

FRAM

Newsletter no. 7

April 2023



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From our Chairman

Once again our thanks are due to John Bridges, Alison Pickup and Annie Heining for preparing and producing our April 2023 Newsletter. Once more it is full of gems of interest. We hope you will enjoy it, and do please give us your feedback either by email to me, or in person to any committee member at our next, and final, talk of the 22/23 season on April 20th. It has been a great pleasure for us to have renewed contact with Bob Roberts who has been ill, and with whom we had rather lost touch. As editor of the Fram Journal and a long serving committee member Bob has been a very valued member of the society but he has now formally resigned as a committee member and trustee. He will be missed but he is now a lifetime member of the Society and is an Honorary Vice President. I am sure I speak for all of us in passing on our thanks and good wishes.

We are therefore seeking his replacement on the committee, particularly to help with arranging the Summer Visits that we offer each year. At the moment, plans for this summer's trips are under way but we are still looking for a long term commitment to this task from someone! I hate to bang on about this, and whilst I am happy to report that your committee is in good heart and enthusiastic to amuse, entertain and even educate members, the workload does tend to fall on the same few shoulders. Our membership is increasing in number and attendance at our Winter Lectures this season has been very good. If you are able to help you will be joining a very dynamic and active committee. Do let any committee member know of your interest. You will be very welcome to join us



A bronze plaque to mark when Mary was proclaimed Queen at Framlingham in 1553

(see later in Newsletter)

FRAMLINGHAM CHEMIST



In the Society's newsletter of March 2021 there was a story about the chemists in Framlingham and the sad tale of Reginald Betts. One name mentioned in the article was Mr Bennett who was manager of the Market Hill shop in the 1940s. Last year I received an email via the Society's website from Keren Hancox who is Bennett's granddaughter. She kindly sent this photograph of him within the dispensary of the shop. He was manager of the chemist's when it traded under the name of Hales until around 1948. His son David was curate at St Michael's church until 1948. Keren also said she had a film of the 1931 Framlingham Pageant that her grandfather had made, and she would try and find it.

Phillip Bennett in the dispensary at Hales chemists. Source K. Hancox.

FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE

Our Society's website www.framlinghamarchive.org.uk has over 800 old photographs of the town, and the oldest is one of the College. It was not a very good print, having various marks on it. A better copy has now been received. Construction of the buildings started in 1863 and the first boys entered in 1865. The clock, which can be seen, was gifted in 1865 and had previously been shown at the Great Exhibition in 1851. The bronze statue of Prince Albert was erected in 1865 but is not shown. This dates the photo to 1865. The chapel was added in 1866.

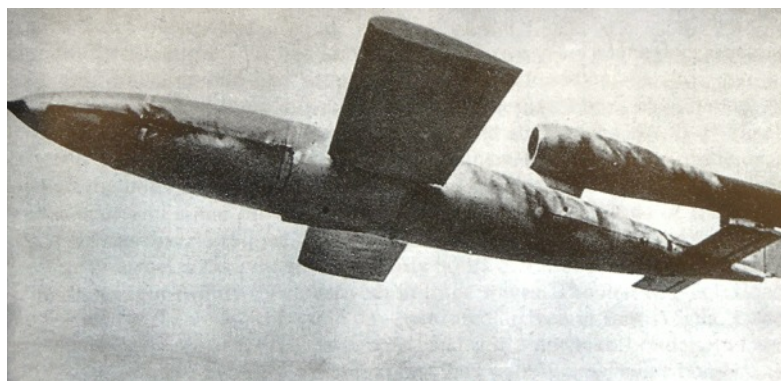


Framlingham College in 1865. Source; Framlingham Archive.

MORE DOODLEBUGS!

I am afraid I am rather preoccupied with doodlebugs at the moment as they are the subject (along with V2 rockets) of my next book which will hopefully be out in time for Christmas. I put in a request to the *East Anglian Daily Times* for people to contact me who had recollections of doodlebugs and received a good response. Two of these came from Framlingham residents; one from Bill Flemming, a long standing member of our Society and the other from Ethel Ayers (née Smith) who is at Mills Care Home.

Ethel Smith was 13 years old in 1944 and a pupil at Mills Grammar School. They had been warned about doodlebugs and told that there was a ten-second period between the motor cutting out and the explosion. On hearing it approach they all dived under their desks as instructed. The motor then cut out and soon after they heard the explosion. The girls then emerged from under their desks and carried on with the lesson. Bill Flemming, a long-standing member of our Society, was called into the garden by his father to witness the doodlebug making its passage over the town before exploding near Framlingham Hall less than two miles away.



The V1 or Doodlebug. Source: John Smith, Felixstowe at War.

NIGHT OUT AT FRAMLINGHAM AIR BASE

The role played by radar in the tracking of doodlebugs led to several interesting discoveries including a book by Peggy Haynes (née Butler) where she described a not-to-be repeated night out at Parham aerodrome, whose official name was Framlingham USAAF Station No. 153.

Program .					
Time	Activity	Place	Remarks		
1.00—1.30	... Chaplain's Services ...	Athletic Field	A Pause for Worship		
1.30—3.00	... Exhibition Softball Game :—390th B.G. (8th A.F. Champs., 1944) vs. All Star Rival Team	Athletic Field	At least the Hitting should be good		
3.00—4.30	... U.S.O. Show ...	Hangar No. 2	Good Entertainment from the good old U.S.A.		
5.00—5.30	... Bicycle Race—with awards to first five places	Around Perimeter Track	First Aid, and Liniment, supplied free by Base Dispensary		
5.00—5.30	... Band Concert, by 3rd Air Division Band ...	Hangar No. 2	Something for the Longhairs		
5.00—8.00	... Buffet Suppers ...	Combat Mess Consolidated Mess	Plenty of Chow—for a change		
6.15—7.00	... All Star Variety Show ...	Hangar No. 2	50—Beautiful, Gorgeous Gals—50		
7.00—???	... Dancing ...	Hangar No. 2	Famous "name" Band		
7.30—8.00	... Variety Show ...	Officers' Club and Rocker Club	Women, women, women		
8.15—???	... Dancing ...	Officers' Club and Rocker Club	'til you drop		
A Day to Remember !		Sports !!		Entertainment !!!	
		Dancing !!!!		Food Galore !!!!!	

This programme for the 300th mission gives a flavour of such events. Source: Parham Airfield Museum.

We went to Framlingham Air Base to celebrate in dance their 200th mission. How unwise we were! It was too far, and too fierce! Four dances, four bands and apparently 4,000,000 yelling, reeling Yanks, who had been celebrating already since 2 o'clock. Girls from all over Southern England were there—and some of them could hardly be called ladies. Tight satin skirts, transparent net and blood red nails were rife—one told us what they'd come for, another that the boys were delighted. The atmosphere was choking, the floor a quagmire of beer and mud and to crown all the journey back was hell. We lost four girls and found them again when their Jeep ran into the back of a truck on a nasty bend. The driver was going much too fast—and as Sonia and I alighted to go on duty, every battery in Suffolk opened up at a passing doodlebug and shrapnel came winging down through the trees. We leapt into a ditch by the gate (not in battle dress but in our 'party' skirts) and only later found it had been full of nettles—we scratched our stings all night while plotting. All we had to show for the night was nettle rash and a visit to 2 Flying Forts – and it was so dark we didn't see much of them. Framlingham? Never again!

The above is from *Searching in the Dark, Recollections of a WAAF Radar Operator 1942-46*, by Peggy Butler. HPC Publishing 1994.

LANMAN MUSEUM

In the year 2000, our Society, as part of the Millennium commemorations, commissioned a bronze plaque, designed by Mary Moore, to record the momentous event when Queen Mary was proclaimed Queen of England at Framlingham in 1553. The plaque was displayed for some time in the main hall in the castle, but then disappeared. Following the efforts of Charles Seely, English Heritage (EH) did find it. A builder had taken it home while works were being carried out! It was then replaced on the wall in the entrance into the castle. Time passed and it then disappeared again only to reappear in the EH office, now looking rather damaged. The plaque has now been restored by Christopher, the son of Elaine Elliott, who is one of the museum trustees. The Society has now kindly donated the plaque to the Lanman Museum where it is now on display. The new location is away from the elements and hopefully any other damage. There is also a copy of an original document (along with translation) written by Mary when she was at Framlingham.

The museum has also been fortunate in acquiring the Bill Watling Collection. He was a Framlingham man who served in the Second World War as a despatch rider. His family discovered a suit case of items in the loft which nobody knew existed, and kindly donated them to the museum. They are now on show along with uniforms.

Bill Watling had lost both his parents by the time he was thirteen, and went to live at Manor Farm in Framlingham where he worked after leaving school. When war broke out in September 1939, he expected to be called up but farming was a reserved occupation. It was not until 1942 that he got the call, at 21 years of age, to join 356 Battalion of the Royal Artillery (RA).

He moved around the country during his basic training before being sent to Edinburgh for further instruction as a motorcycle despatch rider. His job then was mainly to lead military convoys and communicating with gun sites, along with more general army chores. His first posting was to RA 52nd Lowland Division, assigned to 108th Light Anti Aircraft (LAA) Regiment. He took part in Operation Harlequin in September 1943, which was a mock invasion when the invasion barges came within five miles of the French coast. With no response from the Germans, they returned to Newhaven. A return to Scotland saw them training in mountain warfare and learning to ski as there were plans to send his Division to Norway.



Bill Watling on his despatch rider's motorcycle



Items from the Bill Watling Collection.

Source: The Lanman Museum

Instead, they became part of the force sent to Belgium to liberate the islands of Walcheren and South Beveland on the north bank of the Scheldt estuary. The German forces there were preventing the Allies reaching the important port of Antwerp. Bill witnessed towns reduced to rubble, mined roads and extensive areas of flooding during the campaign. The Division then pushed through Belgium, into Holland and towards the Rhine. They were always in constant danger. Once, on dismounting from his motorcycle, just a foot in front was a mine that he would have hit. Another time he delivered a message to a gun site, moments later the site was hit by a shell killing all personnel.

Following the unconditional surrender of the Axis forces on 4 May 1945, Bill travelled many miles as both a driver and despatch rider before being demobbed in March 1947. Once safely back in Framlingham and in employment, he married Irene Manthorpe and they had 67 years together. Bill died in 2015.

The above, along with the refurbished gallery of local paintings, and the Framlingham connection with the *River Clyde* in the Gallipoli campaign are good reasons to pay a visit to the museum this year.

A WATER SUPPLY FOR FRAMLINGHAM, PART 1

The provision of a clean, regular supply of water is essential for healthy living, yet there are many places in the world that do not have such access. In this article I set out to discover the long drawn out path to achieving a regular water supply in Framlingham.

From the earliest age, people carried water from rivers, streams, springs and ponds to their homes in whatever container was available. If you were well off, then the provision of a well on your property was common, with a servant to operate the hand-pump. This was very much the situation in 19th century Framlingham, when many of the larger houses had their own wells, and there were businesses that could bore the well and maintain the pump. There were many wells still in use in the early part of the last century. See our October 2022 Newsletter for a comprehensive list.

In late Victorian times there were also three wells for public use. One was located on the junction of College Road and Mount Pleasant, approximately where the rare pillar box is located. The second one is in Riverside and commonly called the 'Spring Pump', with its two spouts, one for filling buckets and the other for water carts. Fortunately, this pump survives and is an important part of the town's heritage. The third pump, also part of our heritage, is the Jeaffreson's Well at the Haynings, which would later become instrumental in Framlingham having a piped supply.

It was in 1897 that the Jeaffreson family provided an artesian well, pump and shelter for the people of Framlingham. A year later, the following letter to the Parish Council appeared in Lambert's Almanac:

Many months ago you granted me permission to try to obtain a public water supply at the junction of the Badingham and Saxmundham Roads. A well five feet in diameter, and 70 feet deep was made - result, an abundant supply of unwholesome water. From the bottom of this well a boring of five inches in diameter, and 181 feet was made, and tubed with iron tubing for 90 feet - result, an inexhaustible supply of good water, rising through the chalk and iron tube from a depth of 250 feet to within 65 feet of the surface. A pump, which any child or woman can use, has been fixed. A shelter for the comfort and rest of those using the well has been built.

On behalf of Dr. Horace Jeaffreson, myself, and children, I ask you to accept the same, and take charge of and develop for the public good. I enclose a cheque for £100, to enable you to do so in perpetuity, without charge to anyone.

*Yours faithfully,
Geo. E. Jeaffreson*

The folk of the town were very appreciative, but taking on the gift and developing it was another matter. A year later, as noted in *Lambert's Almanac*, 'We regret as yet that no steps have been taken to utilise and develop the pump and well...Has no one a suggestion to make?'

The saga of the water supply can be found in the pages of the *Framlingham Weekly News (FWN)*. In 1901 Plomesgate Rural District Council deemed the water unfit for drinking. However, after two days of continuous pumping the water was again declared fit for drinking purposes. Water is very heavy to carry and in practice the well only benefited those who lived close by. The castle pond, which was choked with decaying vegetable matter and silt, was finally cleared out in 1897 and became a valuable source of water for those living nearby. The surrounding brick wall was built at the same time.

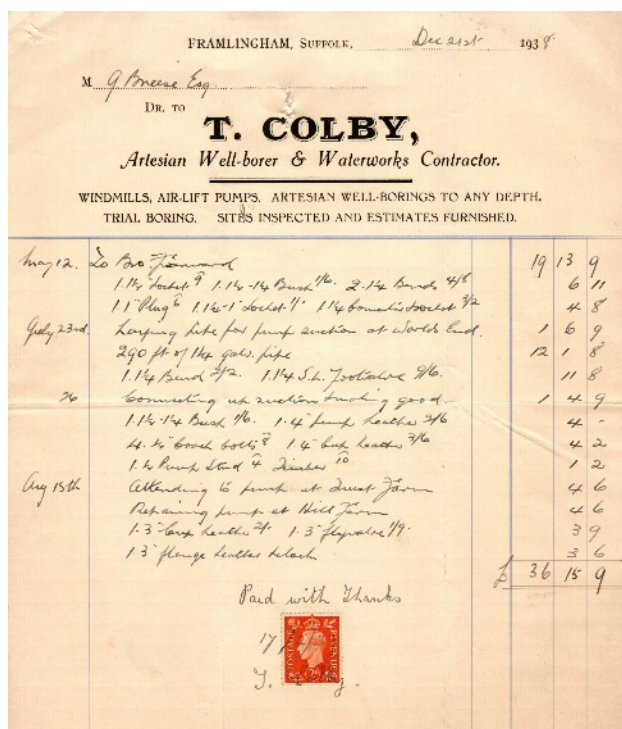


Pump dated 1763, near Crown and Anchor Lane. Source; JFB

A public supply for the whole town was discussed at a meeting in 1906. In particular there were complaints from people living in College Road that they could not use the public pump there as the water was not good. They had to 'trudge' all the way to the Spring Pump with a bucket at least once a day. A water supply in the event of fire was also deemed a high priority.

Another two years passed before a well-attended meeting was held in December 1908 to discuss a proposal put forward by a private company to provide a water supply system for the town. Reference was again made

to women and children toiling up and down College Road every day with pails. The town had a good sewage system, but suffered from bad smells as there was insufficient water to flush it through. The bottom of Fore Street was much afflicted by these bad smells.



Tom Colby was still maintaining wells in 1938.
Source: James Breese Collection

The company would lay the mains in the roads and re-instate them. Water would be taken from Jeafferson’s Well. The cost of the scheme would be borne by the company, and residents who took up a supply to their cottage could be expected to pay two pence a week. Dr Jeaffreson was not at all keen that the work should be done by a private company, and that it should be carried out by the parish for their benefit. It was unanimously agreed that such a scheme should be carried out by the parish and not a private company. A letter was sent to the company declining their offer. John Self who was a Parish Councillor later put forward a motion that the Council should be empowered to prepare a scheme for a public supply. It would be nearly thirty years before the town got its piped supply!

FWN was sad to relate in January 1910, that ‘we are not much nearer to this desirable adjunct to town life’. Later that year there was reference to the urgent need of water supply for the ‘poorer class of people’. There was a strong military presence in the town during the First World War and many soldiers were billeted in tents on Haynings Meadow (Pageant Field). The Parish Council said that the military authorities would need to install an oil or gas

engine to pump the quantities of water they would need. The cost of a permanent installation would be too high and they would use a portable steam engine.

The troublesome public pump in College Road was tested in 1918 and the water found to have a high iron content, which was said to be common for great boulder-clay areas of central Suffolk. The water was claimed to be fit for drinking purposes.

Matters moved on in 1919 when the Parish Council appointed Mr Bertram Nichols, M. Inst. C.E. of Westminster to advise on a suitable scheme for the town. There would be two sets of deep-well pumps that would deliver water to a 22,000 gallon tank on the top of a concrete tower. This would achieve a pressure head of 51 feet above the highest point in the district and would provide 15 gallons/person/day. The water would be distributed around the town in 3 and 4 inch cast iron pipes. There would be hydrants and stand posts (street fountains). The cost would be £7,700.



The Spring Pump in Albert Place
Source: Framlingham Archive

In November the resolution was carried, and the District Council now had the mandate to provide the public supply. The town anxiously awaited the response. There was much investigation of how the annual rate would increase to cover the scheme. In April 1920 the scheme was shelved. The costs had risen by a quarter. There were also objections from people who lived outside the supply area and would have to pay the increased rate. The scheme was rejected by 16 votes to 11.

More to follow in Part 2.



Carrying water was a hard, daily task. Source: Di Howard.

NANCY BOWEN, LRAM, 1906 –1999

Nancy lived all her life at The Hermitage in College Road. She was a qualified music teacher and involved in all aspects related to music in the town. Her recall of Framlingham life was amazing. Her house was full of books, magazines, papers and artefacts that belonged to her father who was the local vet. It was always difficult to find somewhere to sit down as all chairs were piled high with books. My intention was always to call in for a quick chat, but inevitably I would be there for at least two hours.

In 1984, Nancy was asked to take part in a survey where people would recall various aspects of their lives. She did this with gusto and filled 11 pages of A3 with her responses, and gave me a copy.

She was born in 1906 to Charles and Susannah Nesling, who were married at St Michael's Church, Framlingham. Charles first set up as a veterinary surgeon in Wellclose Square before moving to The Hermitage in 1898. They had five children, with Nancy being the fourth and a long-awaited girl. The following are extracts from her responses to the survey questions.



Charles Nesling and his wife were living here in Wellclose Square by 1890.

Source: Framlingham Archive.



They moved in 1898 to the Hermitage in College Road, where Nancy was born.

Source: Framlingham Archive



Nancy went to the Nesling Webber School on the Market Hill. Georgina Nesling and Mrs Webber on a velocipede outside the classroom to the rear of Hill House. Source : Framlingham Archive

School Days. From the age of 4 ½ to 6 years, I attended mornings only, a private “Victorian Young Ladies School” at Hill House, Market Hill, Framlingham [now Darcy B], run by my father’s aunt Ellen Webber. Discipline was very good, but not harsh. As a favour, I was given a square slab of iced sponge cake mid morning if I had behaved. I liked school and mixing with older girls (who incidentally had to converse in French at meal times). Nature walks had a strong appeal for me and I enjoyed the daily morning hymns; also writing by copying sentences printed in long-hand on the facing pages of copy books. At 6 years old I went to Mills Grammar School, Framlingham, stayed there till I was 17. Teachers of both these schools were very kind and interested in their pupils’ progress. Any attack on them by pupils or parents was quite unheard of.

Domesticity. I did not have to do any chores at home, but liked running errands. A housemaid and a daily woman did all the housework. The washing was done by a nearby cottager; and the sewing by another cottager who owned a sewing machine; while a nursemaid took charge of my younger brother. My mother cooked every day and we had meat 3 times a day—breakfast and midday hot, and high tea with cold meat from the daily joint. All veg. and fruit, eggs, milk, were home produced. Father never helped in the house; he was kept busy with his veterinary work, often at night as well as by day. The doors of our house were never locked. Our local people were all considered to be honest. Farmers, or their labourers, quite often walked through the house to see if anyone was about, at anytime. At night they had free access to the surgery, and for urgent calls they used a speaking tube, one end of which hung on the black and gilt iron bedstead in the bedroom above, where my father was sleeping; while the lower end of the tube was suspended from the wall just inside the surgery.

Invoice from Charles Nesling. Source: James Breese Collection.

Framlingham, June 1913

M^r James Breese
Satisfied

Dr. to Char. C. Nesling, M.R.C.V.S.
VETERINARY SURGEON.

1912		
April 2 nd	Journey, Attendance Horse (Enter) & Charge & Medicine given	4 6
3	Journey & Attendance same	2 6
May 6	Edgys Physic Balls 6 drms	2 6
	Edgys 5 drms	2 6
13	Light Journey Horse (riped) Med given & Hyperaemic injection etc	7 6
14	3 Visits to Horse 2 Hyperaemic injections & other medicine given etc	10 6
16	Journey Attendance & Attention Ball 6 drms	3 6
16	Journey Attendance same	2 6
July 15	Docked foal & looked at Horse	3 6
Aug 6	Edgys Physic Balls 6 drms	2 6
	Edgys Physic Balls 5 drms	2 6
12	Castrating unspayed foal & after attendance	10 6
Oct 18	Castrating unspayed foal & after attendance	1 0
Dec 13	Journey Attendance & Medicine here & paid at Waltham Road	7 6
14	Journey & Attention Ball 6 drms	3 6
15	6 look at same	2 6
		£ 49 6

Paid
Chas. Nesling

Entertainment. My parents spent all their spare time at home together with their family. Mother played quiet games with us in the evenings. In early childhood she quietly sang nursery rhymes to me, and encouraged me to play simple duets at the piano with her. My father read Suffolk poetry and local history to me; and frequently took me, in the pony and trap on his visits to the farms, and as we drove along he taught me many hunting songs, folk songs etc; and also pointed out various wild flowers that grew on the wide green verges on either side of the narrow winding roads and lanes, and the ferns (such as hart’s tongue) that hid in the ditches. Birds, their nests, and habits, were also a regular topic of conversation. (In later life I used to accompany his hunting songs such as “John Peel”, “Drink Puppy Drink”, “The Dusky Night Rides Down The Sky”, “The Place Where The Old Horse Died”, etc.). My brothers accepted me as one of them, and often took me rabbiting, rapping, mole-catching, birds nesting, and fishing in the local ponds for carp, roach and eels. As a family, we played croquet, rode the horses, helped with harvest wagons and horses, and dressed the wounds of injured animal patients. On winter evenings we frequently had “sing songs” round the piano.

Employment. Mother did not have a paid job; though she did many unpaid ones, such as collecting her district's Nursing Assoc. subscriptions of a penny per house per week, distributing Milk Tickets to poor families (on behalf of Mothers' Union), and acting as parish Visitor where children were sick or needy, or the elderly were in difficulties. Father's income was derived mainly from local farmers and small holders. Because they could only settle his bills once a year—when the corn was sold, after harvest—he, likewise, settled the household bills mainly once a year. He also did some local work as Inspector (Veterinary) for Ministry of Agriculture. Other small amounts of cash came from attendance to domestic pets; and also from the Police for destroying stray dogs for them—the charge was 1/- per animal, being 6d for the vet including cost of prussic acid or strychnine, and 6d for our handyman who assisted and then buried the body in our large garden, in between the rhubarb beds.

More of Nancy's story next time.

SUMMARY OF WINTER TALKS (SO FAR) by Annie Heining

What we discovered at the Ancient House

by Clare and Michael Gaylard 19th October 2022

The Ancient House is situated in Well Close Square and is considered the oldest house in Framlingham. Clare and Michael have just finished a five-year restoration/renovation of the property. The house on the street is 17th century but there is a much older house behind it dating from the 1480s. The two form a 'T' shaped building. There is an Anderson shelter in the garden and two 20th century extensions.

The roof was a big problem. In the 1960s cement tiles were put on and these were warping the beams and conflicting with the older clay tiles. The solution was that we had to replace the entire roof with replicas. In the 1960s the thinking was to preserve buildings by encasing them in concrete. This was damaging the structure underneath and had to be removed.

It is the pargetting on the building that gives it a Grade 11 listing. This was also covered in cement and there was concern that removing the concrete would destroy it. Fortunately, the pargetting had been preserved but the cement covered the detail.

Then there was the dilemma that the doors and windows are not in their original positions, and this throws out the symmetry of the original pargetting. The final decision was to make it work with the positions of the current windows and doors. The pargetting was all done by hand. Two and a half panels were entirely intact and acted as a template for reproduction.

In terms of previous uses of the building we know the left-hand side ground floor was once a watch-makers shop, hence the second front door which was the door to the shop.

During the 17th and 18th centuries the house was owned by the Clarke family.

Much of the house appears to have been built with re-purposed wooden beams. Albert Road was a pear orchard at one time and there are still two in the Ancient House garden.

The process has highlighted the debate between restoration and conservation of old buildings and we are grateful for the advice and support of the County Architect.

The Ancient House dates back to the 1600s. In the 19th century it was converted into two properties, with the left hand one being a shop. Commander Sitwell, an industrious local historian, lived here from 1957. Source Framlingham Archive



Off to the Outback: A Suffolk family emigrating to Australia in the 1840s (based on letters and diary entries)

A talk given by Peter Driver, 16th November 2022

The background to this story is the drive to encourage settlers to emigrate to Australia. To establish the colony settlers were needed in addition to the convict and ex-convict population. A scheme was set up under the auspices of Major General Lachlan Macquarie (31 January 1762 – 1 July 1824) a British Army officer and colonial administrator from Scotland. Macquarie served as the fifth Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821, and had a leading role in the social, economic, and architectural development of the colony. He is considered by historians to have had a crucial influence on the transition of New South Wales from a penal colony to a free settlement and therefore to have played a major role in shaping of Australian society in the early nineteenth century. Part of Macquarie's undertaking of bringing order to the colony was to refashion the convict settlement into an urban environment of organised towns with streets and parks.

The colony needed decent, skilled men and financial incentives were given to those who wanted to go. Times were hard in rural communities and posters showed pictures of poverty in the UK with a life of plenty in the colonies. Letters came back talking of a life without a class system, where there were opportunities, and you were able to keep what you earned. Parishes realised this was also a good way to get rid of problem families that were a charge on the rates. Research in the Suffolk Record Office shows that in 1821, 381 people emigrated, while in 1839, 14,500 people emigrated.

One such family was George Head, his wife Mary and their four daughters from the Hollesley peninsular. George could read and write well. He had clearly received an education from somewhere. (It is likely that this was of an informal nature as people were often happy to pass on their skills).

In 1839 George and his family left Melton and travelled to Ipswich with as much luggage as they could carry. They boarded the steamship *Albion* and sailed to London Bridge wharf. Here they spent the night in a converted warehouse – a kind of hostel, with no privacy, where germs and disease were rife. At this time steamships to Australia acted as cargo ships on the return voyage and were then converted back for passengers on the outward journey. Crowds came to the wharf to see people off and there were many emotional farewells.

It was dark and cramped below deck. The experience of slavery had taught people how to pack bodies into boats. The Head family were in steerage with only 2' x 2' of space allocated per person. Passengers were expected to keep their space clean and on Sunday people were instructed to wear clean clothes and refrain from gambling, drinking etc. The ship had a cook, with families expected to prepare a meal then take it to the cook for cooking. There was also a surgeon on board, although this person was unlikely to be of a very high standard.

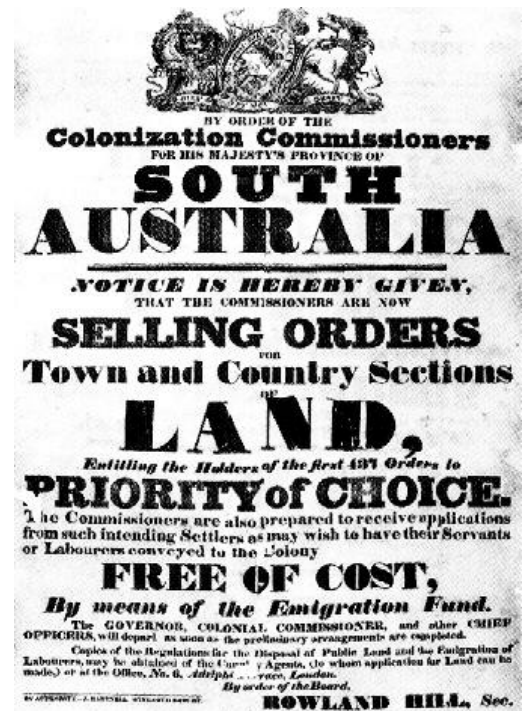
Not long into the voyage George reported suffering from sea sickness. Shortly afterwards he records that Mary and the girls are suffering too. Mary, it seems, did not travel well. Within a few weeks George begins to report deaths on board, first a one-year-old child, recorded as dying 'from want', next a 37-year-old woman. In total there were fourteen children and five adults who died on the journey. There were also five children born on board. The route took the ship down the west coast of Africa, and around the Cape. After a while the four-month voyage became very boring. George's diary records an incident of a man accused of stealing food. A court was set up, the man was found guilty and flogged.

The ship finally landed at Adelaide, on the aptly named *Misery Beach*. The landing was very difficult, women, children and the infirm had to be carried to shore through the surf. George had developed scurvy in his legs and had to be helped ashore. He was given port and lemon to treat the condition.

Settlers were also given generous rations, a house, and a job – things they would not have been given back in the UK. George was given the job of groom to the Surveyor General at a wage of £2 per week, a much higher wage that he would have received at home.

There were many Aborigines in the settlement who frightened the new arrivals with their unfamiliarity, although they are recorded as being polite. There were also a lot of released prisoners. Law enforcement was in place, with draconian punishment for transgression. Convicted criminals could be internally transported to an island on the coast.

George records eating a good Christmas dinner, with others from Hollesley also being present. He wrote home with details of his higher standard of life in Australia. Letters home took a year to arrive, but they encouraged more people to go. One key, attractive difference was the absence of a class system. The Head family stayed in Australia for the rest of their lives.



By Kathryn Gergett and Susan Marsden, Adelaide: A brief History (1996)<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10482949>

The History of the Mere

a talk given by Ray Hardinge 16th January 2023

The first mention of the Mere is 1270 when the castle was being built by the Bigod family. The Mere was created for the castle. It was once part of the huge park that was Framlingham and as such contains the archaeology of the town.

The castle was built less as a defensive structure, but more as a statement of status, power, and wealth. The Mere was a fishery for the castle. The parkland around the castle was for entertainment, luxury, and privacy. It was in effect a private kingdom. A 'parker' was responsible for managing it, including deer, fish, and poultry. The names of surrounding farms are a legacy from this period. Names such as Little Lodge, where the 'parker' lived, Great Lodge, and Countess Wells. Prior to the building of the castle the Domesday book mentions a six-sail mill – a rare thing – in the area of the current car park. The castle took over the patent on milling. There is also mention of a boat house and a pigeon loft above it.

Fish from the Mere supplied not only the castle, but other great houses in Norwich and London, along with deer meat and poultry. There are several other extant ponds at the back of the castle, used as holding ponds between the Mere and the castle. A tidal river flowed through the park for which there is archaeological evidence but which no longer exists.

By 1307 the Bigod family had died out and the park reverted to the crown, becoming what was known as a 'Liberty'. An incident is recorded in 1381 at the time of the Peasants Revolt, when demands for free food and the right to forage were in the ascendant. Several locals encroached on the park, stole deer and had a feast. The culprits were caught, and an edict passed that all dogs had to have a paw removed to prevent interference with the deer. Venison was a valuable commodity and strictly controlled. The castle and its parkland, including the Mere was a wealthy and important place.

By 1590 the park was in decline. There was a loss of control and regulations were relaxed. When the Dukes of Norfolk acquired the castle they brought their wealth with them and leased out areas of the parkland. By 1600 the castle was not used much and was sold to Robert Hiltcham in 1635. The Mere was dis-emparked and the fences gone. What had originally been 35 acres was reduced to 15 acres by 1500 (the current lake is 4.5 acres). At some point around 1600 milling stopped. Some of the current oak trees date from the 1550s as evidence of the old park, some of these being used to build ships for Charles II. There is also some evidence of a plague pit around the Mere, although this seems a strange place to put it.

The Mere was increasingly used to drain water from nearby farms and cattle were grazed on the land surrounding the Mere up until the 1960s. By 1810 it was heavily silted and had, in effect, become a sump. In the 1980s the Suffolk Wildlife Trust took over managements of the Mere. The current fence delineates roughly the original size of the lake. In the 1990s a major survey and silt removal was undertaken. Unfortunately, it is silting up again despite efforts put in place to prevent it. Many artefacts were found at this time, although nothing valuable or remarkable. Among these were crucifixes from non-conformists and a medieval nail. However, many objects may have been washed there from elsewhere.

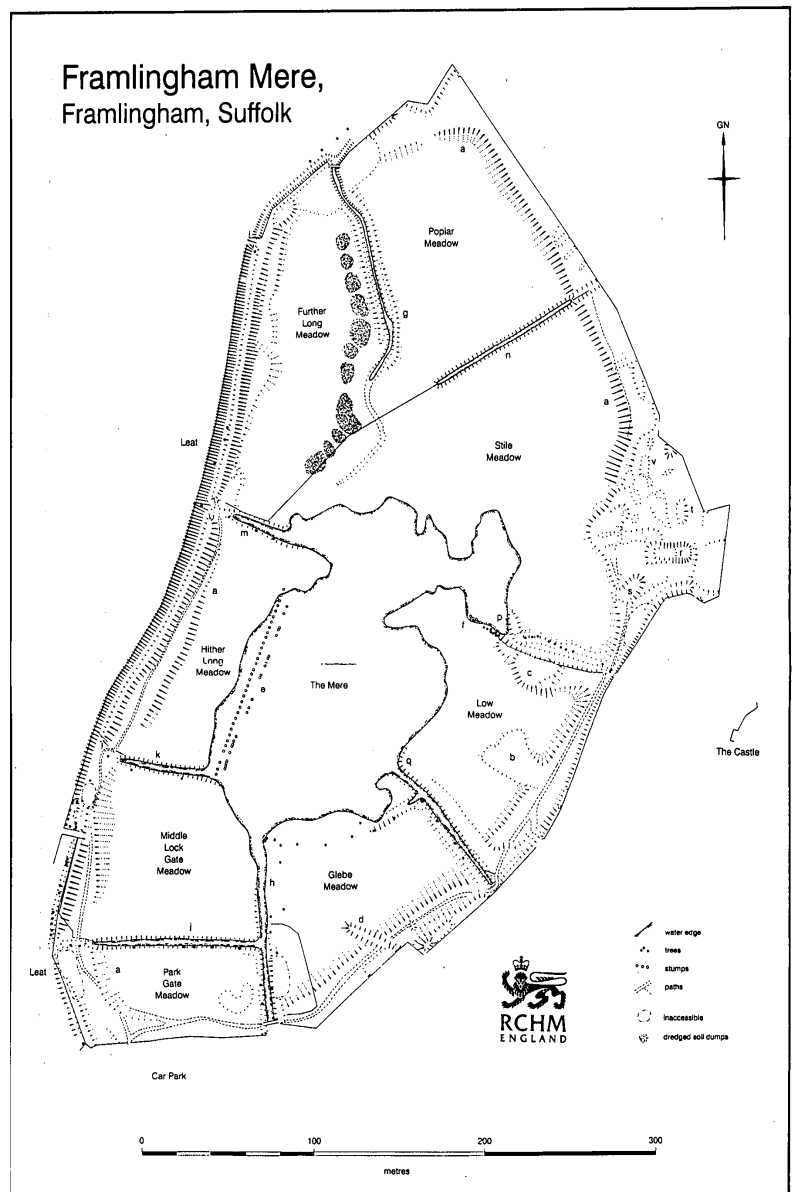


Figure 4 RCHME survey plan, surveyed at a scale of 1:1000

Research is difficult. Records from Framlingham are patchy. Most evidence comes from manorial rolls which are written in abbreviated Latin.

The Mere continues to be extremely popular with visitors and residents of the town. One draw-back of this that the numbers of people disturb the wildlife, which rarely stays around the Mere anymore and diversity of flora and fauna is threatened.

The Worlingworth Feast Painting

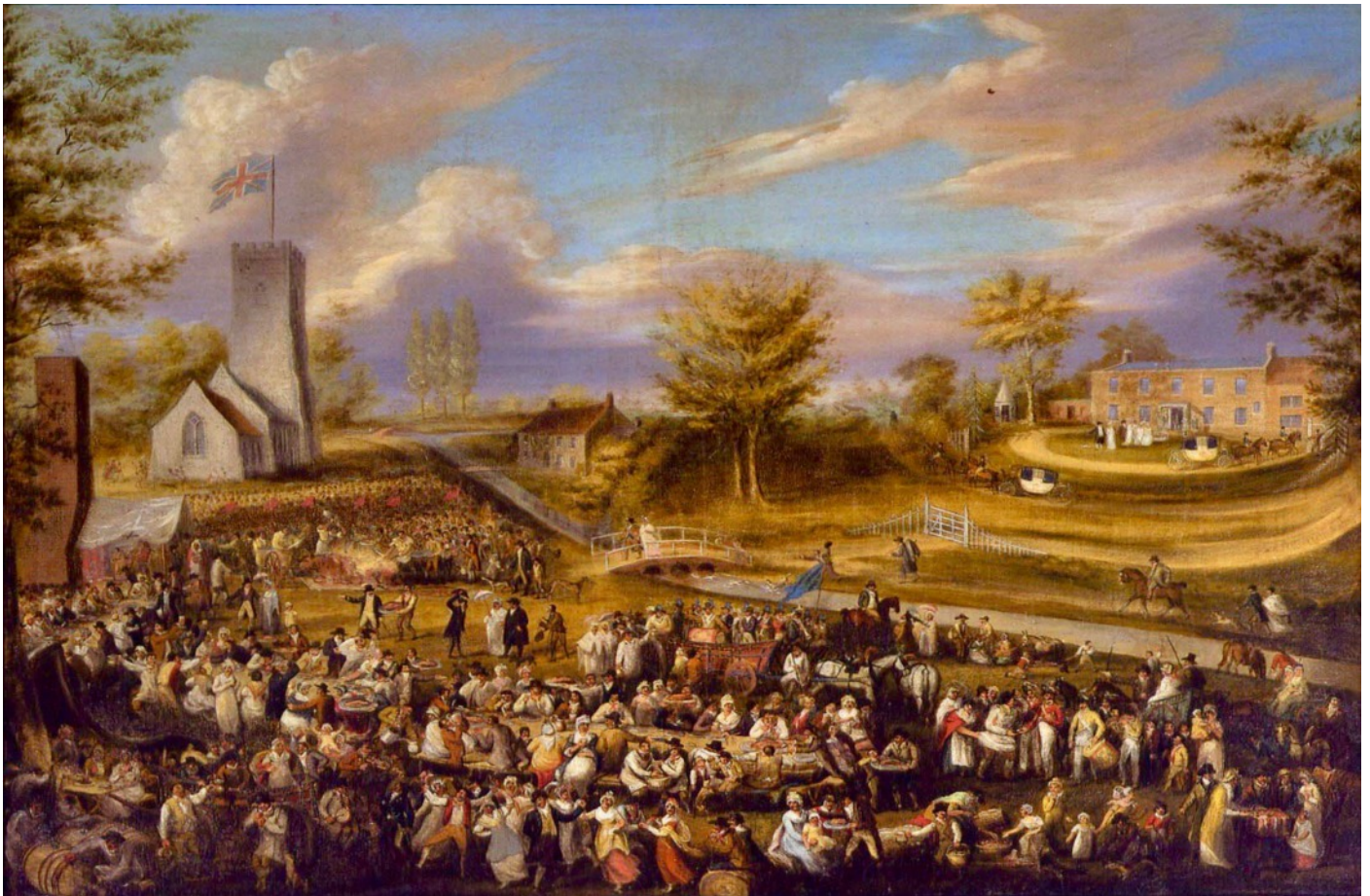
by Geoff Robinson 15th February 2023

The painting was commissioned by Lord Henniker of Thorndon Hall to commemorate a great event – the Golden Jubilee of George III in 1809-10. This was a great national celebration as well as a parish event. The painting depicts a gathering of Lord Henniker’s tenants roasting an ox for a feast of meat, bread and beer. We see the mixing of social classes. It is unique in its subject matter and is the most important event in Worlingworth parish history.

It is a complex work of art – how was it constructed?

The Golden Jubilee celebrations take place against the backdrop of the Napoleonic wars in Europe. John Henniker-Major, age 58 years was the 2nd, Lord Henniker. The family was wealthy. He was educated at Eton, became an MP in 1785 and was a member of the Royal Society.

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated throughout the country and was perhaps not dissimilar to the recent Queen's Jubilee. The year began on 25th October 1809. (It is interesting to note that there was no mention of the king's mental health or his loss of the American colonies). An opening ceremony was held at Windsor which included the roasting of an ox with the Royal Family strolling among the public. One year later Lord Henniker roasted an ox to celebrate the end of the Jubilee year which mirrored the opening ceremony at Windsor. (In October 1810 George III was declared insane and the Regency period began.)



<https://twitter.com/1812andallthat/status/1049949692828770304/photo/1>

It's value as a work of art is not great. It is classified as being from the English School but no artist has been identified. However, it is invaluable to the history of Worlingworth.

The Lost City of Dunwich

A talk given by Mark Mitchels 15th March 2023

Dunwich, once a great city now lies beneath the North Sea. People often wonder if it is possible to find the remains but there is nothing left, it has all been destroyed by the power of the ocean.

200 AD – Roman Dunwich was off-shore safe anchorage. It was a good port with a deep harbour.

500 AD – Anglo-Saxon Dunwich carried on after the Romans left as it continued to have the same appeal. Invaders find what they need and so Dunwich grew.

The Venerable Bede tells us that Saint Felix, who brought Christianity to East Anglia, died in Dunwich.

850 AD – Viking invasions. Again the port of Dunwich was useful and so continued to grow. The reason for its success was the safe anchorage created behind a shingle spit growing south from Southwold.

1086 – Again, Dunwich didn't suffer under the Normans, who also needed the port. In the Domesday Book it is recorded as one of the ten great cities in England, with a population of 3000, a large number for this period.

In the 11th century parish boundaries were established. Dunwich identifies itself as a port, rather than a farming area like its neighbours. It therefore draws its boundary in a way which blocks its neighbours from the sea. From now on they must pay Dunwich to use the river. This becomes a source of considerable resentment and, in a sense, became Dunwich's downfall. As the sea encroached the obvious solution was to move back further inland, but this did not happen because neighbours wouldn't allow it.

1209 – a Leper Chapel is established in Dunwich on the edge of its territory. Twenty men and women lived there. It is the only remaining building from this time.

The town received two charters from King John. The first cost 68,000 herring a year as payment to the king. The second gave Dunwich its own council and mayor. It is a grand place and as it grows in importance, relationships with its neighbours continue to deteriorate.

1225 – The tides were beginning to encroach. The shingle spit had grown from Southwold almost as far as Dunwich and efforts were made to keep the port clear. It was the most successful port in East Anglia, with a population of 5000; 2 ½ miles of anchorage taking up to 100 ships. There were Royal dockyards, chandlers etc. with trade in wool, herrings, and hides. Trade was busy, along with trade visits to places such as Scandinavia. Dunwich was an impressive place.

1228 – The first Greyfriars religious house was founded. However, people knew there were changes happening with the sea.

1231 – A court case in London challenged Dunwich over the right to charge neighbours for use of the river. The case failed and the right was upheld whilst the river took its existing course.

1250s – The marketplace is grand with a guildhall, fifty shops and a population of 6000.

1286 – 23rd March, a New Year's Eve storm flooded over the shingle spit and the harbour defences. Greyfriars was abandoned. The shingle spit closed blocking the harbour entrance. It opened further up the coast near Walberswick. Neighbours now had access. Three years was spent opening up the harbour and closing the northern gap. Two parishes were lost, with approximately 200 houses. Greyfriars was moved back and re-built, this is what we see today.

1300 – The sea took another part of the town and twice a year the harbour now closes up. Ipswich and Yarmouth start taking the trade. The loss of the harbour was tragic for the town. What we see now is marshes where once there was harbour.

1331 – There is evidence that Dunwich is turning to piracy. Ten men were hanged for this offence, which we might see as a sign of desperation. Dunwich had abused its power. Edward III took some rights away as Dunwich could no longer pay its taxes.

1408 – The court judgement was re-discovered. The river had moved, therefore the rules changed, and neighbours no longer had to pay Dunwich to use the river. The town had lost its *raison d'être*.

1570 - More houses were lost over the years and the population had shrunk to 600 as people left. Still the storms came, and Dunwich was trapped on the coast. The Great Candlemass Storm came down the east

coast taking more of the town and ensuring that ships are unable to enter. Three-quarters of the town is now gone.

1655 – During the Civil War the last sermon is preached in Dunwich.

1677 – The sea is flowing across the marketplace.

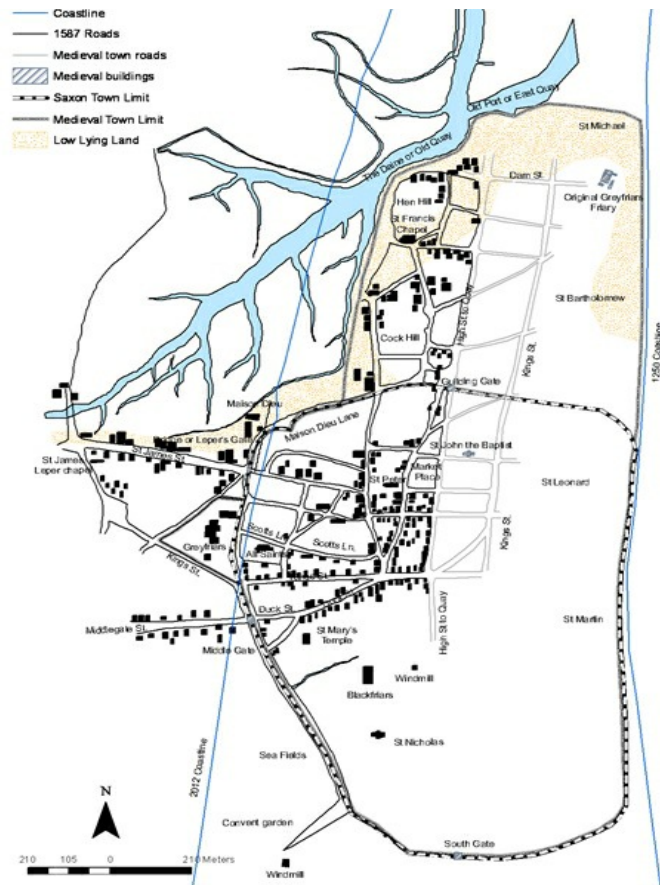
1702 – St Peters church is stripped and went over the cliffs.

1755 – The final service in All Saints, the last church, with the sea just 70 feet away. It became perfect for smugglers.

1830 – JMW Turner visited Dunwich. He painted an imaginary version of the lost city – a kind of Camelot. Those who saw the painting in London were impressed and tourists start to visit. Dunwich becomes a magical place, the lost city. Poets and artists flock to see it. A church is built to service the visitors in the remains of the grounds of the leper chapel.

1888 – A bark called Flora sank. The timbers were collected, and a café built. The Flora Tearooms commemorate that boat. Tourism saved the town, as photographers have recorded the progress of erosion.

1919 – 12th November the tower of All Saints went into the sea. 2000 years of city gone.



<http://www.dunwich.org.uk/reconstruction/>

Victorian and Edwardian buildings, mostly built to serve visitors, are what we see today. The Loper chapel is the only bit of the medieval city left. It has become a city of the imagination.