under the 1871 Fairs Act.

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11 William Marshall was Sir Harbord Harbord's agent for the huge Gunton estate near Aylsham from 1780-82. He was a better observer than Arthur Young and a better farmer. He wrote more vividly too.



### **A Flourishing Population**

In order to assess the effects of Acts of Enclosure Arthur Young studied the parish registers of births and burials, both before and after enclosure, of some 76 parishes<sup>12</sup>. He was able to show that in almost every case the population of the village increased as did the amount of corn grown and stock reared. St Faith's, enclosed in 1802, shows a steady increase in population and increased use of productive land.

The church registers also reveal the shocking high death rate of children. Almost 50% not reaching adulthood.

The average population of the village over the 21 years was 676. This makes the average birth rate per annum 34 per thousand and the average death rate per annum 29.5 per thousand. Compare this with today's figures of about 15 and 12.

### **The Poor in the Parish.**

The Overseers of the Poor in St Faith's divided their paupers into two groups - the old and infirm who were unable to work, whom they called "Collectioners" and others who were fit but unable to find work. These families received payment only "In extremity". The surplus of labour and the loss of alternative employment such as spinning and weaving kept wages low and soon after the onset of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars (1793-1802 & 1803-1815) with the huge increase in the price of corn that followed it became clear that even an agricultural labourer in full work could not earn enough to feed his family. Whereas in 1785 a week's wage of 8s would buy 16 loaves, now in 1812 a wage of 9s would buy only 9 loaves.

There was some response to this new severe poverty in rural areas. A few farmers sold corn directly to their workers at less than famine prices but in general wages were not increased and it was decided to follow the example of some magistrates in Speenhamland who had decided to supplement wages out of the parish rates rather than raise the minimum wage. This was a disaster for the labourer as farmers no longer felt obliged to provide a living wage. It was up to the parish to see that a man did not starve. This system of payment, first suggested by the Gilbert Act, was based on an allowance according to

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12 Arthur Young in his *General View of the Agriculture of Norfolk* See pages 75-187.  
Published in 1804. St Faith's was not one of the parishes he studied.

the number of children in a family and the price of corn. It became known as the Speenhamland system but each parish had its own interpretation. Some parishes, like Aylsham, simply increased their 'Extremity' payments. St Faith's, from 1796 to 1802, operated a system for those in work, offering a child allowance according to the price of bread. The relevant pages are headed "Meal Money for Children" and they provide useful information on the size of families and the numbers involved.

The amount of meal money paid for each child varied from 6d to 1s 6d according to the price of corn. Most of the families were in work. Some of the families lived in Norwich (nine families and 34 children in 1800) whose place of settlement was St Faith's and were therefore supported by the St Faith's overseer. He made journeys to Norwich, about ten over a period of six months, in order to pay them and the Norwich "Collectioners". In 1799 one hundred and fifty-six children were receiving 'meal money', nearly half of all the children in the parish.

There was one particular family that suggests that it was possible to escape from poverty. The father's name was Robert Humphrey and he is recorded as having six children in 1794. By 1800 he had nine children and the following year he claimed for ten children but in 1802 he was paid for only one week because he moved into a cottage rated at £3 per annum and was himself paying rates. Then in 1804 we find him renting an additional two acres on the newly enclosed common and listed as a rate payer.

We can learn more about the crisis in relieving the desperate poor in St Faith's at this time by taking a closer look at the records of the individual overseers concerned. Isaac Burcham of Heath Farm took over as Overseer in October 1799 and he paid out almost every day. Sometimes he had twenty people waiting at his house for payment. Where he could he gave relief in kind - a 'chit' for the cobbler to provide shoes, (he paid for forty pairs during his six months duty) or a note to the miller to provide meal. By the end of his six months he had spent £551, more than double the amount spent in the first half of the year. James Fromow, tenant of Abbey Farm, took over in April 1800 and although it was summer time he spent even more - a total of £667. That year (1800) the harvest failed and this made a desperate situation

worse. About 60 families applied for relief.

John Burcham<sup>13</sup> of West Farm took over as overseer in October 1800. He had a frantic time and paid out virtually every day. On one day in February alone he made 108 payments. Over the six months he spent £1040 the highest ever in the parish. The following year the vestry felt it necessary to appoint three overseers to share the work-load, each doing a four month spell. In 1803 we find John Burcham back again acting as one of the three overseers appointed but by this time conditions had so much improved that over his four months' spell he spent only £182.

Many account entries are quite touching: "£1 8s for Susan Davey to get her things out of pawn to be married." or "£1 5s for burial of woman found on the road and wants [with] child." or "1s 6d to a woman to prevent her dropping a child in the town." If her child had been born within the parish it could have claimed St Faith's as its place of settlement and the parish would have had to support it.

Fortunately there was a strong feeling among the poor that the parish was obliged to support those in need and if the overseer refused payment they appealed to the local magistrates. Most years contain the entry, "Journey to the justices to answer complaints of the poor". The JP usually made an award in favour of the pauper.

## **The Workhouse**

St Faith's had a parish workhouse. It is usually referred to as "The House" or "House of Industry". Able men were expected to work and this brought in a little money - £8 3s 3d in 1794 but the cost of their materials was over £6 so there was little profit. The overseers rented the house and paid £25 per annum. Every year there are bills for coal and other necessities. In 1796 it cost 7s 1d to make eighteen shirts and shifts for the house (material was provided and bought in rolls of 32 yards). Children were admitted as is shown by other clothing bills, "For making and binding 10 coats for the children in the house - 3s".

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<sup>13</sup> John Burcham was son of Isaac Burcham. His own infant daughter died in 1800. The Burchams' descendants now live in Birmingham but have visited St Faith's and have sent me their family tree.



In 1805 St Faiths joined with thirteen neighbouring villages to form a Union under the Gilbert Act (1782) and the 'house' was enlarged to serve all thirteen villages. This date is outside our period of study but many records have survived.

### **Conclusion.**

In order to keep this essay within bounds I have been obliged to confine myself to a very limited examination of the sources of the period. However, we can get some idea of how the parishioners of St. Faiths fared during George III's reign (1760-1820). The enormous disruption due to the war with France stands out. The tenant farmers were only able to cope with poor relief, because they were themselves prospering and could find the money. It was a very different story some 30 years later when the farmers were in financial trouble themselves. The overseers' accounts for this period 1818 to 1835 survive and reveal the change in attitude towards the poor and the social unrest.

### **REFERENCES**

#### **Primary Sources.**

In the church chest:

The Church Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1625 onwards.

Overseers' account books (two) 1795- 1804 & 1818- 1834

Acknowledgement Certificates of Settlement in other parishes (163) 1701-1831

Examinations as to Settlement (48) 1739-1832

Removal Orders (48) 1735-1839

Bastardy Bonds and Orders (34) 1696-1833

Constables Orders (8) 1774-1829

Miscellaneous papers concerning Militia Service etc

In the Norfolk Record Office: Minutes of the St Faiths Workhouse when part of the Gilbert Union 1805 - 1835. St Faith Estate Map of 1791 made for Sir Philip Stephens - Aylsham Collection 790; St Faiths and Horsford Enclosure Award of 1802 - ref map 532. St Faiths Estate Papers of Lord Ranelagh (six boxes) - Aylsham Collection 99.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### **Margaret Peabody**

On Monday, October 16th. we lost one of our longest serving members. Margaret, the wife of Ron Peabody, died after a short illness. Margaret joined the society at its inception, at the same time as Ron, who was our first Vice-Chairman and later Chairman. She was always a good supporter of our society and although not visibly active in the society's affairs, she nevertheless was a tower of strength to Ron who was fully involved.

Margaret's death is a sad loss to the society, but an even greater loss to Ron and his daughters, Jane and Gillian. Her death comes as a great blow to them and also to those, like myself, who always regarded her as a true and stalwart friend who will be sorely missed, but always remembered.

Tom Mollard

**Canon Jack Vyse** - Your editor was pleased to meet our former chairman, Canon Vyse recently, in the Cathedral restaurant. It was a chance, but pleasant meeting as he was on a flying visit to Norfolk from his home in Lincolnshire. He sends his kind regards to all members of the society, and I am pleased to be able to pass them on. TWM.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** - The AGM took place at the Friendship Club on 5th October and was well attended by Members. The Chairman, in welcoming members, mentioned Canon Vyse, the first Chairman, who sent his good wishes to the Society. He noted, with great regret, the death of Mrs Greta Sutton, a member for many years.

The Secretary, Betty Gee, in her report said that lectures had drawn very good attendances and the special Members' Evening in January had also been successful with its variety of activities. There had been a Millennium Mystery Tour arranged by Peter Holman and

two other visits which had all proved popular with Members. Membership had risen to 113. There had been a visit from the Cringleford History Society and members had also shown some of the French visitors round the town. Two members, Patricia Hawkins and Margaret Rowe, had arranged a beautiful floral display about Humphry Repton on behalf of the Society in St Michael's Flower Festival. She thanked them and all the other people who had helped with the smooth running of meetings and activities. The Aylsham Lodge Hotel had been booked for Thursday, 25th January 2001, for a winter party with buffet.

The Treasurer, Mrs Eileen Daines said that, although total balances were higher than in 1999, the figures were for 31st August 2000 before the invoice for the printing of the new book "Memories of Aylsham" had been received. Mr Graham Johnston, the Auditor, was thanked and was reappointed. Subscriptions remained the same as last year, ie £7 for individuals and £12 for couples.

Tom Mollard reported on the Journal, saying that the next one would be part 4 of volume 6 appearing in December. He was very grateful to all contributors, particularly those who had allowed him to publish work produced for courses; he thought these were very interesting and deserved a wider audience, even if the course took place some time ago. We were producing 120 copies of each issue and had supplied several back numbers to members of the French twinning party. Tom apologised that in the last issue half the content was taken up by the 1912 Kelly's directory. However, directory entries were useful contributions to Aylsham's history.

It was hoped to republish *Millgate* after Christmas. An application for a grant to assist with the publication of *Inns and Public Houses of Aylsham* had been turned down. He thought a publication consisting of members' essays produced for courses or personal research would be a possibility for the future. Finally "*Memories of Aylsham*" based on William Starling's memoirs edited by Ron Peabody was now on sale at a price tonight of £5.50 and afterwards £6. Postcards were a bargain at 25p each. The Chairman congratulated the Sub-Committee on its hard work.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE** - The Society's Officers were willing to stand again, with the exception of the Treasurer, Mrs Eileen Daines. Mr Peter Pink was duly proposed and



elected as Treasurer, as were the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Mollard, a co-opted member, was co-opted again with thanks for her sterling work. Derek Lyons was retiring as Committee member but Mrs Ursula Warren was re-elected. The two further vacancies were duly filled by Mrs Diana Polhill and Mrs Rosemary Powell. The Chairman thanked the Committee, and in particular the retiring members, for their work.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Mr Holman summed up the year's work by saying the Society was in a healthy state, with an increased membership. The *Georgian East Anglia* Course had been successful. This year's Course had had a change of lecturer and subject; the subject was "*The Forging of a Nation - Anglo-Saxon England 275 AD - 1075 AD*", lecturer John Chatwin. He thought UEA subjects were becoming more and more academic and would prefer a bias to East Anglian subjects.

The Chairman was very sorry that Ron Peabody was unable to attend to give his talk on Aylsham's past. He proposed, and members unanimously agreed, that Ron should be made a Life Member in view of his long service to the Society.

The Committee was considering the possibility of providing plaques outside notable buildings but more information had to be obtained. He introduced the subject of visits. Members considered Wisbech or Oxburgh would be interesting. Jean McChesney suggested that each year, one visit should be to a village, with a knowledgeable person being asked to conduct the Society round. Members could offer their services in this respect.

In conclusion, John Harris thanked the Chairman for his untiring work during the year. Meetings were always enjoyable. He also thanked the Secretary.

The Meeting was followed by fascinating slides of Aylsham's past, put on by Tom Mollard, aided by Geoff Gale, from Ron Peabody's collection. Refreshments followed.

**Betty Gee**

'**Memories of Aylsham**' by William Starling was launched at the Annual General Meeting, and appears to be a successful venture. Sales at the meeting were encouraging, and sales at local book shops since then, suggest that it will be quite a popular publication. This is very

satisfying to those who worked hard to bring the publication about. It is also satisfying to those descendants of the Starling family, who now all live in Australia, and who were as pleased to see the book published as we were. Margaret Keable, who is a member of our society and also the great-granddaughter of William Frederick Starling, writes:-

*"I think the book is beautifully presented and very easy to read, please convey the family's gratitude to all involved in such a professional job. We appreciate it. The book will be a living memorial to Grandpa Starling.*

*After having read some of the other Aylsham Local History Society publications, I knew the book would be good, but it exceeded expectations."* [I know Margaret will not mind me quoting her]

### Ray Balls

Sadly, we have to report yet another death of one of our members. Ray Balls, a member of our society since 1989, died on the 7th. November. Ray was born and grew up in Cromer. Earlier generations of his family had manned the Cromer lifeboat, but for Ray it was a career in Post Office engineers which took him from Cromer for a while, but he always maintained his connections with the town of his birth to which he returned as soon as was possible. He also kept a keen interest in the affairs of Aylsham, and attended several of our meetings at the Friendship Club and regularly maintained his membership of the society. Like most of our members, Ray had a wide range of interests. He was a notable bell ringer. I understand that he helped train the ringers at Erpingham church when the present set of bells were installed a few years ago. I am told that he was ringing at three churches - Erpingham, Aylsham and Cromer on the Sunday prior to his death.

As a man of so many interests, he did not always have time to visit Aylsham as much as he would have wished. In a letter from him last month, Ray said he hoped very much to attend the AGM, but in the end he was unable to make it. He was a most likeable man and will be missed by many. His popularity and the extent to which he will be missed was apparent in the large attendance at his funeral service. Our condolences go to his wife and family.

TWM

**Norwich in the year 1000** - As we are drawing towards the close of the year 2000, it seems an excellent choice of subject to look back to the end of the first millennium to see what Norwich might have looked like a thousand years ago in the year AD1000. Brian Ayers, head of the Norfolk Archæological Unit, was the ideal choice to do this for us. An author of books on the history of Norwich, and the organiser of archæological digs on the major sites in Norwich, his knowledge of the history of the city is second to none.

Not that it is an easy task to describe the city as it was 1000 years ago, as the written records before the Conquest are scarce. Neither does the city have any Roman history to reveal clues to its past. Although the Romans were about in other parts of Norfolk, they were not in Norwich. However, from the evidence of archæological excavations and by exploring and reading the visible signs in surviving buildings and locations, Brian Ayers painted a graphic and understandable picture of how Norwich must have looked immediately prior to the Norman Conquest.

It was the largest city in England with a population of 5000 to 10,000 souls, and boasting some 30 pre-Norman churches. These were not the stone and flint buildings we see today, but their timber forerunners. The centre of the city was slightly north of its present location, just north of the river Wensum, and centred more around St. Clements church and parish. The siting of St. Clements church and its dedication indicate the Danish origins of many of the Anglo Saxon population. The Magdalen Street area was the hub of the Anglo Saxon city, and the nearby church of St. Martin at Palace Plain is probably the oldest surviving Anglo Saxon structure in the city. There was no cathedral then in Tombland and the main north/south and east/west road junction ran across the present cathedral site. Later in the 11th.C the Norman invaders imposed their magnificent cathedral building directly on top of this strategic crossroads, and between there and the castle built at the end of Ber Street, the centre of the city shifted towards its present site.

All the evidence produced to support Brian Ayers claims was convincingly argued and clearly illustrated by excellent slides. The 70 or so members and visitors who attended the meeting went home well satisfied.

**Tom Mollard**



## DIARY DATES

Below is a selection of diary dates listed in the September 2000 - March 2001 Diary published by the Federation of Norfolk Historical and Archæological Organisations. It is only a selection and includes those which might appeal to our members and which are close enough to Aylsham to be easy to get to.

### December 2000

- Wednesday 6th. *Heraldry and Computers*, by Kenneth Mourin. [NHS]  
 Saturday 9th. *Redesigning the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital in the 1870s*, by Jeremy Taylor. [HA]

### January 2001

- Wednesday 3rd. *The development of Freeman Street, Wells*, by M. Welland [WLHG]  
 Saturday 13th. *Minding your bedside manners: physicians and patients in the Middle Ages*, by Carole Rawcliffe. [HA]  
 Saturday 13th. *War memorials: a documentary survey*, by Margaret Elbro. [NAHRG]  
 Wednesday 17th. *Farms & Farming in Georgian and Victorian England*, by Susanna Wade-Martins [CHS]  
 Saturday 20th. *Conserving Norfolk's past for the future - work of the Norfolk Archæological Trust*, by Peter Wade-Martins. [NNAS]  
 Thursday 25th. WINTER PARTY - Aylsham Local History Society. see notice on p. 121 of the Journal, and see separate notice enclosed with this issue.

### February 2001

- Thursday 1st. *History of food research*, Alan Kitchel [NIAS]  
 Thursday 1st. *The Conversion of East Anglia*, by Stephen Church [UEA]  
 Saturday 3rd. *War memorials; a detailed study of those who fell*. Members' research. [NAHRG]

- Thursday 8th. *Conquest and reform; the Norman and Papal impact on the East Anglian church.* by Christopher-Bill. [UEA]
- Saturday 10th. *The birth of a consumer society? France 1850 -1914,* by Roger McGraw. [HA]
- Saturday 10th. *How to write a parish history,* by Anthony Breen and Frank Meeres [fee £20] NRO, Gildengate House.
- Thursday 15th. *Kett's rebellion and the Piers Plowman tradition,* by Andy Wood. [UEA]
- Friday 16th. *Sir John Soane,* by Tony Egglestone [FNNH]
- Saturday 17th. *Bromholme and friends - recent research into Norfolk Monasteries,* by Tim Pestell. [NNAS]
- Thursday 22nd. *History of the North Walsham/Dilham canal,* by Eric Reading. [ALHS]
- Thursday 22nd. *Rooted dissent,* by Clyde Binfield [UEA]

### March 2001

- Saturday 3rd. *Practical techniques in archæology; identifying and interpreting Roman artefacts,* by Mike Hardy. [fee £20] UEA
- Saturday 24th. *The orientation and development of Mediæval Churches,* by Ian Hinton. [fee £20] UEA

### KEY

- [ALHS] = Us!
- [CHS] = Cringleford Historical Society. Playing Field Pavilion. Oakfields Rd. Cringleford at 7.30pm
- [FNNH] = Friends of Norfolk and Norwich Heritage. Wensum Lodge. Time ??
- [HA] = Historical Association, Pierce Room, Assembly House, Norwich at 2.30 pm
- [NAHRG] = Norfolk Archæological & Historical Research Group. meets at CEAS, UEA 2.30pm
- [NIAS] = Norfolk Industrial Archæological Society; meets at Charing Cross Centre, 17-19 St. John Maddermarket,

- Norwich at 7.30pm
- [NNAS] = Norfolk & Norwich Archæological Society, meet in the Music Room of the Assembly House, Norwich at 3.pm
- [NHS] = Norfolk Heraldry Society. United Reformed Church, Princes St. Norwich at 7.45pm
- [UEA] = UEA Winter Lecture series, held in the Theatre block, UEA at 7.30pm
- [WLHG] = Wells Local History Group. The Maltings Community Centre, Staithe St. Wells. Time ??

## LIST OF MEMBERS - DECEMBER 2000

Subscriptions fall due each October, and below is the list of current members up to date. After this issue of the *Journal*, the circulation list for future issues will be based on this list, so, if your name does not appear there, you could miss out on future issues of the *Journal*!

*With apologies to any members who might have renewed their subscriptions within the last few days and still missed inclusion in the list. The list does not include any members who might have renewed their subscriptions at the meeting on the 23rd November as this issue went to the printers too early to include them.*

BALLS, Mr. R.	CORBIN Mr & Mrs N	HAWKINS, Mr & Mrs A.
BARWICK, Mrs G.	CRIPPS Mr & Mrs A.	HENDRY, Mrs C.
BAYES, Mrs R.	DAINES Mrs E.	HOLMAN Mr & Mrs P.
BELTON Miss V.	DAVY Mr & Mrs R.	HOWES Miss B.
BIRD Mrs M.	DOWNING Mr & Mrs E	JOHNSTON, Mr G.
BRASNETT Mr & Mrs D.	DUCKER Mr G.	KEABLE Mrs M.
BRATT Miss R.	EVE, Dr & Mrs J	KING Mr & Mrs M.
BRETT Mr & Mrs F.	GALE Mr & Mrs G.	LAMB Mrs J.
BUTLER, Mrs J.	GARDNER Miss O.	LEECH, Mr & Mrs R
CASE Dr. D.E.	GARRATT Mr & Mrs A	LLOYD, Mrs. T.
CLOVER, Mr A.	GEE, Mrs B	LONG, Mrs M.
COOK, Mrs M.	HALFORD Ms. M	LOWE, Mr. B.
COOTE Mr A.	HARRIS, Mr J.	McCHESNEY, Mrs J.



McMANUS, Mr & Mrs  
MARTIN, Mr R.  
MINNS, Mrs E.  
MOLLARD Mr & Mrs T  
NEWELL, Mrs J.  
NOBBS, Mr G.  
NOLAN Miss E.  
PEABODY Mr R.  
PERRY Mrs M  
PINK Mr P.  
POLHILL Mr & Mrs R.  
POWELL, Mr & Mrs I  
RICE, Mr G.

ROWE, Mrs M.  
RUST, Mr B.  
SEWELL Mr M.  
SHERINGHAM, Mrs J.  
SMITH, Mrs .  
SNAPE, Mr & Mrs J.  
STEVENS Miss S  
TAYLOR, Mr H.  
TULLOCH, Mr & Mrs B  
TURVILLE-PETRE, Mrs J.  
ULPH Mr C.  
VAUGHAN-LEWIS Mrs M.  
VYSE, Rev. Canon J.

WADLEY, Mr D.  
The Lady WALPOLE  
WARREN Mrs U.  
WEST, Mr T.  
WICKENS, Dr & Mrs G.  
WILLCOX, Mrs M.  
WILLIAMS, Mr & Mrs G.  
WINTLE, Mrs S.  
WRIGHT, Mr J.

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## CHRISTMAS FARE

## Carrie Miller

With the society's newsletter appearing at Christmas, I thought I would contribute something about Norfolk's history of food. After all, this is our over-indulgent time of the year.

Norfolk was once famous for its dumplings. They were made from flour, yeast, water and a pinch of salt, then kneaded as only a Norfolk woman knew how. When of the right consistency, they were boiled for exactly 20 minutes - hence their name, '*twenty minute swimmers*'. Until recent times many families relied on a suet crust to fill their impoverished and empty stomachs, as meat then was a luxury. If families were lucky enough to have meat, dad and the boys got the lion's share of the meat, whilst mum and the girls had to wait until last. Christmas pudding was cooked in a casing made from a stiff dough. When cold, the pastry was chipped off, it kept the children quiet as they gnawed away at the spicy sweetness.

Another popular Norfolk delicacy, especially in Norwich, was to dry out apples (known as Norfolk Biffins) very slowly for about five hours, encased in clean straw over a wire rack in a barely warm oven. When ready, they were taken out and pressed to flatten them without breaking their skins, returned to the oven for an hour and pressed

again. When cold, they were rubbed with clarified sugar.

The traditional black plumed Norfolk turkeys were introduced to England around 1540. Merchants first introduced them to Greece, then part of the Turkish empire. The Greeks called them turkeys because they looked like their Turkish masters, red head piece looking like a fez. Killing swans is now illegal, but they were once a great delicacy and readily available from Norfolk's wet regions.

Certain days were celebrated with particular dishes, which were great treats for poorer families, especially the children. On Easter Sunday many Norfolk families ate tansy pudding, which was made up of almonds, tansy juice, cream and eggs. Cheesecakes and baked custards were treats for Whitsuntide, whilst goose was for Michaelmas. The goose grease was saved for rubbing over chests to stop winter coughs and colds.

It was once customary on wealthy Norfolk farms to make a large quantity of cider of two qualities. At Christmas, the best cider, which was often made one year in advance, was tapped for the family, and so long as the yule log was burning (usually 10-12 days) the servants had the common cider. It was traditional to well dampen the huge yule log to make it burn more slowly, and a small piece was always retained to light the next yule log. This portion was known as the 'back-log'. It was customary for the farmer and his family to take their meals with their servants during Christmastide. On the morning of Christmas Day, many farmers' wives cooked frumenty, which was served to the farm labourers and their families who were invited to the farmhouse for breakfast. Frumenty was made from wheat, raisins, currants, sugar, eggs and nutmeg. The whole lot was simmered in milk and water.

Oliver Cromwell introduced round mince pies before he came into power. They were previously boat shaped and originally made from minced beef. Fruit was only substituted because it was cheaper.

And did you know? One man in Cumbria enjoys Christmas dinner so much, he has eaten it every day for the last seven years!

—ooOoo—

## **WINTER PARTY**

Still on a Christmas theme, please note the following message from our Secretary:

### **WINTER PARTY**

Our Winter Party will be held on THURSDAY EVENING 25th JANUARY 2001 at the AYLSHAM LODGE HOTEL, Norwich Road, Aylsham, at 7.30 pm. This is a new venue for the Society and we hope it will be enjoyed by many members and friends.

There will be a welcoming drink and a buffet supper. A bar will be open. There will be competitions. One of these will require some interesting objects from members, so please let JEAN MCCHESENEY (tel no 01263 733511) know if you can bring one.

The cost per person will be £10.50. Please reserve the date and send in the form enclosed with this Journal as soon as possible to the Chairman PETER HOLMAN.

—ooOoo—

## **HARRY PROUDFOOT OF AYLSHAM**

Those of us who were present at the Annual General Meeting watched a slide show of Aylsham scenes based on the collection contained in the Town Archives. I attempted to pay tribute to Harry Proudfoot as the originator of this collection, and to record that without Proudfoot's efforts there probably would not have been a separate collection in the town today. Time did not allow me to say much, and we saw just one slightly blurred image of the man himself photographed outside his office.

It seems fitting and appropriate that amongst the collection that he helped to put together, there is a newspaper cutting which tells us a little about Harry Proudfoot's life, and of some of the things he did for the town. The collection itself can speak for its founder. The newspaper report is from the *Norfolk Chronicle* of December 1934. It begins with



a simple report of the dedication ceremony of a new ambulance which had been acquired for the Aylsham Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. The report says "It provides further tangible proof of the public spirit evinced for his native town . . . of the £200 necessary for the purchase and equipment of the ambulance, he has personally collected locally £185 and he hopes that early in the New Year the Division will be free of any debt incurred in its new and necessary acquirement."

The report then launches into the following account of Harry Proudfoot's life:-

Mr. Proudfoot was born in 1869 at the old Corner House, Bank Plain, Aylsham, which is at present occupied by an ironmonger. From 1875 to 1881 he attended a local school, for which his parents paid a few pence each week, and he speaks with great respect for his schoolmaster, the late Mr. Thomas Hill.

Work began early, in more senses than one, for Mr. Proudfoot. During his boyhood days he had to go over an area with a radius of about two miles, on foot, delivering the local daily newspaper. He started at 7 o'clock in the morning, and his pay was three pence weekly. His first employment on leaving school, was with Mr. Nuthall, a chemist in Red Lion Street, at 2/- a week. For the next few years he was employed in various shops in the town, but in May 1887, he turned bricklayer's labourer and walked to and from his work, which was on the building of Burgh Hall, working 60 hours a week for which he received 11/-.

In October of the same year he entered the employ of the late Mr. Fred Culley, as a bricklayer, and in 1892 he married Mr. Culley's only child.

Five years later, Mr. Proudfoot was Hon. Secretary for the local celebrations in connection with the Diamond Jubilee, when 1800 people were seated in the Market Place, served by 360 carvers and waiters. He acted in a similar capacity for the Coronation of the late King Edward in 1902, and in the same year he made a house-to-house collection on behalf of the Transvaal War Fund.

In 1894, when the Local Government Act came into operation, he assisted his father, the late Mr. Robert Proudfoot, in the work of rate collection, and became Clerk to the Councils for the parishes of Aylsham and Blickling. He still continues as Clerk to those two authorities, and for 40 years has never missed a meeting, and nobody but he has ever entered the minutes. For many years he has been rate collector for the parishes of Alby-with-Thwaite, Blickling, Brampton, Calthorpe, Brandiston, Cawston, Erpingham, Ingworth, Itteringham, Wickmere and Wolterton.

He has served under three chairmen of the Parish Council at Aylsham; namely, the late Canon Hoare, Col. T. W. Purdy and the present Chairman, Mr. A. J. Gay, and he claims it was from Canon Hoare that he learned much as to the duties of chairman of a meeting.

For over ten years Mr. Proudfoot was on the Norfolk County Council, serving on over 25 committees. He has also been chairman of the Aylsham & St. Faith's Guardians Committee, now defunct, and chairman of Aylsham Rural District Council, a body which is to disappear next year.

At present he is chairman of the No.1 Area Assessment Committee of the County Council and has just attended his 100th.meeting in that capacity.

Mr. Proudfoot was for 24 years secretary of the North Walsham Agricultural Association. He has belonged to three Friendly Societies - the Oddfellows (M.U.) The Foresters and the Ancient Order of Shepherds. He has been Chief Ranger of the Foresters, and Chief Pastor of the Shepherds, and sub-chief Pastor for the whole of England, going once a month to London for official business. For three years he was president of the Recreation Green Bowls Club, and for the past 21 years he has taken a great interest in the Parish Council allotments, being responsible for the show of produce staged in Aylsham Town Hall last September. For two years he was president of the Aylsham & District Conservative Association, and is, of course, president of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, a post he has held for two years.

The greatest tragedy of his life occurred in December 1931 when his wife passed away, and since that time he has severed himself from many public posts, but is still, perhaps, the busiest person in the town for the public cause. Mrs Proudfoot was a great help to her husband in his public life.

Mr. Proudfoot remembers Aylsham before the railways served the district, and can also remember when wherries plied on the river between Aylsham and Great Yarmouth; and he used to wheel coal in a barrow from the staithe near the M & G N railway station to his parents' house. He can just remember, too, the last Aylsham Regatta on the river. As a boy he was a wiper at the Dog Hotel Bowls Club, of which his father was hon. secretary.

In the religious life of the town, Mr. Proudfoot has always tried to help every denomination, and especially the Salvation Army. He claims connection with no religious body, and considers his home - a charming bungalow on the Blickling Road - his church.

For some months past he has been chairman of a committee which has been considering the advisability of a water and sewerage scheme for Aylsham. Owing to the alterations taking place after April 1st next, when the parish of Aylsham and several other parishes now in the Rural District of Aylsham will be amalgamated with the St. Faith's District Council, the inquiry stands adjourned.

"I look forward to the day when Aylsham will have a good water supply (very likely direct from Norwich) and an up-to-date sewerage scheme", says Mr. Proudfoot, "when this really becomes a fact, I have no hesitation in stating that in a very few years more than 50 houses will be built.

Norfolk has no place within her county area to compare with the surroundings that the parish of Aylsham has to offer. On the main London to Cromer road, within easy distance of the coast and Norwich, and with its beautiful old halls and mansions, parks and gardens, it has rightfully been called *the Garden of Norfolk*"



# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Account for the year ended 31st. August 2000

Income		1999	2000	1999	Expenditure	2000
142	Sales Publications and books		132	137	Officers' expenses	105
671	Subscriptions		791	287	Journal Printing	317
747	Visits: Millennium visit		683	620	Visits: Millennium	682
	Dragon Hall		34		Dragon Hall	38
450	Party		-	444	Party/members evening	73
1000	UEA course fees		599	654	UEA course (inc. rent)	412
				133	Friendship Club rent	134
70	Visitors' fees		31	36	Quaker room rent	42
25	Donations		35	20	Donation	20
24	Refreshments		11	115	Lecture fees	125
33	Bank interest		25	20	Subs: NAHRG & FNHAO	20
				31	Programme cards	29
					Postcards	97
					Oulton Chapel survey	49
					Flower Festival	18
					Sundries	5
<u>£3162</u>	TOTAL INCOME		<u>£2341</u>	<u>£2497</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£2166</u>
	Balances 1st. Sept. 1999				Balances 31st. August 2000	
55	Treasurer a/c		149		Treasurer a/c	99
959	Moneymaster a/c		1388		Business No Notice	910
489	Publications account		631		Publications account	1334
			2168			2343
<u>£4665</u>			<u>£4509</u>	<u>£4665</u>		<u>£4509</u>

Treasurer: Mrs M. E. Daines

Checked with records and found to be correct.

Graeme Johnston Accountant

## You Have Been Warned!

That all women, of whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether virgins, maids or widows, that shall, from and after such Act, impose upon, seduce, and betray into matrimony, any of His majesty's subjects by the use of scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool [wool impregnated with carmine and used to this day as rouge] iron stays, hoops, high-heeled shoes, bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanours, and that the marriage, upon conviction, shall stand null and void

Act of Parliament, 1770

From the Ledbury Deanery Magazine [No date available]

~~~~~

Yes - I know it's silly, but it tickled my fancy when I saw it on sale at Ledbury, whilst on holiday. **Ed.**

## Shelter on Cemetery

During last year, by soliciting subscriptions, I was able to place in the churchyard and cemetery some 29 "In Memory" seats, which I believe have been greatly appreciated.

Since then I have been soliciting further subscriptions for building and placing a shelter in the cemetery, there being no place at present in case of rain or storm.

I am now in a position with sufficient funds either given or promised, to carry this out, and I hope it will be ready for opening on Sunday, November 1st. when the Vicar has very kindly said he will arrange for a short service, to which ministers and members of all denominations will be invited to take part in.

Neither the seats or the shelter will have cost **one penny** from the rates.

The Parish Council last year, unanimously resolved to accept these on condition that no money for the same was taken from the parish rates.

Later on, I hope to publish the names of those who so kindly gave the "In Memory" seats and also the subscribers to the shelter fund.

HARRY F. PROUDFOOT

*Sept. 23rd. 1931*

*from the Parish  
Magazine.  
October 1931*

We have always been conscious of Harry Proudfoot's good works for the benefit of Aylsham. His efforts, particularly in helping to create the present archives have been a great boon. The above cutting carefully preserved by him shows us another example of his care for the town and its citizens.

### Aylsham Local History Society PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT Income & Expenditure as at 31 August 2000

#### Income

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in Giro a/c -B/F       | 584 - 48 |
| Cash in hand - B/F             | 46 - 96  |
| SALES of existing publications | 141 - 71 |
| " Journal Back numbers         | 1 - 50   |
| Postage refund                 | 1 - 74   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | 776 - 39 |

#### Expenditure

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Postages, publicity etc. | 12 - 46  |
| <b>Total</b>             | 12 - 46  |
| Balances in hand         |          |
| " Giro a/c               | 731 - 72 |
| " Cash in hand           | 32 - 21  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>       | 776 - 39 |

**Grand Total**      776 - 39



## Wolterton Park

The Archive at Wolterton has now been catalogued and indexed. A copy of the index is available at the Norfolk Record Office.

If society members wish to make use of the archive for their own research or make enquiries, they should either write to Lady Walpole at Mannington Hall, Norwich NR11 7BB or telephone on 01263 584175 to make appointments.

### *And Finally,*

Having read the previous *Journal*, Margaret Bird writes commenting on Peter Holman's article on Georgian gravestones, and particularly on the, then, improved status of bricklayers:- "I am put in mind of a late 17th. century Buckinghamshire builder, who quite outshone even those Norfolk craftsmen. I enclose an extract from Nathaniel Lloyd's monumental *A History of English Brickwork*, first published 1925, reprinted 1983 pp 15-16. The author's one-liner at the end of the extract is so engaging, I wondered if you would like to use as your parting shot in the *Journal*"

The last name I shall quote is that of VENTURUS MANDEY, whom a tablet in Iver church thus commemorates:-

Beneath this place lies interred the body of Venturus Mandey, Bricklayer, son of Michael, Bricklayer, and grandson to Venturus Mandey of this parish, Bricklayer, who had the honour of being Bricklayer to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Society of Lincoln's Inn from the year of Our Lord 1667 to the day of his death. He was studious in the mathematics and wrote and published three books for Public Good: one entitled MELLIFICIUM MENSIONIS or the Marrow of Measuring; another of MECHANICAL POWERS or the Mystery of Nature and Art Unvayled: the third AN UNIVERSAL MATHEMATICAL SYNOPSIS. He also translated into English DIRECTORIUM GENERALE URANOMETRICUM and TRIGONOMETRICA PLANA ET SPHERICA LINEARIS ET LOGARITMICA . . . and some other tracts which he designed to have printed if death had not prevented him. He died the 26th. day of July 1701 aged 56 years and upwards. He also gave five pounds to the poor of this parish.  
This type of Bricklayer seems to have died out.