Home again

It was a stormy night when they left the farmhouse, and lightning and thunder continued into the early morning. Much damage was done throughout the country, but they were unharmed. Lathbury accompanied them in the curricle as far as Woodbridge, where they dined with the surgeon, Mr Lynn. From there they walked home to Ipswich. The next day they breakfasted with their tutor, Dr Glynn, who was delighted with their account of the journey and the specimens they brought back with them. Rather piously, Charles recorded that their time *'had not been consumed in idleness or wasted in intemperance and dissipation'.*

Vic Harrup

Notes and sources:

1. *Transactions of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society*, volume 11, part 2, pp123-137 (1959), Ipswich Museum
2. Reverend John Connor, who had his 'temporary' curate status extended. In fact he was at Orford 42 years, becoming rector of Sudbourne with Orford in December 1828. He died after only 21 months as rector on 22 September 1830, aged 73. The antiquary, David Elisha Davy, reported that Connor, from Lisburn, County Antrim, was rumoured to be the illegitimate son of the Earl of Hertford, who had extensive estates in Lisburn (Jane Allen, *The Wallace Connection*, Orford Museum, 2008, pp16,17).
3. Lord Hertford - Francis Seymour Conway (1719-1794), Earl of Hertford, created Marquis of Hertford in 1793. According to the Great Court Book of Orford Corporation he was *'commonly called Earl of Yarmouth'*. The Conway family's principal seat was (and still is) Ragley Hall in Warwickshire. Lord Hertford had purchased the Sudbourne estate in 1754, attracted by the fact that Orford (a 'rotten borough') returned two members to Parliament, elected by the mayor, portmen and chief burgesses. In 1766 the Conways took over the Corporation from the previous Portmen and Free Burgesses who mostly resigned. They were replaced by family and cronies of Lord Hertford from Warwickshire and London.
4. Lord Hertford commissioned the architect James Wyatt to design his new house, built in 1782. For pictures of the old Sudbourne Hall or House (which was also known as Chapmans) see Orford & District Local History Bulletin, Issue 6, pp 10 and11.
5. Mr Randal – Samuel Randall, mayor in 1765. He did not resign (see note 3 above) and was elected Mayor again in 1779 and 1785. He did resign eventually in favour of his son, John, a year before his death at the age of 84 in 1795. John's son, another Samuel (1783-1862), was a surgeon and flourished under the patronage of the Marquises of Hertford, two of whom held the post of Lord Chamberlain. The Randall family's loyalty to the Conways won the younger Samuel the court position of gentleman usher and groom of the privy chamber under kings George III, George IV, William IV and queen Victoria. (Memorial brass on north wall of Orford church).
6. Mr Brett - Thomas Brett (1739-1833), elected a Chief Burgess during the elder Samuel Randall's last mayoralty. A board recording a charity set up under his will for the benefit of poor widows (Brett's Benevolence) still hangs on the south west wall of Orford church.
7. Lord Beauchamp - Francis Seymour Conway, the earl's eldest son. Referred to as Lord Beauchamp in the Great Court Book. The house built by Lord Beauchamp was High House.
8. They were James D'Oyly (1730-1744), Gibbon Jones, BA (1744-1753), John Whittington (1753-1770), Francis Jackson, LLB (1770-1781), The Hon Edwad Seymour Conway, MA (1781-1784) – the fourth son of the Earl of Hertford, he died in France at the age of 32, George Pretyman, DD, FRS (1784-1785) – who was rapidly promoted to became bishop of Lincoln and later bishop of Winchester and Joseph Turner, DD (1785-1828).

Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich):
Great Court Book for Orford Corporation ref. EE5/4/4

Those readers who are interested in natural history should read the whole of the article in the 'Transactions' (see note 1, above). There is a photocopy in the Orford Museum library. Julian Potter has provided the following commentary on the plants and wild flowers found by the two young men: