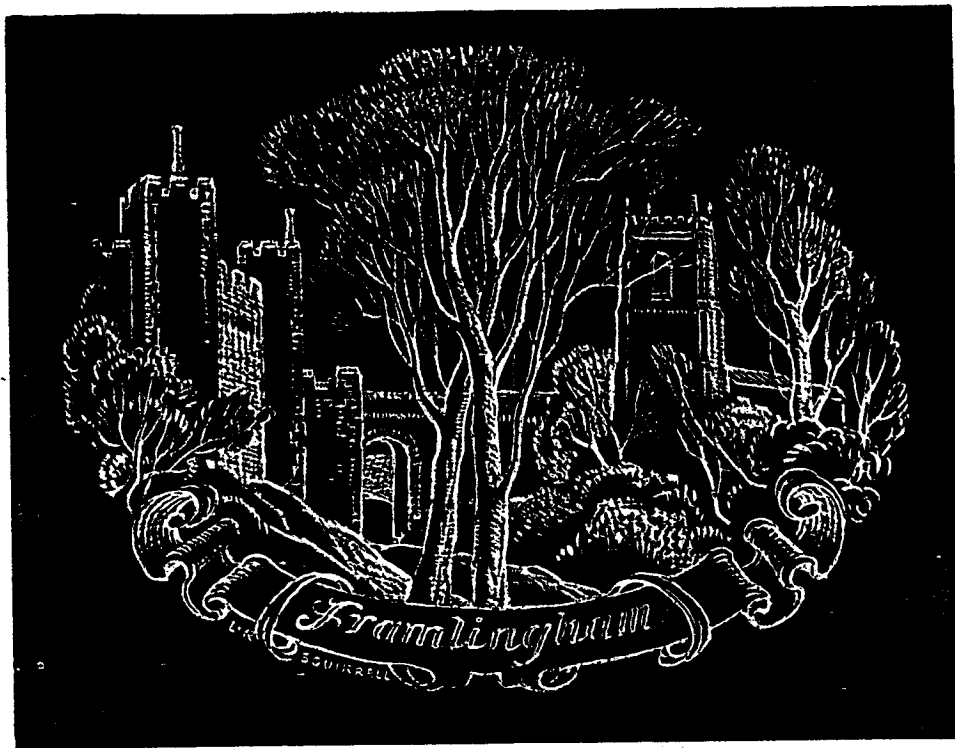


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FRAM



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

3rd Series Number 1

CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Framlingham: an historic town, by A. A. Lovejoy	2 - 3
Inns of Framlingham, part 1, by P. J. Stannard	4 - 6
Framlingham parish records, by A. O. Kirby	7 - 8
The Royal coat of arms, by A. J. Martin	9 - 11
Planning notes, by A. A. Lovejoy	12
Society notes	Inside back cover

FRAM

The Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society

Registered Charity no. 274201

3rd Series Number 1

August 1997

Editor : M. V. Roberts, 43 College Road, Framlingham

Hello again!

For a number of years in the nineteen-sixties and 'seventies, *Fram*, our Local History and Preservation Society's newsletter, provided news, views and information to members of the Framlingham History Society, and to many others who were interested in and concerned with the history and development of our ancient town. Some of that journal's stalwarts have now, sadly, passed away, but the Society itself continues to flourish, with well-supported winter lectures and summer outings; and the museum, created and for many years maintained by the Society's late Curator, Harold Lanman, still has a vigorous life, in slightly different guise, at Framlingham Castle.

Ours is a town dripping with history, national, local, and ecclesiastical; a fact much appreciated by the many visitors coming to the town from within this country and abroad. It is also privileged in having within its own population people who research its history, transcribe its records, examine and monitor its built environment, and seek to ensure that the irreplaceable asset which is the town and its heritage, will not be impaired. It is to provide a focus for those activities that *Fram* rises, a phoenix from the ashes, comatose for a while, but still warm.

One or two articles in this issue originally appeared elsewhere : they are included so that they can be made known to a wider audience than that which they would originally have had. But we are eager to have original items for inclusion in the next, and subsequent, issues of the *Journal*, which is *not* just a newsletter of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society, but a magazine for all who are interested in sustaining all aspects of this historic town.

Framlingham might seem to be, in population terms, a fairly small community, as compared with big brothers nearby, such as Ipswich, Norwich, or even Woodbridge, but this is hardly a very effective indicator of the extent of its own history, and its significance in the history of our nation. For many years, I worked in a library serving a resident population barely twice that of Framlingham, but we still managed to fill, for thirty years, a scholarly journal devoted to its history, averaging two fifty-page issues *per annum*.

We do not have such ambitious plans for *Fram*.

Yet.

FRAMLINGHAM : AN HISTORIC TOWN

By Andrew A Lovejoy

Framlingham has been here for a long time, ever since Anglo Saxon times. Often described as the finest market town in East Suffolk, it has all the ingredients of a market town: a central square in the form of Market Hill, the fine 14th to 16th century church of St Michael's, and one of the most important castles in England. The town's geography gives it an historic and attractive look. However, Framlingham is first and foremost about people. The towns folk are justly proud of Framlingham, which is a flourishing community in harmony with itself, the product of at least 1,000 years of development and history.

Framlingham's history can for a certainty be first traced to an entry in the Domesday Book (1086). Framlingham then consisted of several manors. William the Conqueror (1066 - 1087) presented Roger Bigod with 117 of the 629 manors in Suffolk of which Framlingham was one. In 1074, Roger became Earl of Norfolk, and in 1100, Roger Bigod built the first castle on the site of the present one. The Bigods and after them the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk made Framlingham the centre of their vast estates. In 1285 or so, a market was granted by the last Bigod (died 1306) to the citizens of Framlingham, to be held on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Framlingham since that date took off, and the historic core of the town reached its present dimensions by 1500.

The town's position is such that it is far enough from the other main centres to maintain its identity intact. It is a local centre for at least 15 villages, with a total catchment area population of about 7,500 people. Its population has varied over the years. At the time of the first National Census in 1801, Framlingham numbered about 1,800 people. Today the population is about 2,700, having been only 1,900 in 1951. Modern developments in the town have introduced new small estates including The Mowbrays, Castle Brooks, Danforth Drive and The Haynings. For all that, the historic core of the town maintained its character. Of the town's population, 48% are gainfully employed. 22% of those are in education; the town boasts a public school, Framlingham College, Thomas Mills High School and Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School. Framlingham has also a large population of retired folk.

Framlingham is dominated by its Conservation Area; the historic core of the town is recognised as such by the Civic Amenities Act (1967), and protected by law from unwelcome development. The conservation area of the town consists of the Castle, which is an A1 listed building, Market Hill, the Church of St Michael's, and the surrounding streets.

Framlingham was between 1100 and 1550 the residence of notable people, who were at the centre of government in this country. It all started with Roger Bigod in about 1070. The present Castle was built by the last Roger Bigod between 1190 and 1210. The Castle is built of five kinds of stone including Caen rock from Normandy. It is a curtain-walled structure and was one of the first of its design to be built in Western Europe. It has seen warlike activities on only one occasion, in King John's reign in 1216.

The Castle architecture may seem all very interesting, but what is more engaging are the various people who were associated with it. Between 1100 and 1550, the Castle was lived in by the Bigods (1100 - 1306), Thomas Plantagenet and his descendants (1312 - 1375), the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk (1375 - 1481) and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk (1481 until 1526). All these notable people were the recipients of high honours from the monarch of the day. Nearly all were Earl Marshals of England and Stewards of the Royal Household. Some like the 3rd Duke of Norfolk (1472 - 1554) were much more; he was Lord Treasurer, Earl Marshal, Vice-Roy of Ireland, Lord High Admiral, Ambassador in Paris and the richest lay-man in England. After living at Framlingham until 1535, he built a country house at Kenninghall near Diss which rivalled Hampton Court.

During the time that Framlingham was the key residence of these notable people; all roads led to Framlingham. It became the economic centre of vast estates, which in the case of the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, involved estates in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Wales and London. In the late 14th century £2,000 of goods were being managed each year by the Framlingham warehouses; a vast sum in those days. The goods included all the farming products of the day, and such exotics as lampreys from Wales, and pottery from Staverton and Hollesley in Suffolk. The Castle in its day was one of the centres of pomp and circumstance in East Anglia. It perhaps reached its zenith with the funeral of the 2nd Duke of Norfolk in 1524. And then there was also Mary Tudor who, whilst resident in the Castle in July 1553, was formally accepted here as prospective queen of England. The story, however, eventually came to an end, because in 1635 the Howards sold the Castle and manor of Framlingham to Sir Robert Hitcham, a senior Lawyer, for £14,000. Sir Robert made his will and died in 1636 and left the Castle, etc, to his old college, Pembroke College, Cambridge. The College are still the Lords of the Manor and owners of the Castle.

The Castle does not overwhelm the town. The church of St Michael's and the rest of the Conservation Area make their mark. The centre of the town of Framlingham is continuously evolving, and yet its character has been maintained throughout recent centuries. The oldest building in Framlingham other than St Michael's and the Castle is No 8 Church Street, which has timbers dating from about 1475. There are some buildings which are obviously Tudor in origin. No 16 Market Hill, the Old Queen's Head public house, dates from *circa* 1500. Other buildings stand out. The Crown Hotel looks Tudor; its interior is certainly so, though its frontage is of 18th century date. The Guildhall was built in the late 16th century on the site of the house of the Guild of St Mary, which was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538. The historic core of the town shows many periods of architectural design, including the Tudor, Stuart, Regency and Victorian periods.

A tour further afield will bring you to the Hitcham's Almshouses (built 1654), the Ancient House in Albert Square (built *circa* 1680) and the Mills Almshouses (built 1706-09). The rest of the Conservation Area, Church Street, Double Street and Castle Street all show buildings of interest. Double Street in the last century was the main shopping precinct for Framlingham. At the end of that street, you will find a Victorian pillar box made in 1856-57 by Andrew Henty of Derby. It is very rare. Wherever you turn in Framlingham there is something of interest.

Framlingham really reached its zenith as a centre for the local area in the Victorian period. Before the railway reached Framlingham in 1859, the town was relatively self-sufficient and contained. The town in Queen Victoria's reign even boasted a theatre, and a tradition of Framlingham surgeons. One of them, Sir Henry Thompson (*c*1820-1904), rose to become Surgeon to Queen Victoria. Sir Henry was also founder of the Cremation Society in London in 1874. And the clock on St Michael's church tower was placed by Sir Henry in memory of his parents. Framlingham in Victorian times was even more bustling than it is today; it was a centre for people's lives at a time when people did not travel far on an ordinary basis.

The coming of the railway changed things. Ipswich, and even London, became accessible. The railway connection to Framlingham closed in 1952. Today Framlingham might appear to have become a dormitory town for Ipswich, Woodbridge, and the surrounding countryside. However, there is enough employment in the town to guarantee its future status as a market town serving a distinct region.

Framlingham is a flourishing town which depends in part on its tourist connection. A visitor will quickly appreciate the interest the Castle generates. The rest of Framlingham is as interesting, and plays an important part in the history of the town, which does not live solely in the past. It is a dynamic place which is continually evolving. It is not for nothing that the residents of Framlingham and other interested bodies guard this heritage with zealousness and good sense.

[This paper was originally delivered to Framlingham LHPS in October 1995. An abridged version appeared in *Official Guide to Framlingham*, (1997)].

THE INNS OF FRAMLINGHAM, PAST AND PRESENT

*As read to the members of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society
by P. J. Stannard, Hon. Sec. on 30 November 1959.*

PART I : BREWERS AND BREWING

It is very interesting to recall how, many years ago, a comparatively large number of houses in various places were used as Inns and Public Houses, and especially so in Framlingham. The occupants of these houses mostly brewed their own beers, and no doubt vied with each other in their brew: some no doubt would produce a very good strong ale or beer or porter, and others were not so particular, and believed in making their Malt and Hops go a long way, and their brew would not, in the eyes and taste of the connoisseur, be so good or strong, with the ultimate result that sooner or later the customers would patronize those who brewed the best, and the others found that their business didn't bring in sufficient to make a living, and they closed down. In those days, of course, they had plenty of time to sample the various brews, as there were no restrictions on opening times such as there are now; until the Licensing Act of 1910, the Inns were allowed to remain open, if the Proprietors so wished, practically twenty-four hours a day. (I believe they were expected to close for an hour or two in the very early hours of the morning).

The results of my investigation took me back to about the year 1750, when I find we had these Inns in Framlingham:-

"Dove", "Bull", "Black Swan", "White Horse", "White Lion", "Griffin", "Crown", "Duck and Mallard", "Marlborough Head", "Black Horse", "White Hart", "Shoulder of Mutton", "Cherry Tree", "Castle", "Blue Boar", "Waggon and Horses".

Only six of these were in existence in the year 1823; there were, however, other houses in town at the time where beer was sold, but apparently they were not known by any sign¹.

Before I continue with the Inns separately, I would like to deal with one of the sources from which intoxicating liquor was obtained about that time, by referring to the premises that were known in those days as "The Brewery". In the early part of the nineteenth century, Framlingham was noted for its Brewery. This was owned by Mr George Brooke Keer Senior, who was acknowledged to be a Brewer of great repute. Mr Keer also owned the adjoining Malt Offices, 21 Public Houses in Framlingham and district, two Mansions, and several Farms. What the Cobbolds and Tollemaches are now to Ipswich, the Keers were to the town of Framlingham in those days. Six of the 21 Public Houses were in Framlingham, and these six were no doubt what are known as "tied houses", as in the early nineteenth century the Beer etc was supplied to these houses, and also to the remainder of the 21, from Mr Keer's Brewery. In 1832, Mr Keer had some trouble with the Tax Collector. It would seem that Mr Keer had been unable to pay the duty on malt that was due from him - the amount is not stated - and his affairs were thrown into bankruptcy. On an order of the Commissioners acting under a Fiat in Bankruptcy against Mr Keer, he was described as a Common Brewer and Merchant. All the properties he owned, including the Brewery with Malting Offices, the 21 Public Houses, and the two Mansions and also the Farms, were offered for sale by Auction at the Crown Inn, Framlingham, on the 21 June

1832. On the Particulars of Sale it was noted that this, being a sale under a bankruptcy, *no auction duty* would be payable, so it would seem that in those days one had normally to pay auction duty on the sale by auction of Public Houses. The particulars went on

The Brewery and Malt Offices are stated to be in Full Trade, the site is perhaps the best situation in the County of Suffolk for carrying on an extensive business, there being at this time a very considerable trade attached to the Brewery, and every opportunity is afforded to the *Man of Industry and Capital* for accumulating a handsome fortune.

On the Brewery premises eight to ten men were employed, and Mr Keer also employed his own coopers to make the casks. The Auction, you will notice, was billed to take place at the Crown Inn, and totalled 31 lots, but in an article printed 65 years later in the *Framlingham Weekly News* it stated that the auction was held on the Bowling Green, by the Castle, and it brought together a large concourse of people. The Brewery was knocked down at the Auction to Mr Abraham Thompson for £1,400, but he apparently did not make the success of it that was envisaged in the Particulars of Sale, because some years later Mr Thompson failed in business, and The Brewery, with Malt Offices and the residence, were put up again for sale by auction by Mr Henry Preston, and purchased by Mr Edward Lankester at the low figure of something like £650. I have a plan showing the situation of The Brewery, and it comprised the premises in Crown and Anchor Lane and Fore Street now partly used by Garrards as Motor Car Showrooms and repair shops, and the remainder by the Misses Carley, and it is interesting to note that the plan shows the Room which was no doubt the Framlingham Theatre, but on the plan it was called "New Room", which rather indicates that it might have been built or rebuilt shortly before the date of the Auction in 1832. The residence attached to the Brewery was described in the Particulars as being nearly opposite the Church, and at that time was occupied by a son of Mr G. B. Keer, the Brewer. It is now known to all of us as "Manor House", and is owned and occupied by the Carley family. A short time ago, I mentioned that the Brewery property and residence were purchased by Mr Edward Lankester. He carried on an extensive business in Framlingham for many years, and there may perhaps be one or two of you in the room tonight who will just remember him - he died about 60 years ago. While I cannot ask you to sample any of the nice things Mr Lankester sold, I will ask you to look at and examine a stone-ware bottle which was dug up in Fore Street only this last Summer, when the builders were digging the trenches for the foundations of Mr Dennis Maulden's new house. The name on the bottle reads "Lankester, Wine Spirit & Porter Merchant, Framlingham". By the way, this bottle was found in the garden next to the house where Walton Tongate lived for many years: Walton Tongate worked for the late Edward Lankester, and when the latter died, the business was taken over by Mr Walter Cocks, who, I believe, was also employed by Mr Lankester, and it would be quite reasonable to assume that these two employees continued to carry on the business, as we know that Mr Cocks lived in the Manor House and carried on the Wine and Spirit business, and also that Mr Walton Tongate was employed by him; the business is, of course, that now carried on by the Carley family, who took it over on the death of Mr Walter Cocks.

As I have said previously, Mr Keer owned two Mansion Houses: one was the Manor House which I have just referred to, and the other was the property on the Market Hill then known as "The Mansion House". I have a drawing or plan of this Mansion House and also of the grounds which went with it, and it can be seen that it stood on the site of the property which now belongs to Mr George Willett Cooper, the front parts of which are now occupied, one as a Showroom for the Eastern Gas Board, and the other by Mr Geoffrey Peck as a Seed Stores. You might well say: "What has this to do with Inns or Public Houses?", but before it became the Mansion House and occupied by Mr G. B. Keer, it was an Inn known by the sign of the "Black Horse"; I have also a plan taken from the Particulars of Sale, and it shows extensive grounds attached, which

went right down Bridge Street as far as the Unitarian Chapel (then known as the Meeting House). There is a painting in the Museum² which Miss Gibbs lent to us and dated *circa* 1820, which clearly shows this same house. Other names for this house were "The Steppe House" or "Stair House". On the painting in the Museum, the steps leading up to the front door are clearly shown, and on this plan there is palisading in front of the whole length of the house. It ran back to the Rectory Grounds, embracing the sites of the Old Police Station with the Court House, also Mr Brackenbury's Harness-Maker's premises, the International Stores, and also the premises now owned by Stebbings, the Fruiterers. The Bank of the Norfolk and Norwich Joint Stock Banking Co. was under this roof and managed by Mr Manning Keer, another son of G. B. Keer Senior.

Editor's Notes: ¹

Or at least were not known by any sign recorded in printed sources of the time. For some unknown reason, nineteenth century trade directories frequently omit the actual names of licensed premises, unless they provided overnight accommodation.

²

What is now the Lanman Museum in the Castle; in 1959, the Museum was in Double Street.

FRAMLINGHAM PARISH RECORDS

By Arthur Kirby

January 1702/3 17th Mr THOMAS MILLS interred in his garden without any office or form and put in linnen whereof affidavit was made before Justice ALPE by HENRY BENHAM yeoman Jan 25th 1703 worth 200L p. annum.

(Note: the year is shown as 1702/3 to avoid confusion, because up to 1752 New Year's Day was 25th March, since that was nine months before the birth of Jesus Christ, 25th December. In 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, January 1st became New Year's Day.)

This is just one of the thousands of entries in our remarkable Parish Registers, which date back to 1560, when the 4th Howard Duke of Norfolk was still fully in control of his estates, as one of the Chief Ministers of Queen Elizabeth I. It is remarkable as being that of one of the first non-conformists, now greatly respected, who had been in dispute with his fellow-citizens and the Established Church, and was buried as an outcast outside the churchyard. All these Registers have now been transcribed by the Suffolk Family History Society, and indexed, with every detail double-checked, from their original somewhat muddled and medieval state, so as to be readily available for anyone to consult. They consist of three books of Baptisms, one of Banns dating from 1754, one of Marriages, and two of Burials, all up to 1920. Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Chancellor, issued an edict in 1538, at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, that all Parishes should keep records, and clergy and their clerks have laboured since then to do so. I like to think that now their efforts are really appreciated, not only have we a priceless social record of the life of the Town, but every family with a Framlingham ancestry, a vast number, can now trace his or her ancestry with ease. True, Framlingham did not start keeping records until 1560, when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne and there were not likely to be any more changes! Some parishes started in 1539, and those Registers were, of course, in the beginning in Latin. *Civil* Registration was not compulsory until 1837.

Let us take a closer look at these records then. We start in 1560 with one Christian name and one surname. By the time we reach the 1900s, we find much greater detail, practically a family history. Early on there are considerable variations, because most of those giving their names were illiterate. The clerk did the best he could and some were more conscientious than others. Officiating clergy are often named too.

BAPTISMS The three volumes sadly are evidence of the very high rate of infant mortality, and there was a great rush to have a child baptised if it seemed likely to die; it could be refused burial in consecrated ground if not baptised. On the other hand, parents often left it for years, and a whole group of children were sometimes baptised together. So this is not evidence of dates of birth, which can often only be gleaned from age at death especially if there was a tombstone; when ages are sometimes recorded down to months or weeks. Reputed fathers are named.

BANNS/MARRIAGES These are the most informative registers, especially in later years, when all the main parties, witnesses, etc. are named, including their occupations. Also they cover a wide area, inasmuch as the bride was usually married in her own Parish, while that of the groom was recorded in the Banns.

BURIALS There were some 9,000 burials in the church and churchyard between 1560 and 1856, when the churchyard was closed on grounds of public health, and the cemetery was

opened; and thousands, of course, earlier. They were mostly in linen, but after about 1700 many were able to afford memorials, and it was these that took up the space, making it impossible to use that ground again! (Prior to 1700, memorials were usually of wood, with a simple head/body/foot board, and not many of these remain). One of the advantages of having a memorial was that you were not likely to be disturbed, and also members of your family could be interred with you later. Memorials are, of course, a form of record, and Framlingham is again very fortunate in that Richard Green in his *History* left a list by North/South/East up to 1829, and in 1931 Charles Partridge, seeing that there was a gap unrecorded between 1829 and 1856, made an even more detailed record of that period, so that even if there is now no trace, we know with some accuracy where these memorials were, as families were usually buried in groups. Those extant today in St Michael's church as well as the churchyard have again been recorded and charted, so relatives can see where their ancestors lie. The registers themselves, of course, include details of domicile, and many other notes of interest (such as 'Waterloo Veteran'), and epidemics such as the plague in 1666 and the influenza outbreak of 1919 are clearly visible.

NON-CONFORMIST RECORDS Apart from burials in one's own garden, like that of **Thomas Mills**, separate records were kept of Baptisms/Marriages/Burials in the Unitarian Church, and of Baptisms in the Methodist Chapel, and efforts are being made to record these also. Most Non-Conformists like **Samuel Lodge** and **Say Toms** were buried in the parish church or churchyard anyway, but 97 burials actually took place in the Unitarian churchyard, and there were some in the garden of the Methodist Chapel¹.

OTHER RECORDS This is an area which has yet to be investigated, and offers scope for much fruitful research, though it may be necessary to travel to **Arundel** or **Cambridge** quite apart from the **Ipswich** Record Office! Most of the earlier listings were part of the process of raising taxes. The numbering of the children of Israel about BC 1200 was an early census, and that held in AD 6 by Governor Cyrenius in Palestine had unexpected consequences, quite apart from the riots. Then there was the Domesday Survey of 1086, and in 1181 a Saladin Tithe was imposed on the personal estate of individuals to help finance the Crusades - this was not repealed until 1623. More relevant perhaps and nearer our time were the following:-

1795 A national duty on the use of Hair Powder.

1796 A dog tax with a sliding scale for breeds and purpose for which kept.

1798 Defence of the Realm Act (Napoleonic wars) - all men aged between 15 - 60. And many more - Any volunteer researchers?!

Then of course there was the **Census** effectively from 1841 to 1891, at each 10 year point². This tells us who was at home on a particular day and is very accurate as far as it goes, with much useful detail such as who was in the Workhouse or deaf! The Family History Society, who are all unpaid volunteers, has recently completed an index of the 1851 Census for Suffolk, so it is possible to check around the whole County and then look up the actual Census or obtain a copy.

Editors Notes: ¹ The site of this Chapel and garden is now occupied by the Railway Inn, its garden and yard (*Lambert's Annual Almanack, 1874*).

² There were also censuses in 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831, but the records generated thereby and held centrally were purely statistical. Decennial census returns after 1891 (plus the one in 1966) are still closed, owing to the "hundred-year rule".

THE ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

By A. J. Martin

VIVE LE ROY! That is the great cry of joy and jubilation which Framlingham people inscribed upon the painting of the Royal Arms in 1661, for the return of Charles II. After ten years of psalm-singing and penitence, ten years without a King, ten years of Cromwell and his religiously restrictive Commonwealth, a decade of persecution and drabness, suddenly a lifting of the curtain and the return of Royalty, and with it a renewal of the former freedom of worship; colour and light came back to the churches, and the people of England gave thanks to God. These, then, were some of the circumstances under which Framlingham's own Royal Coat of Arms was executed and erected in the most prominent position in St. Michael's Church. The colours were brilliant, the arrogant defiance of the Lion of England and the strident thrusting of the Unicorn unquestionable.

Royal Arms started to appear in our churches soon after the Reformation. By an Act of 1534, Parliament confirmed the assumption by Henry VIII of the title "supreme head on earth of the Church of England". Many of these early Arms were destroyed upon the accession of the Catholic Queen Mary, but a good example can be seen at Rushbrooke in Suffolk. There were, of course, none erected during Mary's reign, but as she did not actually insist upon the destruction of those put up in her step-brother's reign - rather that they be made inconspicuous - there are still some of Edward VI's Coats of Arms in existence. With the greater freedom associated with religion at the onset of Elizabeth's reign, and greater prosperity, many paintings of the Arms appeared, often with the message "God Save the Queen".

All the Tudor Coats of Arms are identifiable by the heraldic representations upon them. The Shield is a simple one with the Fleur-de-Lis of France in the first and fourth quarters, and the Lions passant guardant of England in the second and third. The Lion supporter is there on the left of the Shield, but instead of the Unicorn on the right, there is a dragon. The Shield is surrounded by the Garter and its Motto, and the Crown of England surmounts it.

With the coming of James VI of Scotland as James I of England in 1603, Royal Coats of Arms assume the appearance of the set in Framlingham Castle today. The old Tudor Arms are put into the first and fourth quarters, and the Arms of Scotland placed in the second. In the third quarter James emblazoned a golden harp with silver strings for Ireland. The dragon supporter gives way to the Unicorn, which is the traditional heraldic beast for Scotland. Whereas the Lion is simply crowned, the Unicorn wears a coronet round his neck to which a chain is fastened. This chain should pass under the chest and belly of the animal, reflex over the rump, and terminate in a ring between the rear hooves. Sometimes, as at Framlingham, the National Floral Emblems appear between the feet of the beasts, the Rose of England and the Thistle of Scotland. In addition to the Garter and the Motto, the Supporters stand on a Compartment with the Royal Motto, *Dieu et Mon Droit*. The Shield is surmounted, not only with a simple Crown but with the Royal Golden Helmet, with about six gold bars, facing the beholder, and behind it the mantling gold lined with ermine. Above the Crown, often four-arched, is the Crest Lion, crowned and guardant. These Stuart arms continued to be erected in our Churches when Charles I came to the throne. However, there could not have been many made in the years up to 1640, although those of Ashbocking bear this date.

In January 1649, King Charles I was declared to be a "tyrant, traitor, murderer, and implacable enemy to the Commonwealth of England", and was beheaded outside Whitehall Palace. With regard to Arms in Churches between the 1640's and 1660, the chief feature was undoubtedly their defacement or destruction. There are one or two instances of an attempt being made to supersede previous sets with a device called the State Armsbut: these are rare indeed, and must have been looked upon as dull objects by the colour-loving majority of seventeenth-century England.

On his return to England from France, Charles II's Restoration Parliament decided that any State Arms should be removed and the Stuart Arms put up in their place. There was, however, no law decreeing that they had to be erected in all churches. Nevertheless, the people of Framlingham, rejoicing with their fellow countrymen, showed their loyalty to the restored King by erecting the Stuart Arms in St. Michael's.

On each side of the painting are the initials R and G. These stand for Richard Golty, who was Rector of Framlingham from 1630 until his death in 1678. From his account book, he seems to have been high-principled, firm but sympathetic. Certainly he was of a strong character, for he refused to sign the declaration of fidelity to the Commonwealth. This document was called the Engagement, and was drawn up in the following terms:

I do declare and promise, that I will be true and faithful to the Commonwealth of England, as the same is now established, without a King or House of Lords.

This had to be signed by dignitaries and officials of almost every kind, both ecclesiastical and lay and the Clergy were required to sign it "Publicly, in the Face of the Congregation." A Parliamentary bill that purported to give statutory authority to this command was read a third time on January 2nd 1650, and was deemed to have become the law of the land. This command the Rector of Framlingham refused to obey, and he was for that reason deprived of his living and forbidden, by secular authority, to exercise the sacred office to which he had been ordained. He withdrew from Framlingham to his birthplace, Ashbocking (the Royalist village referred to above), where his family had a little estate, and remained there for ten years.

Richard Golty was sixty-six when he came back to Framlingham in 1660, and of all the people here he must have felt stronger emotion than most, when he arranged to have the Royal Coat of Arms painted and hung in his church with his initials on either side.

The initials at the bottom of the painting refer to Golty's Churchwardens. Richard Green's *History of Framlingham* (1833), gives their names as Christopher Newgate, Sen. and Nicholas Browne. Although Golty, in his account book, gives the names of all his tithepayers, he does not mention Christopher Newgate *Senior*. There is, however, an entry for Christopher Newgate *Junior*, and his address is given as "The plumpe of Howses next the Market - and the back Lane adioyning to that". Obviously, if there was a Newgate Junior, there would have been a Senior Newgate, too. Therefore, we must give Green the benefit of the doubt and assume that Father Newgate was Churchwarden and that he lived with his son, who paid the tithes to the Rector. The lower end of Fore Street was known as Back Lane in those days, and so we can also assume that the Newgate family lived somewhere in the triangle now formed by Queen's Head Alley, the United Reformed Church and Fore Street river bridge.

Nicholas Browne heads the list of "The Names of the Inhabitants in Framlingham as they dwell together taken Anno 1662". His address is "The plumpe of housen next the churchyard and castle", and this must have been a considerable tenement where the Castle Inn now stands, for there were twenty-two people of different names residing here, actually the same number as those living at Christopher Newgate's address. Nicholas Browne is mentioned earlier in 1643, as being one of seven people who owed the Rector for "Quit Rents". These were a carry-over from medieval days, when a sum was paid to the Lord of the Manor. Possibly all bar these seven had redeemed their Quit Rents and they were now payable to the Rector himself by direction of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Nicholas Browne paid tithe to Richard Golty in 1645 for a piece of land called Cattes Close. This was four acres and cost him 6d, but he had two calves upon it, and his total payment was 7d.

There is no indication here of the age of the Churchwardens or when they died. We only know that Richard Golty was eighty-four when *he* died in May 1678, and he was buried beneath the stone that is clearly decipherable today, just inside the sanctuary of the Church which he had loved and served for fifty-four years, first as Curate and then as Rector.

These then, are the three men referred to on the Royal Coat of Arms, now placed as proudly and prominently as when Golty and his Churchwardens lived in Framlingham. The position of the painting as from 1661 must have been as part of the Rood Screen, for Green says, "Over the arch separating the chancel from the nave are the arms of King Charles II the total cost of this ornament was £10 : 3 : 9". The relevant passage in Loder's *History of Framlingham*, (1798), is found where the writer is describing the Chancel. He says,

At the west end, within the Nave of the Chancel, on the partition between that and the Church, are the Arms of King Charles the second, painted in their proper colours. And opposite thereto the Alter-Piece

But the matter is complicated, or conversely perhaps made clearer, by a previous paragraph:

Over the entrance into the Chancel, there is a spacious piece of architecture of a stone colour in perspective 1700. It consists of three columns with their pedestals, entablatures and compass pediment, of the Corinthian Order; the intercolumns are the Commandments, done in black upon yellow; over the Commandments and under the arching pediment, is a Glory, with the Word JEHOVAH, in Hebrew characters

Is it possible, therefore, that the Gloria which is now in the Reredos beneath the East window, was once incorporated in the "architecture" just described, and facing the congregation, and that the Royal Coat of Arms was fixed behind the Gloria and itself faced the East window? The subject is one for some speculation, but this would seem a fair interpretation of both Loder's and Green's only mention of the Arms and its original position in the Church.

(This paper was originally published in the *Framlingham and Saxtead Parish Magazine*)

TOWN PLANNING AND FRAMLINGHAM

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

It has to be admitted that Framlingham is an attractive place. Indeed, as noted earlier, it has been called the finest market town in East Suffolk. The town is dominated by its historic core, an example of which is Market Hill, which, with two exceptions, has no buildings later than 1830.

Conservation matters have been with us for some time, and the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 formally designated the core of the town as a Conservation Area. That means Market Hill, the Castle (A1 listed), the Church of St. Michael's (also A1 listed), and the immediate surrounding streets. Building development in that area, and indeed in Framlingham in general, is subject to the various Town and Country Planning Acts, the first and most important of which was that of 1947.

It goes without saying that the historic core of the town and much else is worth conserving. People today are generally much more conservation-minded. The Framlingham Historical Society echoes that. The Society was formed in 1954, and from its early days, boasted a Planning Sub-Committee, which vetted Planning Applications, and in particular those concerning what became the Conservation Area. Over the years, the Planning Sub-Committee members have shown wisdom, common-sense and, in some cases, not a little knowledge. Today, it is at full strength, and concerns itself deeply with all that is going on in the town.

The main problem facing the Society in Framlingham is to combine the wish to conserve the historic core of the town and yet let development take place, so that the Conservation Area does not become fossilised, with the need to ensure that the centre of the town is a fit place in which to work and live, in the next century. The Society is concerned with the whole development of the town of Framlingham, and not only with the Conservation Area. It could, with the regulations as they are, let the Conservation Area take care of itself. The rest of the town certainly cannot, and calls for constant vigilance and appraisal.

The town has now a population greater than the 2,697 which it had reached at the time of the last Census in 1991. Various small estates have been built recently, and more are to come. Should Framlingham expand to a town of at least 3,500 (it was 1,900 in 1951)? Suffolk has been earmarked for the introduction of 55,000 new houses by the year 2006. Framlingham has been asked to play its part in that, but *should* it do so if the town's character is to remain intact? The town is a local centre for about 15 villages and about 7,500 people. If it is to remain a vibrant market town for the next century, it must have the required facilities (shopping etc.) to warrant that reputation. The Society is jealous of preserving all that is good in Framlingham, but is aware that sensible development must take place. It is proposed, for instance, to build 31 new houses on the Framlingham College playing field adjoining Mount Pleasant. Is this an acceptable development in Framlingham? Building on green-field sites round the town is not to be encouraged. Infilling, as at Mount Pleasant, sensitively done, is a practical option. The plans for the Mount Pleasant site are sensitive to the need to incorporate the vernacular in the design of the houses. Objections have been raised about the density of the spatial spread of the buildings. This development is, nevertheless, one which could be much worse. There are eyesores in Framlingham; the new estate at Mount Pleasant will not be one of them.

The Society should be guided by a wish to conserve the historic core of the town, to help to generate the reputation of the town as a lively market centre, and to provide a setting for a vibrant, happy community. All those things are being actively pursued by the Planning Sub-Committee of the Society. The Framlingham Historical Society is also a Preservation Society. All members of that Society can actively support efforts to promote the future of the town.

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SOCIETY NOTES

The Society enjoyed the evening mini-tours to Saxmundham and Letheringham in May and July. Both outings were well attended.

The Annual Day Out in June was the best attended in the history of the Society. On that occasion the Society visited Clare, West Suffolk and King's College, Cambridge, where the Society was the guest of the College's Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Emma Hebblethwaite; a great success.

Forthcoming Events

The 1997 AGM takes place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd October 1997, at the United Free Church Hall, Riverside, Framlingham. It will be followed by a talk entitled "Framlingham Church and Castle - 1859", given by Major A. O. Kirby.

The programme for the Winter lecture season 1997 - 98 is available at any time from the Hon. Secretary (telephone 01728 723214).

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