

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

7th Series Number 9

October 2019

President: John Bridges
Vice President: Thelma Durrant
Chairman: Charles Seely
Vice-Chairman: Charles Seely
Hon. Secretary: Charles Seely
Membership Secretary: David Ransom
Minutes Secretary: David Ransom
Treasurer: Alison Bowman
Journal Editor: Bob Roberts

All enquiries regarding Society membership should be addressed to:

The Membership Secretary:

David Ransom, The Gables, Fore Street Framlingham IP13 9DF

Tel 01728 720145 email: cransom@btinternet.com

For back issues of the journal, correspondence for publication, and proposals for articles, contact the Editor:

43 College Road, Framlingham, IP13 9ER

telephone 01728 724324 mobile 07722127978

bobrob2100@hotmail.co.uk

*Heir of Antiquity! - fair castle Town,
Rare spot of beauty, grandeur, and renown,
Seat of East-Anglian kings! - proud child of fame,
Hallowed by time, illustrious Framlinghame!*

From: *Framlingham: a Narrative of the Castle,*
by James Bird (1831)

Contents

INTRODUCTION	Bob Roberts	3
PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR WINTER 2019/2020		4
EXTRACT FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE SCOTTISH ARTIST CECILE WALTON 1876-1956, WHO IN 1905 VISITED THE CROWN IN FRAMLINGHAM		6
FRAMLINGHAM SEPTEMBER 1939	John F. Bridges	7
THE FRAMLINGHAM PARISH REGISTERS	E. A. Wrigley	15
NOTES FROM ELLA BROWNSORD	John F. Bridges	16
SUMMER VISITS 2019		18

L. R. Squirrell's pastel drawing of the *Castle Gateway* in 1924 is held in a private collection. Permission to reproduce free of Artists Rights has been generously granted by the artist's daughter, Mrs Annette Kenny

Unless stated to the contrary at the end of the article concerned, copyright in the contents of this journal rests with the authors of the several articles, jointly with the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society. Copies thereof may be reproduced for private study purposes, but not for commercial sale. Where quotations from articles in this journal are made in other publications, the source should be quoted, specifying the article itself and the issue of this journal in which it originally appeared.

FRAM
7th Series Number 9
October 2019
Registered charity No. 274201

Welcome to the sixtieth issue of *FRAM* since its first appearance back in August 1997. Its predecessor, *Framlingham Local History and Preservation Society Newsletter*, flourished from 1968 to 1974, and was a much more modest production, without covers and with only a caption title, but nevertheless contained some important articles. Percy Stannard produced his splendid 'The Inns of Framlingham', subsequently re-issued in *FRAM* 3rd series numbers 1 to 3, August 1997-April 1998.

However, the new magazine of 1997 was a very different creation, in A4 format in card-covers with an illustration, latterly in colour. The contents itself also changed radically, with foot-note references to source material for articles, as one would expect in what had become a scholarly journal. One article by the former Treasure of the History Society, Tony Broster, 'An Investigation of gas production in the nineteenth century, with particular reference to East Suffolk' (5th series No. 15, April 2010) received a Publication Award from the British Association for Local History, and the Editorial in *FRAM* 4th series number 11 December 2004, was reprinted (with permission) in that Association's *Local History News*, as was Bill Serjeant's article on Justices of the Peace from the August 2004 *FRAM*. In all some two hundred and sixty-eight papers have been published in *FRAM* since 1997.

For some time now the supply of new articles for *FRAM* has reduced despite several appeals, and suggestions for potential subjects to be explored. The Committee has discussed this at length and concluded that a more flexible approach is needed. The proposal is to produce a newsletter that would be emailed to all members, and posted to those without internet facilities. The benefit of this approach is that the newsletter can be produced when there is sufficient information; it could vary from one page to any number and include colour photographs etc. There will also be a benefit to the Society in the reduction of printing costs.

It is fifteen years since John Lilley took over from me as Chairman of our Society. To chair a large and active Society such as ours is a demanding role, which John has sustained with quiet dedication. He has now decided to step down, and on behalf of our members I would like to thank him for his dedication over those years. He will be greatly missed.

Bob Roberts
Editor

PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR WINTER 2019/2020

16.10.19 AGM, followed by:

Dr Bob Merrett,
Thomas and John Clarkson, the Friends of Slaves

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) and his younger brother, John, were, with William Wilberforce, the most prominent members of the Anti-Slavery Society in the late 18th and early 19th century. Their unceasing efforts over a long period of time, despite enormous opposition, created a change in the nation's attitude and succeeded in stamping out the horrors of the slave trade.

20.11.19 Janette Robinson
Flora Sandes

Flora Sandes, (1876-1956) was the only British woman to serve as a fighting soldier in the First World War. Born in Yorkshire of an Irish family, she came to live in Marlesford at the age of seven and spent the last years of her life at Lower Hacheston. Initially a St. John Ambulance volunteer, she became a Sergeant-Major in the Royal Serbian Army, later promoted to Captain. She was awarded seven medals.

11.12.19 Vivienne Aldous,
Suffolk Maps and their Makers

One of the many benevolent actions of Thomas Seckford, Master of the Court Rolls at the time of Elizabeth I, was to finance the map-making work of John Speede and his associates. Seckford's memorial tomb in St. Mary's Church Woodbridge commemorates his achievements and his Foundation and Charity are still an important feature in Woodbridge. The whole history of map-making in Suffolk, including names such as Hodskinson (1783) is rich in interest.

15.1.20 Brad Jones, (The Editor)
The History of the East Anglican Times

The editor of the EA DT is presenting the history of a newspaper which is a household name to us and has been so to its East Anglican readers since 1874.

19.2.20 Sir Michael Bunbury, Bt.
Archaeological Finds at Rendlesham

Rendlesham has long been thought to be the seat of the royal Saxon house of Uffingas. King Redwald of Sutton Hoo fame may have had his palace there as we are told that a silver crown was dug up in 1687 but melted down for its metal value before it could be properly examined. Undoubtedly Rendlesham still holds many secrets waiting to be discovered.

18.3.20 Tony Clarke,
Clarkes of Framlingham

This is a Framlingham subject which will have a broad appeal. The story of the Clarke family, the firm and the grain trade which was central to Framlingham's prosperity, is told by a family member.

15.4.20 James Albone
The Roman Roads of East Anglia

Anyone who consults an Ordnance Survey map will have noticed the straight line of the A1120 as it runs to the north of Framlingham and will have asked where it is leading to. Was Dunwich an important port for the Romans and was there a settlement at Peasenhall where it is crossed by another straight Roman road? The whole subject of their construction, maintenance and survival is a fascinating one.

No. 1.
December
1968

FRAM

The first newsletter in 1968

This is the first issue of a newsletter intended as a means of maintaining contact between members of the Framlingham & District Local History and Preservation Society. Its success will however, be dependent on a flow of contributions from members on matters of local interest. See address at end.

* * *

"FRAM" - that handy contraction of the longish Framlingham - is not exclusive to us. In this country it is the brand name of a motor oil cleaner and also of a cosmetic. The Fram Group is a firm of civil engineers. The ship of the polar explorer, Amundsen, was the FRAM, Norwegian for "Forward!" There is even a football team in Iceland of that name. Directly derived from the town name is 'Fram Eggs', and many exiles all over the country must have had their hearts gladdened by the striking 'Fram' on egg boxes, cartons and lorries. A special type of low bias bowl used in a variation of crown green bowls was termed a Fram - it is thought because it was made at Framlingham.

Has anyone any knowledge of this?

* * *

The wind of change hits Framlingham: Wicks's canopy - feature of Market Hill for about a century - has at last gone a big improvement. The new owners - antique dealers - have given the building a facelift in excellent taste. It was formerly the Guildhall.

* * *

So the Queen's Head public house next the 'rathole' has finally closed. What happened to the inn-sign?

* * *

415 years ago, on a day in 1553, Market Hill must have been choc-a-bloc with soldiery, collected there by the Duke of Norfolk pending the proclamation of Mary as Queen in spite of the previous proclamation of Lady Jane Grey. How many, if any, of today's buildings would have been standing then? At a guess, Potter's, Steggall's and parts of The Crown. Has anybody any ideas?

* * *

Treasure in your garden: keep a watchful eye when earth is turned over because very many relics of earlier inhabitants must still be there awaiting finding. Members of the Society would gladly assist in identifying any unusual object. From one Dennington garden the following have been found in the last few years:

a cannonball, 17th century, damaged, possibly through contact
with a tough East Anglian skull;
candle snuffer, unpretentious, of iron;
eel spritch, for spearing eels;
1810 halfpenny;
puddingstone, brought by glaciers during the Ice Age;
several fossil sea urchins;
an ammonite, fossil seashell.

The Ipswich Museum most helpfully identified and discussed these objects. Of the last two one was said to be 180 million years old, but the other was a comparative youngster of 90 million. With regard to that cannonball, has anyone any theory as to how it got there? Is Maypole Green within cannon range of the Castle? Is there any record of a local gun battle?

* * *

Framlinghamians have settled all over the world. Nevertheless only one daughter town is known and even that, Framingham, Massachusetts, has dropped the 'L'. Does anyone know of another Framlingham? Are there other features named after us? There is, of course, Framlingham Court (flats) on the outskirts of Ipswich, and a Framlingham Crescent in the Eltham area of London. Any more? In this country there are places with similar names, such as Framingham Earl in Norfolk and Framlington, Northumberland. Framfield, Sussex,

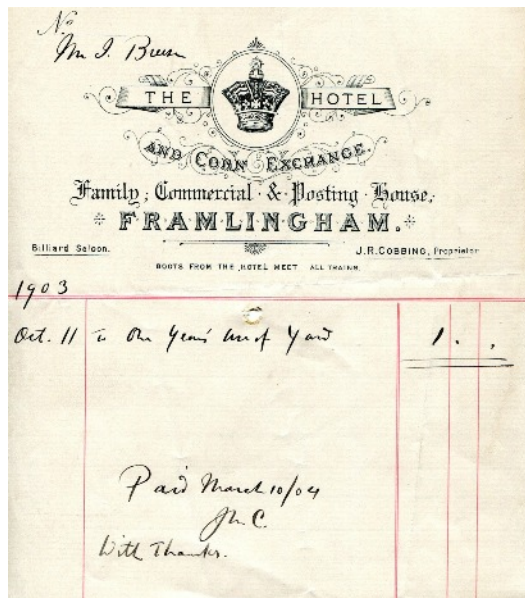
EXTRACT FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE SCOTTISH ARTIST CECILE WALTON 1891-1956, WHO IN 1905 VISITED THE CROWN IN FRAMLINGHAM

The excursion to Framlingham was conducted by Francis Newbery, then Director of the Glasgow School of Art, in the company of his daughters, Elsie and Mary. We three, in our early teens, were excited at the thought of a bicycle tour lasting the day and covering some forty miles. We had taken the road (from Walberswick) through Blythburgh, Yoxford and Peasenhall to Framlingham, and returned late in the evening by the north bank of the river Blythe, crossing the ferry below Southwold.

Into the dining-room of The Crown, Francis Newbery led his youthful following, with all the pomp and gravity of a General. He had that wonderful gift of showmanship, stimulating us at each introduction to this or that interesting or beautiful site; and at the same time making us feel ourselves to be no less important, as if river or wold or building gained something by meeting us.

We found ourselves in the cool, low-roofed room, where already the table had been laid with some dozen covers and the chairs set round the whole, almost filling the space between the sideboards and china-cupboards and the fireplace filled with tufted grasses. The table itself was decorated with flowers and impressive silver cruets, each with its quartette of crystal bottles. Beside these stood arrays of pickle-bottles, walnuts, onions, gherkins, piccalilli, red cabbage, beetroot floating in wine-dark vinegar and pale transparent cucumber in glass dishes. Of other condiments there were boats of fresh mayonnaise, French and English mustard, Contemporary invoice for the Crown Hotel when John Cobbing was the proprietor. James Breese Collection
horse-radish and mint sauce, capers moist with saline, tomatoes, parsley and lettuce, crisp and newly gathered. And these were but the garnish for the great joints of platters on the sideboard. The beef, well cooked outside, from its thin line of fat shaded down to the deep crimson of its raw centre. The ham was as sweet and rosy as a newly-washed babe, and sprinkled with breadcrumbs on its sugared surface – it bristled with spicy cloves.

A maid had taken us to wash our hands in a basin of cold water and showed us the ‘privy’ behind the hollyhocks in the garden... We returned to the dining-room and sat down to the table feeling fresh and hungry. The one hot dish set before us was potatoes tossed in butter and scattered with mint. They were as new and waxy as the time of year permitted, firm and unbroken.



Editor's note: Cecile Watson was one of the most gifted artists in Scotland during the early part of the 20th century. She, together with her artist husband, Eric Robertson 1887-1941, were the leading figures in the Edinburgh Group of artists who flourished before and after the First World War. As a child she often stayed with his friend Francis Newbery's family at their holiday home at Walberswick. This painting is believed to be of the three girls at Walberswick

To the Shore (c1910)

Francis Henry Newbery

McLean Museum and Art Gallery

FRAMLINGHAM SEPTEMBER 1939

By John F. Bridges

The 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War was on the 3rd of September. This article looks at the events leading up to that period. At that time in 1939, no one knew what lay ahead and there was a strong movement in the country to achieve a peaceful settlement with Hitler. The war to end all wars had only finished some twenty years before, and there was no appetite for further conflict. However, there was knowledge of the increasing mobilisation of troops and the military build-up in Germany, and preliminary plans were being developed by our Government to address the potential threat.

In 1936, meetings were held by our Parish Council (PC) to discuss Air Raid Precaution (ARP) matters and local men were appointed to serve on a Committee. A year later a branch of St John Ambulance was established in the town by Sydney Riches, a man with relevant experience and having the benefit of training in anti-gas warfare. In May 1938, the new Drill Hall opened in New Road, a building that was to play an important role throughout the wartime period.



At a meeting in May 1938 in the Assembly Hall, Commander Phelps stated that people over thirty years old would be needed for air raid duties. Men were also needed as stretcherbearers and for decontamination work, and women were required as nurses. The St John HQ in Fore Street would be staffed by four men. Local hauliers would be asked to place their vehicles at the disposal of the ARP officers, and the Fire Brigade needed an additional twelve members. Phelps explained that any town or village might be subject to random attacks by aircraft.

Early members of Framlingham St John, 1937. Back row, from left: Harry Layzell, Ernest Bennett, Percy Banthorpe, Ernest Bonney. Front row, from left: Fred Finbow, Sydney Riches, Alfred Sparke, Bob Gorrod. Riches, the founding member, was the only one with a uniform at this time.

The Methodist Church school room would be used as a gas-proof shelter for people caught in the street during a raid. Local builders would be asked to volunteer for demolition work. The Masonic Hall in New Road would be a combined Decontamination Centre and First Aid Post, staffed by sixteen men and sixteen women, with a storekeeper and a clerk to keep records. This did not happen and a purpose-built Gas Decontamination building was later constructed in Badingham Road. The central equipment store would be at Potter's garage on the Market Hill. Although many had enrolled for ARP services, at least another seventy were required. A chilling event occurred in October that year when over 3,000 gas masks were distributed to adults in the town. Special masks for children and babies were not delivered until about a year later. Gas attacks were considered likely based on its use in the last war. By early 1939 the strength of the local Territorials now exceeded fifty and there was much drilling and training at the Drill Hall. The College was to have welcomed a German hockey team, but headmaster Whitworth cancelled the visit as he considered Hitler was not an honourable man.

In April 1939 the front page of *Framlingham Weekly News* declared 'Framlingham ARP 100% Efficient'. This meant the personnel knew what they had to do if the town was bombed. What it did not say was that there



Nancy Burdekin, along with her mother Dianne who is modelling a gas mask and tin helmet.

were no air raid shelters or a siren to alert everyone if there was a raid. These essentials did not happen until a long time after the war had started and lives had been lost.

The main ARP personnel were:

Lieutenant Commander T.F. Britton, Controller of the Section, Head Warden Framlingham, and local Anti-Gas instructor

Don Potter, Deputy Head Warden

John Self, Chairman of Fire Brigade Committee and Senior Special Constable

Captain Harry Walne, MC, Deputy Chief Warden

Harry Carr, Superintendent of Fire Brigade

Morgan Watts, Engineer of Fire Brigade

Fred Finbow, Superintendent of St John Ambulance Division

Sidney Sparke, Corporal of St John Ambulance Division

Mrs Palmer, Superintendent of Nursing Division of St John Ambulance Brigade

Dick Bullingham, Senior Warden No. 1 ARP post, Pembroke Road pavilion

Fred Durrant, Senior Warden No. 2 ARP post, Haynings Corner, Waterworks

Ben Norman, Senior Warden No. 3 ARP post, Railway Station

Tyrell Dowsing, Senior Warden No. 4 ARP post, Market Hill

Many of these men had seen action in the First World War and were well suited to their new positions. The Pembroke Road post was in a wooden sports pavilion (opposite new College student accommodation). This survived for many years with the red and white enamel ARP sign visible from the road. The town Waterworks was on the corner of the Saxmundham and Badingham Roads. The location of the Market Hill post has not been fully established, but most likely it was at the Crown Hotel. Every post had six to eight wardens and had telephone contact with the main ARP Control Centre (telephone numbers 161 and 162) at the Court House (present library).

The Government ordered ARP exercises to be carried out across the country, and these took place in Framlingham on 17 July 1939. Simulated attacks were carried out in Badingham Road and the Crown Hotel, where explosive and incendiary bombs set fire to buildings. There was a high-explosive bomb outside the rear gates of the College, and a mustard gas bomb at the railway station. The ARP squads, Special Constables,

Auxiliary and Regular Fire Brigades, Demolition Squad and St John Ambulance were all involved with the exercise.

The ARP Centre was upstairs in the Court House, where there was also sleeping accommodation on the ground floor. Onward transmission of the alert by telephone to wardens and emergency services was not always possible, as many were not on the telephone. Boys aged around thirteen, such as Gordon Scotchmer, Ray Nicholls and John Durrant, came to the fore and volunteered as messengers and runners. They were paid 2s. 6d. a night, clocking on at 7 p.m. and off at 7 a.m. As there were several runners available, their shifts only occurred about once a week. John started work in his father's butcher's shop when he turned thirteen and along with everyone else had to balance work with his wartime duties.

Gordon enrolled as a runner in late 1938 while still at the Area School. When he arrived for school with his special gas mask and steel helmet, the headmaster Stanley Reeve wanted to know why his mask was different from everyone else's. He explained that those involved with the services had a different (better) mask. Mr Reeve was relieved to know that his school would get an earlier warning than most. When a Yellow warning was received at the Police Station, the information was conveyed to the school by telephone. Gordon would then be told by Mr Reeve, and would jump on his bike and head off to the Police Station to await instructions on which ARP wardens to alert.



Framlingham's senior ARP men in April 1939. Back row, from left: Morgan Watts, Harry Carr, Ben Norman, Tyrell Dowsing, Fred Finbow, Sidney Sparke, Fred Durrant. Front row, from left: John Self, Don Potter, Captain Harry Walne MC, Dick Bullingham, Lieutenant Commander Britten, Percy Banthorpe.

With the threat of war looming the Government realised the need to improve the country's fire services. From early 1938 local authorities were to consider this matter, which would include finding recruits for the new Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS). A PC meeting in September 1938 discussed the Framlingham Fire Brigade and ARP. Additional equipment was requested, with the minimum being: a medium trailer pump, medical outfit, hand cart, ten 100-foot lengths of hose, ladders, buckets, ceiling hooks, hand pump with 30 feet of hose, four foam extinguishers and one portable canvas dam. Twelve extra firemen had been recruited, but the Police had taken some of them for other duties so the numbers would have to be made up again. Blyth Rural District Council (BRDC) had ignored the PC's letter complaining about the ineffectiveness of several fire hydrants.

The Parish Council would cease to be the Fire Authority from 29 January 1939, when BRDC would take over. The PC would manage the Brigade, and received the sum of £125, representing the value of their equipment.

BRDC prepared a report on the Fire Brigade in 1939, which did not reflect particularly well on it but usefully listed all the equipment:

1 Dennis motor pump, 2 hand extinguishers, 1 Y piece, 2 stand pipes, 400 feet of good hose, 500 feet of indifferent hose, 40 feet of suction hose, 3 crooks, 18 leather buckets, 2 picks, 1 spade, 1 saw, 1 axe, 3 dispersers, 2 oil lamps, 1 electric torch, and 1 drying pole and tackle. The men were paid quarterly:

Superintendent	£1 5s. 0d.	Assistant	12s. 6d.
Assistant Supt.	15s. 6d.	Firemen (5)	10s. 6d.
Motor mechanic	£1 0s. 0d.		

The 1921 Dennis motorised fire-engine had been purchased second-hand in 1928 along with extra equipment for £110. The crew consisted of nine men, but they had no uniforms, belts or helmets. The report also criticised the effectiveness of the supply pressure to the hoses. It culminated in recommendations for the crew to have uniforms, helmets and belts etc. and for 500 yards of hose, an extending ladder and a light hose cart. The Fire Station had been located in Crown and Anchor Lane since 1928, but had no lighting, and the



Framlingham's Fire Brigade at the outset of war consisted mainly of this second-hand Dennis with wooden wheels, bought in 1928. The nine-man crew had no uniforms, belts or helmets. Front row, from left: Harry Carr, Morgan Watts, Alfred Mallows (Captain), Inky Smith, Joe Peck.

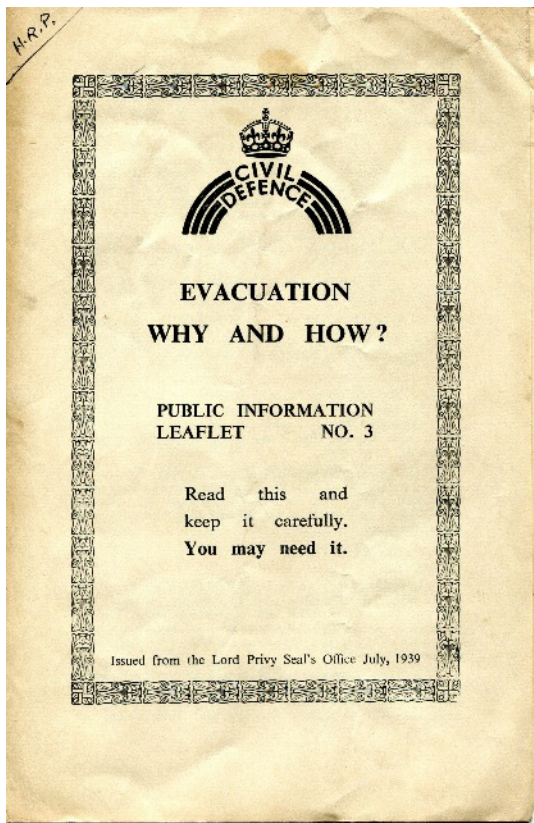
instillation of an electric point was recommended.

As might be expected, the report on the Fire Brigade was not well received, and John Self strongly repudiated it. 'In reference to the efficiency of the equipment he saw, I suggest the next time the Brigade has a practice, the writer of the article stands in front of the hose. He would go away a wiser, if not a sadder man.'

By early 1939, the new recruits in Framlingham had been trained in fire-fighting and anti-gas work. Before the war, the Fire Brigade was summoned by the firing of maroons and mortars, and a request had been made for these to be kept at the Police Station. Such measures would not be adequate when call-outs became more frequent.

Lady Eddis addressed a large meeting in St Michael's Rooms where she appealed for women to join the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), and to help with ARP work, driving ambulances and helping with evacuees.

On the first of September blackout restrictions were imposed throughout the country. From the next day the ARP Control Centre in Bridge Street would be continuously manned over 24 hours, and all sections were standing by should an emergency arise. The new cinema in New Road was ready for opening 'Hitler permitting'. At the end of August 1939 the Government announced that all children over five, pregnant women mothers with children under five and certain disabled groups were to be evacuated from large towns and cities where bombing was to be expected. The evacuation process was always intended to start before war was declared in order to avoid panic. It was thought that bombing would begin from the outset. At the reception end, lists were prepared of households that had spare bedroom accommodation, and the children would be compulsorily billeted with them. They were paid 10s. 6d. a week for the first child, and 8s. 6d. for a further child.



Issued by the Lord Privy Seal's Office in July 1939. The leaflet advised that schoolchildren were to assemble at their schools. Some 3 million were expected, who would set off for destinations unknown to them.

On 1 September, 200 children arrived at Saxmundham station. Here they received emergency rations before being transferred by road to Framlingham, where Percy Stannard was the Chief Evacuation Officer. Betty Williams, aged ten, was one of those children and the following is an abridged version of a letter she wrote:

Oh goodbye mummy, goodbye daddy, goodbye all! We are going away but do not ask us where, for that we cannot tell you. All we know is that we are going a very long way, and we are so excited. Now to climb on the bus to go to the station. Oh, here comes the train at last. Off we go, hurrah! I do hope I shall live in the country. Why, the train has stopped at Saxmundham station. Oh, then I am in the country. How glad I am. What fun to parade through the streets, waving to everybody. How welcome they make us. We've landed in a school to get a drink of water. Why? On to another bus. It is dark now. We are going to live at Framlingham College. How quickly that fortnight has gone. All the other children and myself are in our billets. How jolly it is. My school is lovely, everybody is kind, and I have made quite a lot of new friends.

On the same day, the staff prepared for the reception of evacuees, and *The Area School Recorder* noted:

We shall never forget the scene on the College steps when the buses arrived in the evening and disgorged the crowds of tired, anxious-eyed, yet tearless little mites, bowed down under heavy bundles and plastered with big labels announcing that they had come from Becontree Middle Girls School.

On 2 and 3 September, fifty evacuees were provided with canteen dinners. They were billeted at the College. The children were taken in mainly by families in the town and on nearby farms. Most took one child, but others such as the Kent family at No. 5 Kings Avenue had three, while Mrs Kemp of Ivy House Farm took five. On 6 September, about one hundred of the children were taken to billets in Brandeston, the remainder stayed in the town.

The education of the children had to continue, and they were placed according to age in the Junior School or the new Area School. At the Junior School, on 19 September, twenty evacuees were registered, mainly from London, along with another nineteen from Becontree School in Ilford. Thirty from the same school started at the Area School.

It was also common for parents to make their own arrangements (private evacuations), particularly if they had relatives in a safe area. Tony Moore was sent to stay with his grandparents in Crown and Anchor Lane and started at the Junior School on the first day of the autumn term.

On 3 September 1939 war was declared with Germany. Mason Fairweather sat with his parents in their dining room at the Ancient House and listened to Neville Chamberlain's speech at 11.15 a.m., in which he declared that a state of war existed between Britain and Germany. Mason, along with most people, was rather scared and thought that bombs would soon be falling.

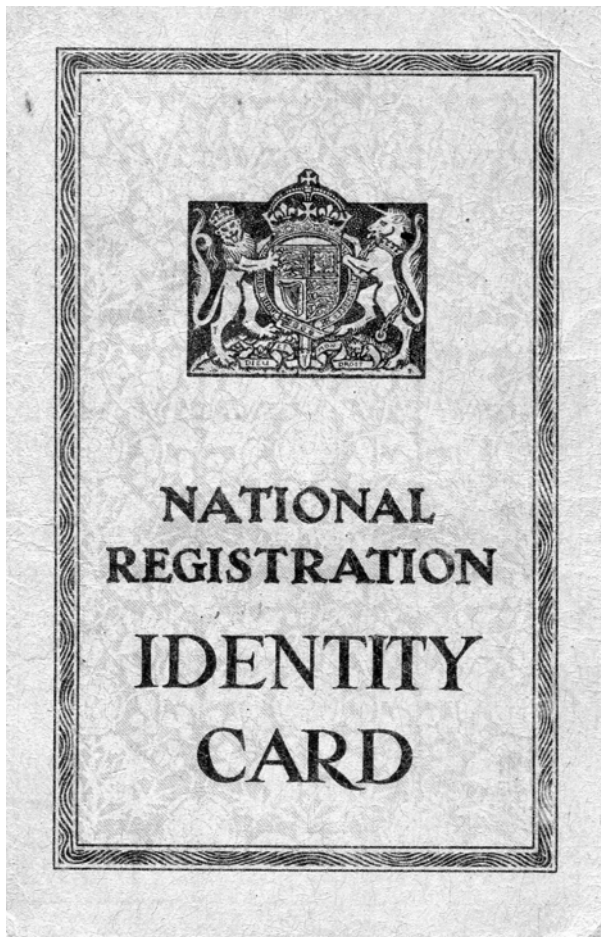


Members of the Framlingham Territorials in good spirits outside the Drill Hall in 1939.

On 13 September a meeting was held at the Area School to discuss locations for the air raid shelters. Two days later, it was agreed that the school would re-open in four days, and parents would be notified that 'the managers accepted no responsibility for the safety of the children, although every care would be taken'.

By now there was a considerable military presence in the town. The 32nd Searchlight Regiment had set up its HQ at the Crown Hotel in August and the 329 Battery searchlights were to be located at Lampard Brook, where the pill box still survives. The Territorials had a military presence in Framlingham with a strength exceeding fifty men. It had been a different picture in the early 1930s when they faced being disbanded due to lack of numbers, there being no appetite for military training or the prospect of another war. Men who joined the Territorials generally had full-time jobs and attended the new Drill Hall on one evening a week for training, and also went on a two-week summer camp each year. Lieutenant Geoffrey Clarke was Commanding Officer of C Company, the Framlingham Detachment of the 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. History was repeating itself here, as his uncle, Colonel E.P. Clarke, held the same position in the First World War and was an ardent promoter of the Territorials in the ensuing years.

Soon after their summer camp, orders were received on 1 September 1939 to mobilise the Territorial Army. For the next two years, C Company was on the move, carrying out defensive work and training exercises in England and Scotland. They then departed from Liverpool, their final destination being Singapore. The ensuing action with the Japanese lasted for seventeen days, when the British forces capitulated. For our Suffolk men, the next three and a half years were spent in captivity, with many men dying from beatings, malnutrition, disease and exhaustion. For those that returned, many would bear physical and mental scars for the rest of their lives.



Registration Day for Identity Cards was 29 September, 1939.

On 23 September, a meeting was held to form a Hospital Supply Depot, to be organised by Mrs Woodgate. An appeal was made for people to knit bed socks and water bottle covers. It was noted that 'whitening of the curbs' to aid visibility at night, was rather behind in the town. The Fire Station had been sandbagged. National Registration Day was on 29 September when everyone had to register their details and would be issued with an Identity Card, which had to be carried at all times. In 1939 Britain imported about 60 per cent of its food, and these supplies would be at significant risk from enemy submarines when war broke out. This had been anticipated by the Government, who established the Ministry of Food in 1937. Petrol was the first commodity to be rationed, with coupons being required from 16 September 1939. There were petrol pumps

at Walne's garage in Riverside, Garrard's in Fore Street and Fairweather's in Well Close Square. The petrol allowance for private vehicles was withdrawn in 1942, when most cars were jacked up and left supported on bricks until the war was over. Some commercial vehicles towed trailers with generators to produce gas for powering the engine. Stephen Sullivan recalled the conductor of an Eastern Counties bus stoking up the generator while waiting in Well Close Square.

The concept behind rationing was that prices and quantities of goods would be controlled, so that everyone should be able to buy them. Identity cards and ration books were issued, which had to be registered with specific shops. For example, you could buy groceries only from your designated grocer, for which you would need the relevant number of coupons. The College's ration cards were deposited with Carley the grocer and Durrant the butcher.

The first year of the war was very different to what had been expected. There were no mass bombings of our country and this period would become known as the 'Phoney War'. It was not until after the evacuation of our troops from Dunkirk in 1940, the threat of invasion and the subsequent mass air raids, that the true nature of modern warfare would be felt in this country.

This article has been based on my book *A Suffolk Town in Wartime, Framlingham 1939 to 1945*, where information for the whole wartime period can be found along with all references. For more information or copies of the book, email framww2@gmail.com



The Regal cinema opened in 1939 and would become a very popular venue throughout the war for military personnel as well as residents.

Framlingham Historical Photo Archive <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/>

THE FRAMLINGHAM PARISH REGISTERS

By E. A. Wrigley

The analysis of Framlingham registers is most interesting. It reveals an overall pattern which has proved very common throughout the mass of Registers whose analyses have now come back to me - that is a steady and fairly large surplus of baptisms down to the Civil War period, followed by a long period, often extending up to a century, during which burials and baptisms were roughly in balance, and indeed when burials were quite frequently larger in number than baptisms.

The Marriage Register shows a seasonal pattern of marriage common in much of eastern England, with a fairly strongly-marked peak in the late autumn, particularly in October, and a less well-marked peak in the spring and early summer period.

On the whole, the parish appears to have escaped years of very heavy mortality surprisingly well, though it was probably touched by a last Plague spasm in 1666: the pattern of deaths with a concentration in the months of late summer and early autumn is highly typical of the Plague. On the other hand, the period 1727-9, which in very many parishes in western England produced severe mortality, left Framlingham largely untouched. There seems to have been few years of really heavy mortality in Tudor times, which is again a contrast with the rest of the country.

A typed note accompanies the above text as follows:

Note added by Mr P. J. Stannard in September 1968 and agreed by Brigadier J.J. Packard.

In the summer of 1666 Framlingham was visited with the plague. Entries in the Burial Register show 111 deaths recorded in four months, viz. 19 in July, 43 in August, 21 in September, 28 in October. In one year from March 1666 to March 1667 there were in all one hundred and fifty interments.



Framlingham men on the castle hills, 1916. Rear left, Joe Hearn (Royal Flying Corps), Albert Cook, Edward Tysoe, Claude Etheridge, H Calvert, William Moore (Royal Naval Air Service). Middle row left, Cecil Sherman, Frederick Sherman, Bo Kerridge, E Woods, Percy Stannard. Front row left, M Myhall, Moore and Cook.

Framlingham Historical Photo Archive <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/>

NOTES FROM ELLA BROWNSORD

By John F. Bridges

The Brownsord name used to be well known in the town as they had a butcher's shop in Fore Street, which in the mid 19th century was the Waggon and Horses public house. The property is currently undergoing major refurbishment. In the 1940s the shop was run by John Brownsord and he lived there with his sisters Marjory and Ella.

They were both enthusiastic local historians and involved with our Society. Ella taught at the Sir Robert Hitcham School. I am grateful to Kevin Eastaugh for sending me two letters that had been written by Ella to his mother Phyllis Hooper. They both evoke a picture of a time gone by, and how everyone got caught up in the war effort. This first letter is from October 1936 and is a heartfelt thank you sent to all her former pupils following her move to Felixstowe.

My Dear Phyllis,

I feel I must say 'thank you' to everyone one of you separately for the wonderful presents, which you, with my present girls, showered me on that never-to-be-forgotten day, September 30th 1936. You know, so well, how much my work with you in Sir Robert Hitcham's School meant to me, so I cannot enlarge on it - the good days, the bad days, the awkward days we had together in those classrooms overlooking one of the most beautiful of Suffolk views. And because we knew one another we were always able to turn over another page.

So whenever I look at your parting gifts, it shall bring back to mind those memories I hold so dear, which I have stored as the years passed – memories of work and effort and achievement.

My new work here presents as much opportunity for the future as I had in the past when I came to Framlingham, but in spite of that the break has been most difficult. Whatever happens you will always be 'My Girls' and as such I shall follow with interest your progress along the road of life. If ever I can help you in any way, I hope you will not hesitate to come to me, and in the spirit of our 'Schoolday's friendship, childhood memories' we will set to work together again.

With heartfelt thanks for all your love and friendship made tangible in these beautiful gifts, and with my love,

I remain,
Yours most affectionately,

Ella K Brownsord

The second letter is from October 1940 when she has moved to Wythall in Birmingham. It is not exactly clear why she has gone to Birmingham. There were evacuees in Framlingham from the outset of the war, but following the Dunkirk retreat and the threat of invasion, many evacuees were moved from previously safe areas such as Framlingham, to the Midlands and her move may have been in connection with that. In the penultimate paragraph she refers to the bombing raid on Framingham on October 6, 1940, when Caroline Harvey the Infant's School headmistress was killed.

My Dear Phyllis,

A very long time ago you wrote to me! And owing to pressure of work, I haven't had a minute in which to write to you, but I am making one write. You know we came out without a helper and are not allowed one, and consequently it is more than a full time job being evacuated. One starts off about 8.15 and goes as long as there is daylight, because, apart from the Educational side, there is the social side, billets, clothes, health, doctors (I have mine who who advise in this wide

– spread village.) and discipline, and last but not least, letters, letters, letters! So that my Sundays are usually my clearing days! And I average 14 letters per Sunday. There is no difference between one day's routine and the next; one just goes on and on.

My 'village' is a large scattered one, on the boundary of B'ham, so that from one of my schools I can throw a stone and it is in B'ham. We are in the Barrage Balloon protection Area; near a huge Barrage Balloon works, 4 miles by road from the Austin Motor Works, and within reach of no end of the big industrial war factories! So that since August 8th we have been quite in the limelight for raids, and the sirens (one can hear practically all the B'ham ones, and can count 15 without turning a hair) are regular and monotonous. But since the night of August 26th, 27th, when 11 fires were started and the sky was so rosy red one could have read the smallest print, we have had nothing so nerve wracking, and although we hear the planes, and bombs are dropped, one is getting hardened. Of course London has had so much attention that is why we have had less lately.

I was deeply grieved for poor old Fam. last Sunday! And terribly shocked about Miss Harvey. My people tell me Framlingham is badly scarred and standing up to it bravely. I love every stick and stone of the place. But I understand that it is a miracle that no one else was hurt. Write and tell me all about everything when you have time, and forgive me if I take a long time to answer. My flesh gets so weary. How is Cecil in the North? and what is Irene doing and of course how are you?

With my love and all good wishes
Yours very affectionately

E. K. Brownsord



The Old Tavern House in Fore Street where Ella Brownsord lived, with old butcher's shop to right.
Photo via Kevin Eastaugh

1913

M^r Breese
John B
Bought of THE MISSES BROWNSORD,
BUTCHERS.

Jan 3	Stk & Kid	2 1/4	1 10 1/2
4	1/2 Leg	5	4 2
7	Leg	10	8 4
	Silverside	9 3/4	8 1 1/2
14	Rp Stk	3	2 9
17	Wing Pot	5 10	4 8
Feb 14	Pot	4 6	3 5
	Suet		4
18	Beef	2 2 1/2	1 5
22	Spin In	4 1/2	3 9
24	Stk	3 6	3 0
28	Wing Pot	4 1/4	4 1
Arch 8	Beef 2 1/2 Suet 8		3 3
14	RP Pot	4 1/2	3 6
19	Stk & Kid	2 6	1 10
20	S. Bricket	7	4 8
28	Wing Pot	5 1/2	4 7
	Stk & Kid	1 1/4	1 5
			3 5 2

Silled with hands
Apr 26 1913
J. Brownsord

Brownsord Invoice
James Breese Collection.



Tree planting ceremony in 1966. From left, Percy Stannard, ?, Henry Nurse, Ken Freeman, Tom Fuller, Stanley Baines, ?, ?, Mrs Clay, Harry Hall, Alec Cooper, Ray Waterson?, Gerald Leedam, Major Clay, and both Misses Brownsord. Framlingham Historical Photo Archive <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/>

SUMMER VISITS 2019

We had three visits which were all well attended. On 12th June everyone assembled at Woodbridge Tide Mill, where we were given a tour of the mill along with demonstrations of the milling process by Dan Tarrant-Willis. There has been a mill in this location since 1170, and the present one has been here since 1793. It was fascinating to see what is an early example of the Industrial Revolution (or should it Industrious Revolution?). Watching the gears and stones turning under the power of the water was spectacular. Despite the continuous pouring rain it was an informative and entertaining visit. It is worth mentioning the museum, which is in close proximity to the Mill and well worth a visit



The Woodbridge Tide Mill
©Simon Garrett



The 25th July turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far, for our visit to Bentwaters Park. The invite was extended beyond the Society and we were pleased to welcome friends from the Worlingworth History Group. We initially had 40 booked in for the visit, but on the day it had reduced to 30, mainly due to the heat.



Working steam engine ©
John Bridges

This site was chosen back in 1942 as a suitable RAF base, but today it is mainly known for its association with the American fighter planes which were based there up until the base closure in 1993. The Kemble family purchased much of the land and buildings, and it is now a highly developed site with many companies operating

from there. Our tour started with a coach trip which highlighted many of the locations that were top secret when the base was operational, and included the bunkers where nuclear bombs were stored.

We then returned to the area where Bill's museum is located, when we had a whistle-stop tour of just a sample of the vast number of tractors and mechanised vehicles in his collection, plus a traction engine in steam. There was also an impressive display of ladies fashions from the 1870s through to the 1970s, along with a Home Front exhibition, plus one building that is dedicated to the Holocaust. There was in fact too much to take in, and combined with the extreme temperature, everyone was flagging at the end.



A very small part of the collection! © Simon Garrett

The final visit was to the Suffolk Record Office in Gatacre Road, Ipswich, for a behind the scenes tour. We were guided throughout by Judith Yeo, who usefully explained the basis of the Records Office, and their move next year to the new Hold building, with a change of name to Suffolk Archives.

We then went to the main records storage room, where I think we were all impressed by the size of it, and the movable cabinets that allow maximum storage. Then onto the public areas where a display of Framlingham material had been assembled for us to view. This included an original parish register from the 1550s which was in pristine condition. Also, many old photographs and details from the Tithe map and Apportionment Book of 1842. A most interesting afternoon.