

FRAM



Newsletter no.1 March 2020

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our members. The *FRAM* Journal which our editor Bob Roberts started in 1997, ran for sixty issues and contains a wealth of information. As you know it has become increasingly difficult to find suitable articles for the Journal and the decision was taken to change to a Newsletter format. This enables us to send you the Newsletter by email, thereby saving the ever increasing costs of printing and postage. You can then save it, print it or delete as you wish. Those who do not have email will receive a printed copy.

The intention is that the Newsletter will have short articles of interest along with photos, and also provide information about Summer Visits and Talks etc. Longer articles will eventually be published on the website. This is not the Society's first Newsletter as that format was introduced in 1968 and ran through to 1974. Members contributed short articles often relating to events in Framlingham over 100 years ago from now. A number of these will be introduced again as I doubt many members will recall them. We welcome feedback from our members through the contact details provided. There are lots of changes taking place in Framlingham and the Newsletter will be a good place to record them, so please send us anything you feel would be of interest.

John F. Bridges President

We would encourage you to investigate our web site <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/>

It has a wealth of photographs of historical Framlingham, as well as information on the Society, notification of future events and in the future longer articles. We are also publishing summaries of some of the talks given over the winter season for those who may have missed them.

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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

Crinkle-Crankle Walls. December 1968

How many know that Fram had its own crinkle-crankle wall? [located on Coop site]. Opinions differ as to the reason for building in this way, but knowing our thrifty habits, we plumb for it being the cheapest, i.e. one brick thick instead of the normal two. Other crinkle-crankle walls are at Easton and Bramfield.

There is another crinkle-crankle wall up Mount Pleasant. The one on the Coop site was knocked down when that development took place in 1993.

Winter-Warmer. March 1969

Fifty years ago the school mistress in a nearby village had occasion, owing to illness, to remove some of a pupil's clothing. The wrath of the mother descended upon her because the child 'had been sown up for the winter'.



The crinkle-krackle wall in 1987, prior to the site being cleared for the Coop development. (Lanman Museum)



The Market Hill was clearly not a scene of great activity all the time.

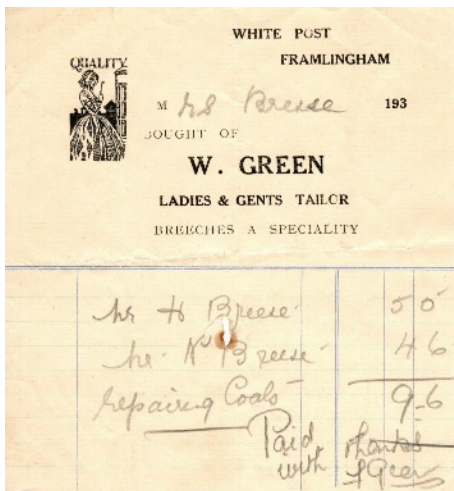
Market Hill 1907 and Later. (March 1969)

This article is from George Cooper, a former editor of the original Newsletter.

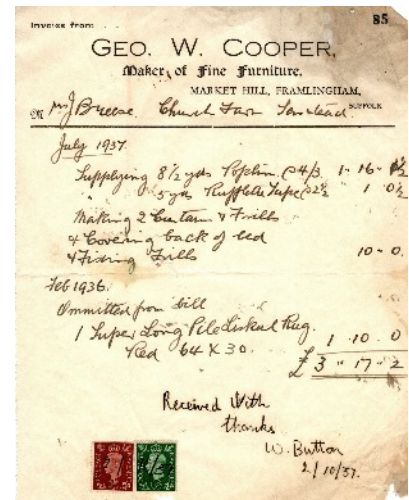
As a resident on Market Hill for 67 years I can remember many interesting sights and sounds and in particular Saturday market day. A place of hustle, bustle and business; farmers' gigs and countrymen's wagons and carts coming in early in the day to put up at the various inns and hostelryes. Our town crier would be announcing items of special interest with his 'Oi Yea, Oi Yea, Oi Yea, this is to give notice...' and ending up with 'God save the King and hang the Crier'. A hundred or more Welsh ponies milling around in a circle. Towards evening the naphtha flares would be blazing. Cheap Jacks selling their wares – watches, culinary articles, china etc. In season (October) there would be a heavy dray loaded with Lowestoft herrings – 48 a shilling. What a place of colour, light, movement and noise! There was the travelling dentist with a banner on which 'SUDDEN DEATH' stood out in ten-inch red letters and underneath, very small 'to tooth ache'. A borrowed chair and table, a pile of discarded molars. 'No charge; give me what you like,' and when he had taken out the offending tooth, 'Didn't hurt you did I?', 'No',...and then the queue began, to have their teeth out. I remember two visits of his around 1907-1910. I was told he became a very famous dentist in London.

I bought paraffin from Garrards for the Fire-Eater. He swallowed a pint and by working his chest muscles blew a flame twelve feet long which roared like a mighty blow-lamp. He also walked around the Market Hill with a 40-gallon barrel balanced on his nose. He challenged anyone to do this and a sailor did take him on and actually did it. His nose was however, much out of joint afterwards. This character used to lie on the ground and ask a blacksmith's striker to break paving stones on his chest using a 14 lb. sledge hammer. Of side-shows there was the Lobster Lady, the Duck with Four Legs, the Calf with Three Legs. The greatest site I ever saw on

Market Hill was 'Bostock and Wombwell's Giant Menagerie'. The huge tent covered the entire Market Hill; just outside the Crown Hotel and Barclays Bank were two great Burrell steam showmen's engines, their brass all a-shine, churning out the electricity. We did not sleep for two nights, the roaring of the lions and tigers kept us awake.



James Breese Collection



I remember races for wages to the white post and back, sometimes for ponies, more often on foot, a yard for a year. 'I'll race you to the white post and back,' and then the fun was fast and furious as a book was soon made up. What colour, what life, of the earth, earthy but the good earth, not the dull grey sameness of today. Fights? Yes, many!! We were known as a two constable town.

How things have changed on the Market Hill today. White Post Corner is the area near the sharp right hand bend after the straight road as you leave Framlingham in the Dennington direction. George Cooper had a life-long interest in steam engines. and kept several at his house. In later years, he bought the Tithe Barn in the grounds behind the Court House. He was a great craftsman. I remember him telling me as a young boy, to always use screws when making anything in wood. He backed this up by saying 'only criminals use nails!'

Saint Michael's Rooms

The development work for the new rooms is progressing. The Reverend Pilkington would not have expected the building to have served so well for 130 years. The following is from *Lambert's Family Almanac* in 1890.

Early in the spring the worthy rector, at his own cost, erected on the rectory grounds, near the north entrance gates, a "parish room" of large dimensions, known as "St. Michael's Rooms", in which the Sunday School, Mothers' Meetings, &c., find suitable accommodation.

The Green Shed

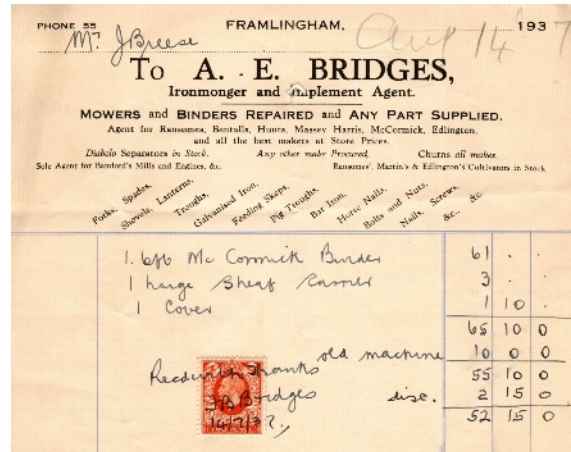
The building affectionately known as the 'Green Shed' in Fore Street was demolished in 2017 to make way for new housing. It was of no architectural merit, but I was sorry to witness its destruction. For most people, it was just a rather unattractive part of the townscape, but for me it held childhood memories. This large warehouse was built for my grandfather Albert Bridges in 1930, to house his expanding agricultural machinery business. Horse-drawn ploughs and binders, along with all manner of equipment that the farmer needed were kept there. The large area to the rear was a formal garden with lawns and fruit trees where the family would spend much time.

In the early 1950s, the period I first remember, combine harvesters and elevators were assembled next to the warehouse, where there was an overhead gantry crane to help with the heavy parts. The blacksmith's shop was still on the corner of Fore Street and Fairfield Road, where I fondly remember Ernie Levett shoeing some of his last Suffolk horses in the travus opposite. There were also workshops behind 14-18 Fore Street. Their workload reduced along with the decline of the working horse, while farms were increasingly able to carry out their own repairs. The corrugated building to the rear of the Green Shed was built to replace the old workshops, and was still a busy place in the 60s. I have good memories of men like Bernard Kemp trying to show me how to weld

and work with metal. When that generation retired, activity on the site fell. The warehouse subsequently re-invented itself as the Green Shed with various uses until its final demise in November 2017.



The Green Shed in Fore Street in 2017. (JFB)



James Breese Collection



The date for this photo is 2 May 1958, some six years after passenger services ceased. For a time the College ran special trains at the beginning and end of term, but the dates for this do not align. Any thoughts?

Summary of Talks given to the Society provided by Annie Heining

“YOU’LL MAKE A LOVELY SERGEANT” : The WW1 experience of Flora Sandes Talk 20th Nov 2019 and Summary of the article by Jeanette Robinson

Flora Sandes was the *only* Western woman to enlist *and* serve, in a fighting army. Sadly her story is little known today, although she kept a diary and wrote two autobiographies.

Flora was born in 1876, the youngest of eight children. Her father was an Anglo-Irish vicar who became Rector at Marlesford where the family settled in 1885. Flora enjoyed a privileged lifestyle and was taught at home with

her sisters by governesses. However, Flora dreamed of being a boy and, with her brothers, learnt hunting, riding and shooting. At Swiss finishing school she learnt to speak French and German. She then took a secretarial course and began her working life in London.

She travelled extensively in the US, including working for Pinkerton's Detective Agency and when she returned to the UK she bought a racing car with an inheritance, entering races and touring the country.

At the outbreak of war, she applied to the Red Cross as a nurse. Despite some nursing training, she was rejected due to her inexperience. However, through a Serbian contact she volunteered as a nurse in Serbia. She took with her, her violin, a rubber bath, hot water bottle, camp bed, first-aid kit and all the cigarettes she could carry. Conditions were dire at the Serbian Military Hospital, and on her first day she was given 140 patients to care for. There were extreme shortages of equipment and supplies, with operations carried out without anaesthetic.

Flora came back to the UK briefly, raised £2000 and returned to Serbia with tons of medical supplies. Shortly after this Flora contracted Typhus. She was bedridden for six weeks but recovered. Having developed immunity, she was sent to a hospital with a Typhus epidemic. Many patients were dying of gangrene and Flora learnt to amputate fingers and toes.

In October 1915 Serbia was under attack on several fronts and the Serbian commander ordered retreat. Flora joined an ambulance unit but in order to join the retreat she applied to join the Serbian army, becoming the only Western woman to enlist in a regular army during the First World War. The route to Albania and Montenegro was hazardous with narrow frozen paths. There were shortages of food and shelter and many injuries. Flora took up a rifle and fought the pursuing Bulgarian army, her fellow Serbian soldiers calling her 'brother'. After five days, walking 14 hours a day they arrived. Less than half those who started the march survived. Flora was promoted to Corporal for her efforts.

The Serbian army regrouped in Corfu and Flora was promoted to Sergeant. Joined by the Allies they regained ground but with huge losses. Flora was badly injured by a grenade, suffering 24 shrapnel wounds. She was awarded Serbia's equivalent of the Victoria Cross and promoted again to Sergeant Major. As Flora convalesced the war began to turn in favour of the Allies and in 1918 Serbia was liberated.

In 1921 Flora was on the Adriatic helping to tackle the smuggling trade. As the only woman and foreigner to become a commissioned officer in the Serbian army, she was given a platoon to lead, mostly comprising high ranking, White Russians, one of whom was Yurie Yudenitch, a former Russian colonel. When the platoon was demobilised 8 months later, Flora found herself a civilian for the first time in 7 years.

In 1927 Flora and Yurie were married. She was 51 years and he was 38 years old. They settled in Paris but finding suitable work was difficult and two years later they went back to Belgrade and set up its first taxi service.

In 1941 Flora and Yurie were arrested briefly by the Gestapo and held under horrendous conditions. Shortly after this experience Yurie died and Flora lived the rest of WW2 in German occupied Belgrade.

Flora returned to England in 1946, aged 69 and settled in Hacheston. She returned to Yugoslavia in 1954 to attend a reunion, where people came from far and wide to see her. She died in 1956 at Ipswich Hospital aged 80. A plaque to her memory was erected in Marlesford church.

Flora Sandes was an extraordinary woman. Although she lived through the Suffragette era, she appears to have taken no interest in politics, seeking a life of adventure, despite her gender. At the time she was globally famous and yet is mainly forgotten today, except in Serbia where a 1986 film *Where the Lemon Blossoms Bloom* was seen by every school child in Serbia.

The History of the East Anglian Daily Times by Brad Jones, Editor 15th January 2020

The East Anglian Daily Times (EADT) was launched on 13th October 1874. There was no local daily paper and the nationals didn't arrive until lunchtime. This meant EADT could be five hours ahead, at least for a few months, until the nationals started arriving at 7.00am. The guiding principles in the first issue were based on trust and integrity, committing to report faithfully and for there to be no editorial misrepresentation. One of its main roles is still to hold local authorities to account. Distribution of the paper was by horse and cart or bike handcart. The paper grew in influence but was never sensational. Over the years it has campaigned on a number of issues but remains politically neutral.

While EADT continues to be a well-known brand, things are changing. Fewer people now buy a daily newspaper. The internet has brought huge changes, most audiences are on line – approximately 120,000 readers access the

EADT website daily. People have come to expect the news to be free and this is a big issue for local newspapers. Publishing is now almost an instant event and anyone can publish. A story from Fram used to be typed up and taken on the bus to Ipswich for publication! There is a general decline in print media and most advertising revenue has gone. Since 2005, 200 newspapers have closed. EADT is still performing well but declining by 9% per annum.

A new business model is needed to cope with changing times. EADT is transforming the newsroom, mindful of the times that people go on line – mostly between 6.00-8.00am. Staff require new skills in order to get news onto social media. The readership has gone up and up, with 'analytics' being used to find out what people want. It is a difficult balance between publishing what people want to read and what is responsible journalism. "There should be more control of what the (national) press does". There is pressure to 'dumb down' but also a wish to remain true to the paper's values. The stories from Fram most read recently have been, student vandals at the College; Persimmon Homes; Ed Sheeran concert timings and local road closures. At the moment the issue of what will be on the John Grosse site is receiving a lot of attention.

Facebook and Google control the algorithms, hoover up funds and have a huge influence on what people read. They recognise the damage they have done to local newspapers and now fund one of EADT's journalists. The BBC also funds a reporter to cover Councils and other Public bodies.

While trying to adapt to a changing context, EADT is mindful of its role in protecting local democracy. No-one else will scrutinize and write about local authorities and hold them to account.

Archaeology in Rendlesham by Sir Michael Bunbury Bt. 10th February 2020

The Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* 731AD refers to the baptism of King Swithhelm 660-664 in Rendlesham. Therefore, the possibility of Rendlesham being a royal village sparked archaeological interest. There was a lot of illegal activity on the site, with some gold items appearing for sale on the internet. This led to liaison with the Council and a team of four authorised metal detectorists were appointed.

This team of four have now been working on Sir Michael's land for ten years, working around the needs of the farming callendar. They have made over 100,000 finds, mostly 18th century but including gold coins dated from 650-670AD; Roman coins, as well as coins from other countries. The team of four (referred to affectionately by Sir Michael as 'the boys') have worked to consistently high standards, with meticulous recording and all finds marked with the GPS location. It is unlikely that much more will be found now. Thanks to these high standards academics are able to draw certain conclusions.

In 2011 Professor Scarle became involved. He now chairs a meeting of all interested parties. The finds tend to confirm the thesis that Rendlesham was a high status Anglo Saxon site. The evidence shows continuous settlement between the 5th and 8th centuries, with activity concentrated around the stream and river. In 2013-14 excavation trenches were dug. Evidence from a midden indicated that the inhabitants ate a lot of meat. Aerial photography revealed the likely site of a high status building. Metal items show evidence of highly skilled craftsmen and a workshop area has been identified. Jewellery and weapon fittings served an elite social group. Early continental/Germanic items indicate no break in occupation of the site between the Roman and Anglo Saxon period. Coins from Byzantine, Constantinople and Antioch indicate long-distance cultural contacts and trade. In 670AD coins changed from gold to silver, however both were used at Rendlesham.

The site therefore meets the criteria for being the site mentioned by Bede; being a regional site for tax collection; trade fairs; the dispensation of justice and the presence of social elites. As a royal centre, the king would have stayed there.

The finds at Rendlesham have been a 'game changer' for understanding Anglo Saxon England. It is the largest and richest centre in the UK. The finds and the geographical proximity to Sutton Hoo indicate a likely connection

between the two sites. A Heritage Lottery grant has allowed further development of the site between 2020-2024, when a further trench will be dug – volunteers wanted!

Subsequent to the talk, further information has been received as to the value of the gold coins. The laws of King Ine of Wessex (c AD 700) say that a ewe with her lamb is worth a shilling until a fortnight after Easter. If this shilling is the same monetary unit as the gold coins we call shillings, thrymsas or tremisses then current livestock values would suggest a modern equivalent value of £100-£150 (depending upon breed, condition, state of market part of country etc.) They can therefore be thought of as £100 bits.

Summer Visits

We are pleased to outline our provisional summer programme and hope you will find the events interesting and varied. As we are living in such uncertain times, it is likely that the events will **NOT** go ahead due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

We have been advised that the Transport Museum and Sutton Hoo have closed their doors for the time being and will review the situation as things develop.

However, it would be helpful if members can indicate an interest in the visits so we can plan ahead. Please let Val know by contacting her on 01728 621143, or email valeriekeasley@suffolkonline.net

IPSWICH TRANSPORT MUSEUM – Tuesday 9th June, price TBA

Ipswich Transport Museum is a collection of over 100 major transport and engineering objects which were made or used in the Ipswich area. They show how people used to go about their daily lives and remind us of the many things that were actually designed and built on our doorstep..

The museum also houses the Ipswich Engineering Collection which includes many items from well-known companies including Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, Ransomes and Rapier, Cranes, Reavell and Cocksedge. The displays include cranes, fork lift trucks, lawnmowers and intricate models.

So, whether you are interested in buses, lorries, bikes, cranes or carriages, social history or just want to know a bit more about the area, you will find our museum a fascinating place.

The guided tour will take place in small groups. Parking is available on site. The Sunbeam Café will be available for refreshments. Most of the museum is on one level, with step-free access from outside.

SUTTON HOO – Tranmer House and The High Hall – Tuesday 14th July, 11.00-1.00pm, price TBA

The High Hall-The Exhibition Hall is a great place to discover the unique history of Sutton Hoo and learn more about the early English people. Re-opened in June 2019 you will see exhibits looking at the lives of the Anglo-Saxons and just how Sutton Hoo came to be such a significant place in English history.

Tranmer House - Tranmer House is the former home of Edith Pretty and was re-opened in June 2019. It has been transformed into a new exhibition exploring the people and stories behind the Sutton Hoo discovery. This includes the different archaeology campaigns and techniques that have driven the ongoing discoveries at Sutton Hoo.

Car parking available on site. All buildings are on one level. Outdoor mobility scooters and indoor wheelchairs can be booked in advance. Café available for refreshments and lunch.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BLYTHBURGH – Friday 7th August, 11.00am, price TBA

Known as the Cathedral on the Marshes, Blythburgh has a long history of Christianity dating back to pre-Conquest times. It is believed there has been a church on the site since 630. The 'Doomsday' survey of 1087 lists Blythburgh as one of the richest churches in Suffolk. Blythburgh Priory was founded in 1130, with the church being built in 1412. The church has thirty-six magnificent roof angels that have survived the Reformation and the destruction of the Civil War.

At the time of our guided tour the church is hosting the *Inspired by Becker Art Society* exhibition. Harry Becker 1865-1928 was born in Colchester but lived in Wenhaston for many years and is buried in the churchyard at Blythburgh. A highly talented artist he shunned a commercial career and painted landscapes and rural life in the Suffolk he loved.

There is the option of lunch at the White Hart following the visit.

Car parking is available at the church.

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