

# FRAM



## Newsletter no.2 September 2020

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### Letter from The Chairman

David Ransom

### Our plans for the 2021 season

Your committee has been very busy since our meeting on 21 July 2020 and I am now able to update you on our plans for the immediate future.

### Accounts

First, you will be pleased to know that our finances are sound. The accounts to 30 June 2020 show a modest £248 excess of income over expenditure. In a normal year our expenditure approaches £2400 and we are just about 'consuming our own smoke'. This season's income has been much lower than usual but on the other hand so has our expenditure. We will not be asking you to renew subs just yet. However, we cannot continue to function without our subscriptions, and they will be requested at some point during the year.

### Winter Lectures

Charles Seely, our redoubtable Secretary, had a full range of speakers lined up for us to enjoy. However, current regulations and advice about Covid 19 make it impossible to hold those lectures. We have considered whether to change to a venue with more space for the audience; whether talks could be distributed on-line, but; regrettably neither option is viable, and so we have to accept that face to face lectures must be postponed until at least January 2021. However, all is not lost!

### The programme until after Christmas 2019

We hope that this second Newsletter will entertain you and thanks to our President John Bridges, who re-discovered it in his archives, and Simon Garret whose technical wizardry has made it possible, **over the next three months we will be sending out extracts from a CD made in 2007 called *Our Town in Sound***. Some of you may remember taking part in it and I hope it brings back happy memories; others of us who have not heard it before will find it fascinating.

Annie Heining, another member of the committee has undertaken to trawl through past FRAM Journals and to select articles of interest from them. This is quite an undertaking because computerised records exist for only a few recent years. Thus, the articles will have to be re-typed and prepared. **We will be sending these articles to you as Newsletter Supplements over the months ahead.**

We are members of the British Association of Local History (BALH) and amongst other things they offer on-line Ten Minute Talks on a variety of topics (not necessarily of truly local interest) and these can be accessed at the following website. <https://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks> **As a member of the Framlingham History you are entitled to access these talks if any time you wish.**

### The AGM

Under our constitution we are required to hold an AGM every October. We have yet to decide how to do this but I am pleased to confirm that all the existing members of the committee are prepared to stand for the coming year. You will receive further information about this in due course

It hardly needs to be said but we are living in the strangest of times and whilst we are desperately eager to get back to normal we can only do so as the country – perhaps even the world – learns how to cope with Covid 19.

### History and Pandemics

Alison Bowman

When does history start? It is a question that has vexed many historians and curators. We are fortunate in Framlingham in that Harold Lanman collected the ephemera that most people consign to the rubbish bin. What will be remembered in 100 years from now as we save little and the amount potentially collectable is vast? As John Bridges pointed out in the minutes of the parish meetings in the Great War there is no mention of the war itself. In all likelihood it was so present in everybody's minds that they felt no need to record it. Will it be the same for the extraordinary year we have been experiencing? COVID 19 is so much with us in all aspects of our lives that we may not properly record it and experiences will be taken for granted. Schools were closed and meetings, sports events and large social gatherings are cancelled.

Of course pandemics are not new. Black Death, Bubonic plague and Spanish flu (which did not come from Spain) comes to mind as well as later outbreaks such as SARS. However beyond this there are few similarities between COVID 19 and Spanish flu (H1N1) other than they both seem to have resulted from animal to human transfer. Despite a degree of public confusion, COVID is not a flu virus and the range of those most affected is very different. Spanish flu was most destructive to the group of otherwise healthy young adults ranged between 15 and 34 years old whereas we know only too well that COVID 19 is primarily fatal to the elderly often with other health difficulties. We do not know yet what the final death toll will be from COVID but it is currently running at 924k globally (14<sup>th</sup> September 2020) with the total deaths from Spanish flu estimated at 50 million. There is obviously a huge difference in the death toll but like Spanish flu, at this time there is no preventative vaccine although we do have many other medical advantages such as antibiotics for subsidiary infections

Reactions were in many ways similar to now in that schools were closed, people wore masks and mass hospitals were opened but lack of knowledge of what Spanish flu was and how it was spread did not lead to the cessation of gatherings (an error repeated at the beginning of this pandemic) and it ran like wildfire through the population in three separate waves roughly between May 2018 and June 1919.

Smallman–Raynor, M., Johnson, N. and Cliff, A.D. (2002), The spatial anatomy of an epidemic: influenza in London and the county boroughs of England and Wales, 1918–1919. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 27: 452-470. doi:[10.1111/1475-5661.00065](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-5661.00065)



Nursing staff at Hampstead Military Hospital wear their influenza masks for a photograph, 1919 (source RCN)

I have tried to find comparable figures either at local, county or regional level but this has proved impossible as the ONS only publishes death tolls by region with no granularity, for the East of England it sadly amounts to 5096 people (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 source ONS). The figure for deaths from Spanish flu in Suffolk is estimated to be in the region of 975 although it is difficult to be accurate as the data was suppressed by Governments at the time. However some data was published and the figure for Ipswich was 265 out of a population of 79383 .



A Daily Mirror cartoon 1<sup>st</sup> March 1918 shows the confusion then over public health messages (look familiar?)

At the national level 41628 have died of COVID and the comparable figure for Spanish flu is estimated at 250000. As can be seen Spanish flu was far worse than the current pandemic and that it would appear that our area has suffered less than some others in both cases. This may be attributed to a number of different factors such a low population density, a relatively low number of commuters (of which 70% use cars rather than public transport) and a preponderance of older people who may be less inclined to meet in large groups

Population by age group		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	Count %	Count %	Count %				
Persons aged 0 - 15	137,670	18.1	1,212,041	19.4	10,816,679	19.2	
Persons aged 16 - 64	444,287	58.4	3,785,525	60.7	35,116,566	62.4	
Persons aged 65+	179,393	23.6	1,238,506	19.9	10,353,716	18.4	

(source ONS and Suffolk Observatory)

The future will inevitably become the past and a matter of history but how the final story will pan out.....we will just have to wait and see!

## Wells in Framlingham

John Bridges

Some time ago I was asked if there was a list of the wells that had been used for providing water in the past. I said that I had never seen or heard of one and it was unlikely to exist. To my great surprise just such a list did turn up a couple of years ago. In the last war, the very real threat of invasion brought concerns over disruption to the new mains water supply system, and an investigation was carried out to establish the location and condition of the remaining wells. The following table dates from around 1943.

**Depth** in feet. **Yield** in gallons per hour

**NOTS** = Not on town supply, **OTS** = On town supply

**EP** = Electric pump, **HP** = Hand pump

LOCATION	DEPTH	YIELD	REMARKS
Saxtead Lodge	220	300/400	NOTS
Area School [Thomas Mills]	172	200	EP, NOTS
Council Houses	180	Good	HP
Mr Baldry, Pembroke Road	180	Unfailing	NOTS
No. 6 Pembroke Road			HP
Hazeldene, Pembroke Road, (Simmons)	160	Good	EP, NOTS
Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Road			EP, OTS, pump seldom used
Framlingham College	300	1500	Steam and electric pumps. Storage 27,000 gallons
Strawberry Hill, Pembroke Road	150	350	EP dismantled. Out of use for 3 years
Wooden House, College Road			HP
Mount Pleasant Farm (Fulcher)	183		EP and elevated tank
Hill House, Mt Pleasant	150		EP in working order. OTS
House adjoining Hill House			HP, OTS
Public Well, Mt Pleasant	50		HP, in use
Nesling's Farm, College Road	117	250	HP
The Limes, College Road	170		EP in working order, OTS
42 College Road, (Miss Mann)		Good	HP In working order
Fishmonger's yard. Vyces Road			HP In working order. (Fish curing establishment)
Gas Works	25	Good	HP In working order
Framlingham Castle (HMOW)		Good	HP in working order

White Horse Inn, Wellclose Sq.	Shallow Well	Copious	HP In use. NOTS
The Spring Well, Albert Place	Shallow Well	Copious	HP Public Supply
LNER railway station	28	2,500	For half hour. 2 hours recovery. EP. Storage tank 5,000 gallons
Ash Grove	135	1200	NOTS
The Rectory	160		OTS. Not used for 5 years
Lloyds Bank, Market Hill	155	Bare	HP in working order. Previously reported good yield
Barclays Bank, Market Hill	150	Good	HP In working order
Cooperative Stores	20	Shallow Well	HP out of order
Miss Carley, Manor House	20	Shallow Well	HP in working order
Northwold House, Double Street	120	400	EP. OTS
The Haynings, Fore Street	100	250	EP. NOTS
Fairfield House, Fairfield Road	150	400	EP in working order. OTS
Moat House, Castle Street	130		In military occupation. Pump now dismantled. OTS

At this time there were three public wells. One was located at the junction of College Road and Mount Pleasant, close to the post box. This well had a reputation for tainted water, and was not popular. The Spring Pump in Riverside is probably the oldest, and still exists. The third pump is Jeaffreson's Well at the Haynings, which was sunk in 1897. This became the source for the town's mains supply in 1938.



The Spring Pump, Riverside. Source Lanman Museum





The enclosed pump, Mills Almshouses, 2020.

Source JFB

I am thankful to Edmund Brown for providing the list. His father Kenneth was in the Home Guard and it seems likely that he was asked to prepare the list.

### Extracts from earlier newsletters

**March 1969.** George Cooper and the Zeppelin over Framlingham. Soon after the outbreak of the 1914-1918 War the 1<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> City of London Royal Field Artillery arrived in Framlingham. They set up camp on the Haynings Field, i.e. the field borderd by Saxmundham Road and Badingham Road (now built on and enclosing the Pageant Field). Four rows of horse lines were set up along Badingham Road and right-angled to it, with a harness room at the road end of each line. First of all, tents were set up, then army huts. On the site of the last bungalow in Saxmundham Road a large circular trench was dug. The spoil from this was thrown outwards, forming a steep bank. The old 15-pounder guns were drawn on to this bank and their tailstocks dropped into the trench. This brought their muzzles up. They fired one trial shot and the gun promptly went onto its back. So all that work was in vain. The new 18-pounders arrived about January 1915 and away went the regiment to France. They were followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> City of London RFA. Early in 1915 we heard a low droning in the sky and soon a Zeppelin came over. She dropped one bomb near the Haynings Field and a large splinter, weighing about three pounds, went right through one of the harness room roofs, but no one was hurt. This Zepp went on to Woodbridge where the Norfolk Yeomanry were encamped on Bromeswell Heath. Without orders the trigger-happy farmers boys opened fire on the airship and down came the bombs on Woodbridge. The entire regiment was later severely reprimanded.

An amusing sequel however came from the book written by Count Eckener, perhaps the most famous commander of Zeppelins. The Zepp in question was going on to London but she began to lose height slowly. She turned away over the North Sea losing height all the time. Everything was jettisoned; instruments, bombs, clothing, boots. She just made the German coast near Cuxhaven but she broke her back on landing. The crew were dressed only in their underwear. Upon examination, the envelope and gasbags were found to be full of small holes. The bullets of the Yeomanry had done their work well.

Further investigation indicates this was the Zeppelin L10 which had its first flight on May 15, 1915 and would go on to make five raids on England. On 12 August, there was to be a four Zeppelin raid, but three turned back and it was only L10 that reached our shores. Bombs were dropped in our area, with reference to Badingham, Gelham Hall, Wickham Market, Melton and Woodbridge when men of the London Infantry Brigade engaged L10 with machine gun and rifle fire. That night, six people lost their lives when 24 bombs were dropped on Woodbridge, and 100 houses damaged or destroyed. The L10 then proceeded to Parkeston where further bombs were dropped. The Zeppelin L10 later carried out further raids, but did meet its end on 3 September when it was struck by lightning and destroyed in a thunderstorm near Cuxhaven. Cooper does refer to Eckener's book for his information on the L10's demise, so it is presently unclear why these details do not fully align. Visit [www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk](http://www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk) for more information.]



A picture by Harold Lanman of a successful attack on a Zeppelin, June 7, 1915

**June 1969.** Motors were few and far between in 1914 and when the throb of one came from the Framlingham road half-a-mile away, someone would say 'Dr Dicks on his rounds.' Dr Dicks came to Framlingham for health reasons in 1911 and left in 1925 after the great tragedy of losing his only son of six. The steering of the car had failed. 14 years of service included an incident when Dr Dicks and a constable courageously tackled a deranged man and got from him a loaded gun. The doctor died in 1954 and Mrs Dicks returned to our town 11 years ago.

**June 1969.** The Framlingham Theatre is still standing – behind the Midland Bank in Church Street. [visible from the side road to Garrards Court]. The *East Anglian Magazine* (Dec.1952) mentioned that between 1710 and 1786 our theatre was in the Norwich Theatrical Circuit but that after 1786 it came into a circuit of small towns. Playbills of our theatre are in the museum. Mr Lanman reminded us of another location not very well known. This was the town Pound where straying animals were placed. It was on the Castle side of the Badingham Road just beyond Hatcher's depot.







The map of 1809 showing the location of the Pound in Badingham Road

**June 1969.** A hundred years ago a local farmer analysed the economy of a farm. The price of a coomb (18 stone) of wheat should be no more than the week's wages of a labourer. The other corn – barley and oats – should pay the rent. The cows should keep the house going i.e. milk, butter and cheeses sales should pay for the food etc. Chickens and eggs were the wife's perks i.e. her dress allowance and pocket money – she probably received nothing more

**September 1969.** 'The Tocsin'[An alarm bell or signal], as recalled by George Cooper. It seemed that I had not been asleep for very long when I was awakened by the beats of a galloping horse and the faint shouts of a man coming rapidly nearer. ...'Help! Help! Help! Help!' He pulled up outside our house. 'Help! Help! Fire, Fire! Where's the Clerk?' My father had the window down and shouted back: 'Mr Mayhew, Castle Street. Turn left and then right and shout again.' By this time I was dressed and, getting my bicycle out, was up the street to find out where the fire was. I met Mr Mayhew in his nightshirt with an overcoat over it, running for the church. Then CRASH! CRASH! From all eight bells together as he pulled four ropes of the carillon in each hand. An ear-splitting noise that could be heard for miles. So many crashes, then a pause. One mile! So many more crashes, a pause again. Two miles! So many more crashes, and stop. Three miles! (If the fire were in the town, only one set of crashes for a long duration). Soon men were running for Hatchers Meadow [Pigs Meadow] to catch the horses. It was a dark night and the horses were black, so you may know that was no joke. Other men were manhandling the heavy engine to the Castle Pond. [the fire engine was kept in the Castle. Until quite recently the fully restored manual pump was on display in the Castle]. The horses arrived and were quickly harnessed to the engine. 'Where's Arthur?' 'He's gone, ya fule!' Good! With a crash of the whip, they were away. Where to? Park Farm, Dennington. I was there as soon as the fire engine. The house was thatched and fully alight. The hose was rushed out and the basket-ended suction pipe dropped into the pond. With eight a side, sixteen strong men were pumping and four spares. These were very handy as it gave the men a rest in turn. Then I knew why they were so

concerned as to the whereabouts of Arthur Newson. He had harnessed his dog cart and was off with a barrel of beer. You try pumping a hand engine for a few hours and you will need some beer. After about three hours the last flames died down. Then a shout, 'Hold you hard there, Bill. Let her burn up a bit. We can't see what w'ere a-doing.' I can see them all now – Joe Peck, Bill Smith, Blucher Reid, John Carr, Frank Mallows and many more whose names I have forgotten. All gone now, but remembered for their willingness to give the right kind of help at the right time. The tocsin has gone too. More's the pity for it told you in no uncertain voice 'A neighbour is in trouble'.



A later photo of the Fire Brigade after they became mechanised. In the passenger seat is Alfred Mallows with Inky Smith and Joe Peck on his left.