

FRAM



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

3rd Series Number 3

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ENTRANCE LINES

TO THE ELECTORS OF EAST SUFFOLK!

Brother Electors, it is an honour for any constituency to have so pure - so brave - so intelligent a spirit to champion their cause. And it cannot be a matter of wonder that beginning with a majority of nearly two thousand against him it was reduced to less than three hundred at the last Election, and we have no doubt will be converted into a majority for him by five o'clock on Monday evening next. Men of Suffolk, do your individual duty to swell the rising tide in his favour to the utmost height.

Framlingham Weekly News, 28 May 1870.

FRAM

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

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3rd Series Number 3

April 1998

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

We are privileged in Framlingham to have a fair range of social, cultural and practical amenities within the town. Often, when I meet people elsewhere, and tell them that my home community has a resident population of perhaps 3,000 people, I am earnestly asked whether we still have one general shop, a post-office, and perhaps even a pub. Here, we have all of these and much more, despite not having become a commuter suburb for Ipswich, or a satellite town for London (as happened in not a few East Anglian areas in the 1960s and 1970s). Our population now is only 500 more than 147 years ago, though perhaps a rather higher proportion of the inhabitants than was then the case, earn their crust beyond and along the A12 (while - hopefully - spending it in this town).

The Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society has had as its primary role for more than forty years, the sustaining and nurturing of pride in and knowledge of the heritage of our historic town. For many years, this was, in part, achieved by its provision of a museum, based on a collection of materials lovingly amassed by a distinguished local antiquarian, now sadly deceased. As described later in this issue of *Fram*, in 1979 that Museum and its contents separated amicably from our society, but it continues to flourish in the accommodation that it has occupied at Framlingham Castle since 1984.

The objectives of the Lanman Museum at the Castle and those of our Society are very similar, and much can be gained by promoting communication between them. To help this, the Society is appointing a liaison person to represent it on an ongoing basis, in discussions with the Museum's controlling bodies: on a more practical level (!), the Museum Trustees have already agreed to the loan of framed duplicate copies of the *Framlingham Weekly News* from the Museum for display in Framlingham Library, thereby publicising both the Museum and our Society; and will also be lending material for display at the "Loder Weekend" in May of this year.

There is also a longer-term agenda. To display more effectively the splendid array of pictures and artifacts that they hold in trust for the town, the Museum's Trustees are currently putting together a bid for substantial grant-aid. At this stage, no-one can predict which income-streams approached will prove successful, but undoubtedly the support of this town and of this Society will be critical in taking it forward.

We wish them well.

HERALDRY IN FRAMLINGHAM CHURCH

By Peter MacLachlan

PART 2 : THE NORTH AISLE

At the west end of the north aisle, there is a window with a glass roundel of the arms of Pembroke College. Pembroke College, like most of the Cambridge colleges, uses the arms of their founder. The college was founded in 1347 by Mary, daughter of Guy de Chastillion, Comte de St Pol, and widow of Aymer de Valance, Earl of Pembroke (died 1323). The arms of de Valance are composed of silver and blue bars with a border of red martlets - swallow-like birds with neither feet nor beaks; these arms can be seen in the left-hand half of the shield. The rest of the shield contains the arms of St Pol, which is red with three vertical stripes of vair; the top part of the shield is gold with a five-pointed label of blue. Only half of each coat of arms is shown. This is a system called demidiating, and is an old way of showing the arms of a married couple; today the whole of both arms are shown on one shield. These arms can be seen in several other places in the church.

Moving eastwards, we come to two wall tablets to members of the Jeaffreson family, all medical men. On each tablet there is an uncoloured coat of arms. However, they are hatched, that is carved with lines, to show the colour. For example, vertical lines for red, horizontal for blue, and dots for gold. The Jeaffresons bore a silver fret on a blue shield, with three red leopards' faces on a silver chief.

In the eastern part of the north aisle, there are several examples of the arms of the Alexanders of Framlingham, the most notable being the fine wall monument to Thomas Alexander the elder, and his wife Elizabeth, as well as to other members of their family. He died 10th December 1664 aged 75, while she died 8th May 1654 aged 65. On the top of the monument is the blue shield with a silver chevron between three talbots' heads. A talbot is a type of hunting dog, and is quite often seen in heraldry. At the bottom is a quartered coat with Alexander and Habergham. Though it is not certain, it is thought that Elizabeth was a Habergham heiress, hence the quartered coat, which would have been borne by her children. Habergham is plain and simple, being silver with three black crosses.

Next to the wall monument is a hatchment, with the arms of Alexander, for an unmarried male member of the family. It has been suggested that it is either for John, who died in 1661, or for Joseph, who died 1664. As John was married, it is more likely to be for Joseph. A hatchment, of which there are some 300 in Suffolk, was carried at a person's funeral, and having hung over their front door, was placed in the church.

Below the hatchment is a board commemorating Thomas Alexander the younger, who died 18th April 1658. He was the eldest son of Thomas the elder and Elizabeth (see above). He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Waldegrave of Badingham. At the left-hand end is Alexander, sharing a shield with Habergham, for his parents, and at the other end Alexander with Waldegrave for him and his wife. Waldegrave is an ancient coat of arms being half silver and half red. As a general rule, the simpler the coat of arms, the older it is. Sir Richard Waldegrave was Speaker of the House of Commons during the reign of Richard II. Another Waldegrave was Sheriff of London in 1205.

In the floor of the north aisle are a number of ledger stones, though only two with coats of arms. There is one for Thomas Alexander the younger, with Alexander impaling Waldegrave. The other, with Alexander alone, for Thomas the elder, and his wife Elizabeth.

Finally in this aisle is a window with the arms of the Dukes of Norfolk as used up to the death of 4th Duke, namely:- Quarterly 1 Howard, 2 Brotherton, 3 Waranne, 4 Mowbray. The whole is surrounded by the Garter, and surmounted by a ducal coronet.

The heraldry on the Howard tombs was dealt with in the first article in this series.

Blazons of the Arms mentioned in this article

St Pol:	Gules, three pales Vair on a chief Or a label of five points Azure.
de Valance:	Barry of ten Argent and Azure an orle of martlets Gules.
Pembroke College:	de Valance demidiating St Pol.
Jeaffreson:	Azure, a fret Argent on a chief Argent three leopards' faces Gules.
Alexander:	Azure, a chevron between three talbots' heads erased Argent collared Gules.
Habergham:	Argent, three crosses coupé Sable.
Waldegrave:	Per pale Argent and Gules.

For the Howard quarterings see the previous article.

Alexander Crest: A talbot's head erased Argent collared Gules.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Price 2½p.

FRAMLINGHAM nearly obliterated? During the War very many of us were an inch away from death. Recently, thanks to the tenacity of purpose of a young Suffolk P.C., parts of the plane in which Lieut. Joe Kennedy (his brother later became President of the USA) died have been found in a Blythburgh wood. This courageous youngster and his co-pilot were engaged in an attempt (six such attempts had previously failed) to fly a bomber stuffed with 12 tons of explosive into the steel doors of an underground flying-bomb launching-site near Calais. Over Kent the two were to have climbed out of the aircraft nose to parachute down. On 12.8.44. they started off near Diss flying to our town where they made a scheduled turn towards Beccles also changing over to control by a following 'mother' plane. The plane had diverged a little from course (towards Blythburgh) and the controller in the 'mother' plane corrected this by turning Kennedy's plane slightly to port. At that point the plane and its load blew to smithereens. It is thought that the trigger device for setting off the explosive had been activated by signals from a radar station (an anti-V2 rocket project). Terrible as the loss of these valuable young lives was, that rogue signal might have come when the plane was over our town with the loss of additional lives etc. The plane was being followed by a Mosquito which was to have photo'ed the blowing-up of the target. In that plane was Col. Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, and he witnessed the destruction.

THE INNS OF FRAMLINGHAM, PAST AND PRESENT

As read to the Society by P. J. Stannard, Hon. Sec. on 30 November 1959.

PART 3 : THE SOUTH AND WEST OF THE TOWN

Now the Crown Inn: here was established the Corn Exchange, which was carried on there in the Corn Hall until a few years ago. In 1849, the Petty Sessions were held there. This also was one of the houses owned by Mr G. B. Keer and sold at the Auction in 1832 to Mr John Oakley¹; it was described as a Posting House with excellent accommodation with stabling for 24 horses. There was also a hairdressers shop adjoining the premises, this in the occupation of Richard Lay. This hairdressers shop stood on the site of the entrance to the Corn Hall, and there were steps up to the floor level. It is stated that the shop was papered with posting bills, horsemanship, lithographed placards, etc. Mr Lay had a picture inside the shop illustrating Absalom hanging on the branch of an oak tree and his mule or donkey running away, beneath which were these lines as near as we can remember:-

O Absalom, my son my son
Had'st thou had thy periwig on
Thou would'st not have been undone.

At the Exhibition in the Assembly Hall in 1953² we had a barber's sign lent by Ipswich Museum containing the same quotation, and which, it is said, hung outside Mr Lay's shop. The Crown was a free house until about 25 years ago, when it was sold to Trust House Ltd., and it is now under their ownership.

Next door, at Barclays Bank, it is reputed hung the sign of "The Barking Dicky", but I have not been able to confirm or deny this.

In the corner of the Market Hill, now Mr Durrant's butcher's shop, was the Inn known by the sign of "The Duck and Mallard" and next door, where the Queen's Head Inn is now, this was known as "The Blue Boar". This was also one of Mr Keer's houses, and at one time the lodging-house which was attached to the Inn used to be a Brewery, in which Mr Revett for a time carried on business - there was stabling for 16 horses. This house came into the ownership of the Colchester Brewing Co. Ltd., afterwards to Ind Coope and Co. Ltd., and is now owned by Lacons of Great Yarmouth. At this Inn was a "Dosshouse" or lodging-house for down-and-outs. In Queen's Head Alley, at the rear of the Inn's premises, was a common lodging-house used for giving a night's shelter to those who had no homes. It was a sort of half-way house for weary road travellers between the Workhouses at Eye and at Wickham Market, and a tramp, or anyone else for that matter, if he had no money, could go to the Police Station in Bridge Street, and on satisfying the Superintendent of Police who then lived at the Police Station (oh yes, we had a Superintendent of Police in charge here in those days), he or she could get a ticket worth sixpence³, which entitled him or her, as the case might be, to a single bed for the night: the bed was fourpence, and you were entitled to a pennyworth of bread and a pennyworth of cheese, but more often than not the tuppence was spent on a pint of beer, which was the price of mild beer in those days. If it was a married couple, then they were entitled to a sixpenny ticket for a double bed, with the usual allowance for subsistence; the doss house was closed down on the reorganisation of the Poor Law System.⁴

Near to the "Queen's Head", at what is known as "The Old Bank ", where Mr Henry Turner until recently had his office, was the "Marlborough Inn". Subsequent to its being used as an Inn, it was used by the late Dr G E Jeaffreson and afterwards by his son Dr Cordy Jeaffreson: Mr Ron Allen occupies the dwelling house part of the premises.

At the Steppe or Stair House on the Market Hill, the Mansion House of which I have already spoken as being the residence of Mr G. B. Keer, was "The Black Horse", but this was before Mr Keer went into residence. I will not dwell longer here, beyond saying that the Stair House was taken down in 1832, but pass on down Bridge Street to Well Close Square, where there was an Inn known as the "King's Arms", but its exact location is still a mystery to modern-day research. Crossing the road to the "White Horse": this was in existence in about 1750, and it was also one of Mr Keer's houses. At the Auction in 1832, it was purchased by James Brunning for £900; James Brunning went to the Inn to live and carried on a very good business (there was stabling there for 26 horses). He was succeeded by his son, John Brunning, who lived there till about 30 years ago. On his death, this house was sold to Steward and Patteson Ltd of Norwich. Mrs Wells of Saxtead is a granddaughter of James Brunning who bought this house in 1832, and Alice Brunning of Fairfield Road is a great-granddaughter.

In addition to those mentioned above, there were other Inns or Beerhouses in the College Road part of the town, where beer was brewed on the premises, one in particular being the Flint Cottages in College Road, where David Foreman used to live; little, however, is known of these Inns or Beerhouses. (Horn Hill, by the way, was the old name for College Road, and Pembroke Road was known as Strawberry Hill or Red Rose Lane). Coming back into the town, opposite to Brook Lane, or Potter's Lane as it is sometimes called, is the Railway Inn; in the yard at the side of the Inn was the site of the Old Wesleyan Chapel. Mr Abraham Clements (grandfather of Herbert Clements in Station Road) was then the Landlord of the Railway Inn, and he bought the Chapel and pulled it down in 1868, and the site was thrown open for the purposes of an Inn Yard. A bowling alley was on the site of the Vestry, and there are graves of those who once were worshippers in the Chapel, which can be found in the yard of this Inn⁵.

But just one moment, I have overlooked the "Shoulder of Mutton". This was probably where Herbert Clements now lives and carries on his business of harness-maker, as its location is given as opposite Mills Almhouses, but it is definite it was never the premises known as the Railway Inn.

Taking a right-hand turn by Mill's Almhouses, we ramble down Brook Lane to the late Mr John Larter's farm, the house of which was a Beerhouse and known by the sign of the "Cherry Tree". Again, not a great deal is known of this Inn, but the farm is still known by the name of "Cherry Tree Farm".

Returning into Station Road, there is the Station Hotel next to the Railway Station, and this no doubt came into existence about 1859, the year when the railway to Framlingham was opened. I think the construction of the building points to this. Leaving the town and proceeding along the Woodbridge Road, near to Kettleburgh Road gate crossing, the bridge over the stream there is known as the Castle Bridge, and round the corner into Fairfield Road we come to what was for many years the Fairfield Nurseries, where a market garden was carried on by the late Mr Fred Clark and his father before him. The house on these premises was known by the sign of the "Castle Inn", and I think we are not far wrong when we express the opinion that the licence of the Castle Inn was transferred, when this house was closed to trade, to that of the Black Swan, and this accounts for the name of the sign which I referred to at almost the beginning of my paper, as being painted on the wall of the present Castle Inn.⁶

Back in Fore Street, the ancient name of which was Back Lane, our call is at Mr Brownsord's butcher's shop: this was also one of Mr Keer's properties, and is shown at Lot V on the Sale Plan. It is described as a freehold Public House called the "Wagon and Horses" with a slaughter house, butcher's shop, stable and also a coachhouse, and was then in the occupation of Francis Bilney. This was sold at the Auction to Mr Cobbold for £400, but, as we all know, it ceased to be an Inn many years ago. When these premises were closed as an Inn, the licence was transferred to the Station Hotel.

And now my tour of the Inns of Framlingham is almost over, the last call being in Saxmundham Road, round the corner beyond the bungalows on the left, where there was an Inn known by the sign of the "Mill Inn". There are elderly residents who can still remember the Inn, and even to this day these same people still use the name Mill Inn for this property; there again, we do not know quite when it ceased to exist as an Inn, but it was certainly of much more recent date than some I have mentioned.

I hope that this paper has been of interest to you all, and that perhaps for many it has enlightened you just a little on the past history of the Inns and Beerhouses of our Town, and although I have on my rounds visited all the Public Houses in Framlingham, both past and present, I will close as I began, on a sober note, hoping that you are not feeling too bored, or - shall I say - thirsty, and I thank you all very much for so attentively listening to me for such a long time.

- Editor's Notes:*
- ¹ *Pigot's Directory* 1823-4 (p. 465) and 1830-1 (p. 756) records John Oakley as landlord of the White Horse [Well Close Square]
 - ² See also A. A. Lovejoy's article later in this issue.
 - ³ 2.4 "old" pennies = 1p.
 - ⁴ *i.e.* officially or otherwise in the mid-1830s.
 - ⁵ At this point Stannard is quoting almost exactly from *Lambert's Annual Almanack* 1874.
 - ⁶ *Fram.* 3rd series no. 2 p.9.

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MINI-TALKS

On 11.12.72. Tony Martin gave the first of the Mini-Talks, this on Henry Howard (1517-1547) Earl of Surrey whose magnificent alabaster tomb is perhaps the finest in our church. His father, the cruel and unlikeable 3rd Duke of Norfolk, was king in his own country but never gave Surrey any part in ruling those estates. Surrey withdrew into a romantic world of his own based on Sir John Mallory's romanticised view of the Knights of the Round Table. He took up tilting in forms hundreds of years out of date and wrote poems based on romantic Provencal poetry. Court life was constant guerilla warfare and Surrey despised this. In himself he was undisciplined and repeatedly transgressed court rules e.g. by brawling within the precincts of the court. The final issue was his use of the heraldic arms of a royal ancestor, Edward the Confessor, without formal sanction. He was condemned to death for treason and was beheaded only nine days before Henry VIII died.

THE LANMAN MUSEUM

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

Framlingham had to wait until the 1930s before anyone here started taking a positive interest in the possessions left behind them with a view to exhibiting them. Harold Lanman (1893 - 1979) started collecting items from people in Framlingham of historic and social interest, which preferably were the result of local craftsmanship. Lanman, after whom the Museum in the Castle is named, was a Framlingham worthy who had a flair for old things, and was also a furniture restorer. (He lived by the way, for a time on the present site of the Castle Bookshop). In 1953 an exhibition was held at the Assembly Rooms in Framlingham of 800 objects mostly collected by him. The exhibition over two days created a lot of interest, and it was decided there and then that there should be a permanent museum. A room was taken in Potter's showroom, on Market Hill. That room soon had to be vacated and the Museum moved to 11 Double Street. The Museum there was open a couple of afternoons a week and was manned by volunteers.

By 1978 it was obvious that Harold Lanman was nearing the end of his active days of participation in the work of the Museum. A committee was formed, and on 6th June 1979, the Lanman Museum was opened in the Courthouse. The site of Lanman Museum was in the Magistrate's Room above the Library in Bridge Street.

The new Museum was an exhibition which had been put together by outside professional contractors, and all the items in each exhibition case were exhibited under specific headings. There was a draw-back. The Museum was found to be in an isolated position, and the public visited it only in small numbers; 1500 visitors in a year, despite the generous opening hours.

As it so happened, the Department of the Environment, predecessors to English Heritage, announced that a room in the north wing of the Poor House in the Castle was vacant, and could be used as a museum. The Committee of the Lanman Museum realised that a good opportunity afforded itself. The Museum moved to its present site in 1984. English Heritage now administer the Castle, and the Lanman Museum currently pays rent in the form of a precept amounting to 20% of the entrance fees. The Museum is now visited by about 8,000 visitors a year, and obviously can be considered very much a going concern.

A museum, by definition, is an institution which collects, documents, preserves, exhibits and interprets material evidence and associated information for the public benefit. And that is exactly what the Lanman Museum is as well. The Museum's collection is primarily of local interest and is very varied. By constitution, the Museum is empowered to acquire items (whether by purchase, gifts, bequest or loan); restore and preserve objects of educational or artistic interest concerned with the life and history of the town of Framlingham or in the broadest sense of special local interest, and to make such objects available for inspection by or display to members of the public.

The Museum has progressed since Harold Lanman's day. There are now many more items related to the life and times of Framlingham in this collection than he could have dreamt of. Some of the items are unique. Its greatest treasure must be the file of the local newspaper *Framlingham Weekly News*. The *FWN* was printed in Framlingham between 1859 and 1938, and the Museum has the printer's copy of each edition printed throughout the paper's history. It has become a very valuable resource for local historians.

The bulk of the collection in the Museum, which is being added to all the time, comprises domestic items, which tells us a lot about the lives of ordinary folk of Framlingham. The oldest artefact in the Museum actually dates from the Bronze Age, but the collection really starts in 1800 or thereabouts. There is a lot in the collection to interest the general public as well as the expert.

Modern museums, and the Lanman Museum is no exception, are run, if at all possible, on professional lines with outside curatorial advice. The Museum is managed by a 13-strong Management Committee, which is entirely voluntary except for the Curatorial Adviser. There is, of course, an Hon. Curator. Each item collected has to be catalogued, preserved, labelled and interpreted, so there is much work to do on a continuing basis.

The Museum would not survive without finance. To that end, the Museum charges entrance fees to the visiting public, who can visit the Museum between Easter and September. A corps of 50 or so Stewards staff the Museum when it is open to the public, organised on a rota basis, each doing a sitting about once a month. Unfortunately, because of the large number of Stewards required to maintain the rota and for other reasons such as ill health and previous commitments, there is bound always to be a further need to recruit new Stewards. They are vital if the Museum is to be kept open in the summer months, and, of course, to the financial survival of the whole enterprise. If you like voluntary organisations, the idea of a local museum, and like meeting people, then the Lanman Museum is for you. If you feel you could spare about 2½ hours or so a month, manning the Museum then let me know, and I will put you in touch with Joan Flemming the Hon. Rota Secretary.

Running the Museum for the benefit of the citizens of Framlingham is not only an out of the ordinary task but also a very interesting one. We are, after all, safeguarding the town's heritage. The town should be proud of the efforts being made on its behalf by the Lanman Museum's stewards and trustees, for at the end of the day it would indeed be extraordinary if such an historic town did not boast a well-run Museum.

Editor's Note: This paper is substantially that given to Framlingham and District Probus in February 1995.

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REMEMBER ?

The twenty or so very tall Lombardy Poplars on the Badingham Road just beyond the right turn to Cransford and before Moat Farm (with the pargetting) — sixty years ago it was "Charlie Chambers'". Who planted that spectacular row ... and why? Towards the north-end one tree was missing and legend had it that it had fallen — as poplars are prone to — and had killed someone. Was this so?

POPULAR LEGEND

An occasional series in which the Editor explores some parts of local lore that might perhaps not have a grain of truth.

THE FRAMLINGHAM BRANCH LINE

"They had intended to build a railway from Campsea Ashe through Framlingham to Laxfield".

Until the passing of the Light Railways Act in 1896, the building of any public railway in the UK had to be specifically authorised by a Local Act of Parliament. The branch from Campsea Ashe to Framlingham was covered by an Act of 1854¹, which included a Framlingham branch, 5 miles 5 furlongs 8 chains and 20 links. There is no reference to the line going on to Laxfield.

The Framlingham Weekly News began publication a few weeks after the branch had first opened on 1st June 1859². *The News* includes many references to the activities of the branch in its early years, but none to any possible extension to Laxfield³.

Nineteenth century trade directories usually include long introductory descriptions of the individual towns covered, to remind potential customers, traders, and residents of their amenities. Indeed, White's *Suffolk Directory* refers enthusiastically to a commodious terminus at the southern entrance to the town⁴, but no contemporary directories refer to the possibility of a Laxfield extension, in either their Framlingham or their Laxfield sections⁵.

Turning from negative to positive evidence, one need only look at the station buildings themselves, which survive, although adapted to other uses, adjacent to *The Station* public house, in Victoria Mill Road. There were numerous instances in the mid-to-late nineteenth century where a railway extension was proposed but never built, and where the station buildings at the *actual* terminus reflected this by being built to the *side* rather than at the *end* of the running line. Southminster (Essex), where the branch was to have run on to Tillingham, and Chingford (Greater London) with a line intended to go on to High Beech, are fairly local examples of this. At Framlingham, however, the main station-buildings are *behind* where the buffer-stops would have been:

...the station at its terminus, including the station master's residence, with its offices, waiting rooms, &c forms a handsome white brick L shaped two-storey building, which having its frontage *towards* the town⁶ [My italics]

If there is a grain of truth in this legend, perhaps it derives in part from Green's statement in his 1865 *Guide*⁷, describing proposals of a decade earlier:

The main line was originally intended to run through Framlingham and on to Halesworth, but the Wickham Market people - to their own inconvenience and that of Framlingham - opposed the proposed course; and the line was consequently diverted between Woodbridge and Wickham Market so as to escape the latter place [*i.e.* to go, instead, to Campsea Ashe]. Framlingham would therefore have been deprived of railway accommodation had it not been for the almost superhuman efforts of the late John Peirson, Esq, of Broadwater....

In other words, there was at one time a proposal that a railway should continue beyond Framlingham, though it would have been on a very different alignment to that actually adopted, and there is no obvious reference to its taking in Laxfield, which would, of course, be well outside any direct route from Framlingham to Halesworth. Sadly, Green does not quote a source for his summary of the original proposal: I would be delighted if any reader of this journal could substantiate it, and provide further detail.

- Editor's Notes:*
- 1 17 and 18 Vic., cap. 119.
 - 2 Opening date as quoted in *Bradshaw's Railway Manual*....(1869) p. 108; Green, R. *A Guide to the Town of Framlingham* (2nd edit. 1865) p. 11.
 - 3 The newspaper began publication three months after the branch opened. All issues have been checked from September 1859 to August 1861.
 - 4 White, W. *A History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk*.... (1855), p. 404.
 - 5 A sample check has been made on the following:-
... *Harrod & Co ... Directory of Suffolk* 1864, 1873; [Kelly's] *Post Office Directory of ... Suffolk*, 1865, 1869, 1879, 1883; White, *supra*; *Morris & Co's Commercial Directory ... of Suffolk*, 1868.
 - 6 Green, *Guide*, p. 87
 - 7 *Ibid*, pp. 12-13

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY & PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Fifth year of publication *Price: 2½p.*

Membership of the Society has been steadily increasing and is now over 170. About half of our members live in Framlingham, eleven in Easton, ten in Saxtead, six each in Badingham, Dennington and Sweffling; Brandeston, Earl Soham and Kettleburgh each send five; from Cretingham come four and from Parham three. Two each from Brundish and Hacheston; one each from Bruisyard, Monk Soham, Otley, Peasenhall and Sibton. From Ipswich come two; four from East Anglia north of Laxfield and six from outside East Anglia. This splendid increase of members has been due to the excellent teamwork of all our members. Thank you.

BRICK FOUNDATIONS

At the turn of the century Peter Smith had a brickworks off Station Road on the Kettleburgh Road. His two sons volunteered for the Boer War. In the course of their service they travelled miles across South Africa and they spotted brickearth to the south of Johannesburg. Opting to be demobbed in South Africa they set up a straw hut and set to making bricks. It was just the right time and place and they supplied bricks for the considerable expansion of Jo'burg. They climbed to affluence and at least twice their children did the Grand Tour of Europe in style, this including our town, the source of their family's character and resource.

CORRESPONDENCE

Castle House
Castle Street
Framlingham

13-1-98

Dear Editor

FRAM

There has been some criticism of the use of "FRAM" as an inelegant abbreviation for "FRAMLINGHAM". This is, I believe, a misunderstanding. I quote from A. D. Mills *Dictionary of English Place Names* (1991).

FRAMLINGHAM (SUFFOLK)

Framelingaham 1086 (Domesday Book)

"Homestead of the family or followers of a man called FRAMELA". Old English personal name + ing + ham.

Also

FRAMINGHAM EARL AND PIGOT (NORFOLK)

Framingaham 1086 (Domesday Book) Framelingham Comititis, Framingham Pigot 1254.

"Homestead of the family or followers of a man called FRAM". Old English personal name + inga + ham. Manorial affixes from early possession by the Earl of Norfolk (Latin *comitis* "of the Earl") and by the Pigot family.

So FRAM seems to have been a Saxon chieftain, whose family and friends occupied this area in Old English times. There is a Latin quotation in Loder and Hawes' *History of Framlingham* (1798) which, being translated, reads:-

This William [Bigod] gave the churches of both FRAMINGHAM [*sic*] MAJOR and MINOR, the church at KELESHAL [etc.] to the church of the Blessed Mary at THETFORD and in her to the monks of the Order of Cluny serving God, in free and everlasting alms.

This is a reference to the sinking of the *White Ship* in November 1120, in which this William Bigod, as well as the King's son William, were drowned.

Yours faithfully

Arthur Kirby

Shimmens Pightle
Dennington Road
Framlingham

26-2-98

Dear Editor

Firstly, I should like to congratulate you on resurrecting this Journal, and let you know, what a good response I have received from Members, to the first two issues of series three of FRAM. It has also been appreciated by visitors to our Bed and Breakfast establishment, one of whom, an Old Framlinghamian, has joined the society, so as to be able to get further copies.

You have asked for correspondence and articles from your readers. Some of our members live in homes which have long and fascinating histories, so I have some reservations in telling you what I know of the fairly modern house where Phyllis and I live, just outside Framlingham, on the Dennington Road. This property started its life in 1934, as two Railway Carriages. Many of the long-standing residents of the Town will have known the subsequent owners. One of the great advantages of having lived in Framlingham for twenty-five years before we purchased, was that when we came to name our new home, we had some local knowledge. Sydney Gray had called the house JOKELA, after the chalet that his wife had stayed in, when she participated in the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952; it had previously been known as Applegarth and Quantocks. On the deeds it was stated that Jokela was situated on a piece of land known as SHIMMENS PIGHTLE.

I checked in Green's *History of Framlingham*, which shows that "Shimmen Pightle" in 1827 was church land. I then remembered that Jim Nunn had put all the field names on the 1847 map of Framlingham. He gave me a photocopy of the section containing Shimmens Pightle and to our surprise, part of the field now farmed by John Wall, in front of our house, was called COLLETTS CLOSE, and the next field, belonging to the College, now named after another owner of this property, PENNY FARTHINGS, was called COLLETTS CLOSES. The only person whom I have spoken to who remembers these names, was the late Arthur Kent, who as a boy played on Colletts Closes.

The last owner of Shimmens Pightle before the Railway Carriages were installed in 1934, was a Mr Taylor, who was the local registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. He lived in Pembroke Road and kept his pony and trap in the field, which he used when visiting outlying villages, to carry out his duties. There are people in the area, who have checked their Birth Certificates and found that their births were registered by Mr Taylor. One of our members, Mr Artie Hall, remembers the Taylor boys and tells an hilarious story about how they tried to catch and milk the goat, in what is now our garden, when he was a boy. Mr Eastaugh who lived in the house, Pantile Cottage, now demolished, further up the Dennington Road, remembered helping his father cut the field with a scythe, and then turning it by hand to make hay.

The Gentleman who purchased the field from Mr Taylor and brought in the railway carriages was, I think, called Mr Contrator; I know very little of him except that his wife gave birth to a baby here, and that she was looked after by Mrs Violet Scotchmer, who told me that the accommodation was warm and comfortable, but that it was an awful long way from the pump and well, at the far end of the field. She also said that at about that time, the well was used for

a few weeks, when the first four houses were completed in Kings Avenue, before the mains water arrived. I do not know how long the first owner lived here, or whether he or George Cooper put the roof over, and the two rooms between the railway carriages. I think the "Coopers" were living here well before the War. George Cooper had the mains water put on, exchanging a wayleave across the field from Kings Avenue, for a small piece of land at the end of the garden (which Sydney Gray eventually re-purchased). Mr and Mrs Cooper lived here until 1967; one of the chief features remembered by many boys of that time was that George had a steam engine, just inside the gate, which was a great fascination. Kevin Eastaugh has shown me a photograph of himself, as a very small boy, in the garden here; his mother used to help Mrs Cooper in the bungalow. I am still reminded of their time here, when I dig up pieces of water pipe or track in the garden.

In 1967/8, the late Major Farthing and his wife, now Mrs Nan Woods, purchased the property and they started the process of modernising the bungalow. They had the railway carriages removed; we have photographs of the roof being held up by pit-props while the footings, walls, etc., were being built. They also extended the property to the rear. For a time, after the death of Major Farthing, the house was let out to students.

Our immediate predecessors were Mr and Mrs Sydney Gray and their family, who purchased in 1980. They rented the Sly's Boffey for the summer whilst supervising the alterations. They had the roof raised and put in a bedroom and bathroom upstairs; they also had the garden laid out. Sadly, Mrs Gray died within a very short time of moving in; Sydney remained until his two daughters had finished school. We purchased in the Autumn of 1984, and have since extended and altered things to suit our needs. We are extremely lucky, that there was a house on this piece of land before the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, enabling us to enjoy a comfortable home and secluded garden.

Yours faithfully

Brian Collett

Fram 1973

800-YEAR COPSE

Oaken Hill, Badingham (after which Oaken Hill Hall was named) has a gentle slope to the White House. On the right or east side there was until about twenty years ago a long wedge-shaped copse of trees. That tiny wood must have been there upwards of 800 years because it is shown in the Domesday (1086) map of the area. Domesday Book, William the Conqueror's detailed assessment of his conquest, is on view to all in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. The attendant will, on request, turn the pages to show any specified district.

PLANNING NOTES

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

Any ancient English market town, and Framlingham is just that, presents a challenge to those who wish to see both conservation and proper development taking place. Today, professional planners (Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department) and amenity societies (Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society) have a wealth of precedents and publications to guide their ways.

Fortunately, Framlingham is looked on by the District Council, and of course by denizens of the town, as being almost a special case. The public is kept informed of any developments proposed for the town by the numerous planning application notices which are affixed to the doors etc. of properties to be developed. It is up to people as good citizens to read those notices and to react, if that is what is needed.

Framlingham presents instances of developments that should and that should not take place. Recent developments at Framlingham College provide examples of what is acceptable. The College, opened in April 1865 and designed by Frederick Peck, a well-known Victorian institutional designer, has recently refurbished the window-frames in the main old block of the school. The new frames, at some cost, are identical to those they replace. This again is an instance where the proprietors have done well. The College is also considerably adding to its stock of buildings with some new annexes. These have been designed locally and sit comfortably with the buildings of 1865. The College is to be congratulated for seeking the most sensible and sensitive solution for its building plans.

By the way, a wonderful view at night can be had of the College from the Crown Hotel on Market Hill. The College from there looks significant and even majestic; a fitting monument to a place wishing to promote the best in education. (The best view of the College from Market Hill can be obtained from the bar of the Crown, with a pint of Adnams at one's elbow).

Other recent examples in the town of satisfactory development include the fixing of commercial signs to the frontage of the Midland Bank in Church Street. The Manor House, where the bank resides, has a certain pedigree. Signs would seem highly inappropriate, and all banks like to boast an aura of probity and dignity. The Midland Bank's solution for the Manor House is a good compromise, to which no-one can object.

Not all planning applications are passed. A plan to introduce plastic blinds to the frontage of a shop in Crown and Anchor Lane was rejected. Rightly so. Plastic and modern blinds with advertising logos sit ill within a conservation area context, though it might be thought that every effort should be made to promote trade. As a whole, a detail out of place will irritate those who study Framlingham with a critical eye.

Framlingham involves the vernacular on the grand scale. That constitutes a challenge for those wishing to conserve the town. An example in Double Street for a plan to include a satellite dish on the gable-end of a Listed Building creates problems. When television aerials were introduced in the early 1950's there was an outcry against installing them in sensitive areas. Today, such aerials can be installed in lofts, etc., and are no longer so obtrusive. But what about satellite dishes? There is a real problem there.

Talking of the vernacular leads us to modern developments in Framlingham. The 29 houses being built on the Beazer estate on Mount Pleasant are including meaningful vernacular details without being too fussy. The vernacular on new buildings can look like mere decoration and as such grates. It is a question of using the right building materials characteristic of Suffolk rather than concentrating on vernacular decoration, which can look out of place on a building designed for the 1990s. By the way, one of the blocks on that site incorporates an air of the collegiate in its design, which considering the estate's site, is a sensible inclusion. All in all, providing the standard of building is up to scratch, then that estate will not detract from Framlingham's character.

It is not short of a miracle that the townscape of Framlingham has arrived at its present position. Only three buildings on Market Hill, for instance, are later than 1830; the building housing Abbotts (Estate Agents) was built in 1840, Barclays Bank was virtually rebuilt in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897 (hence the arresting decoration on the frontage), and part of the Guildhall, burnt down in 1956, was replaced by the present Electricity Showroom. It is almost uncanny that the interesting buildings of the conservation area have survived the vicissitudes of the unfortunate changes of the Victorian years. The Victorians thought that the 19th century heralded a new and improving age, and that anything developed and built at that time was for the better. Ipswich is a case in point, where much of the rich heritage of that town was torn down. Framlingham escaped such depredations. Perhaps the inhabitants of Framlingham were more conservative than their Ipswich counterparts. Whatever happened in Framlingham in the last century, could have been much worse.

On the national scale it was a different story. It was Ruskin in his book *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1849) who highlighted the problems that Victorians created in the field of conservation. William Morris, as Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (known affectionately as anti-Scrape), raised the banner for conservation. He and others waged war against the Victorian restorers of parish churches and cathedrals throughout England. Those restorations are today for the most part deplored. Morris was vindicated. And today we are living with his legacy of correct attitudes towards conservation of the building stock as a whole.

It was the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, and subsequent legislation, which saved the day for ancient small towns like Framlingham. That act and its successors should be called the People's Town and Country Planning Acts.

Today, local opinion and the advice from professionals suggest that commonsense and good taste eventually prevail. The challenge is to view the town as a whole, and yet to make sure that individual sites are not developed to the detriment of the whole. Framlingham is indeed lucky to show a face which, the gods willing, will be fully recognisable in over a hundred years' time.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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* Member of Planning Sub-Committee
Member of Development Sub-Committee

SOCIETY NOTES

The Society is very pleased to announce that the late Mr Leslie W.C. Pegler has very kindly made a bequest of nearly £9,000 to the Society. Mr Pegler spent his youth in Framlingham, and at that time lived in the Ancient House, Albert Place. After a working life in Barking, Essex, he retired to Bermuda, where he died in 1997. His wish was that his bequest should be used for anything the Society saw fit, with a view to preserving all that is good in Framlingham, a town he much loved from his youth. The Society has meanwhile invested the legacy, and will give much thought to a constructive use of that money in the future.

The 1997/98 season of Society Winter lectures will end on Wednesday 15th April. On that occasion Mr Roy Tricker will be talking on Dennington Church. The talk starts at 7.30pm and the venue will be the United Free Church Hall, Riverside, Framlingham.

The arrangements for the 1998 summer outings promoted by the Society, are well advanced.

20th May 1998 Visit to Wingfield Church, which has been beautifully restored. Meet at 6pm with cars at the Elms Car Park, Framlingham.

17th June 1998 Annual Day Out. The Society will be visiting Lowestoft and Somerleyton Hall. It will be a fascinating day. Meet at 9am at the Elms Car Park, Framlingham. Travel will be by coach.

15th July 1998 Mr Peter MacLachlan will be conducting a Guided Tour of the heraldry in St Michael's Church, Framlingham at 6pm. Mr MacLachlan is the acknowledged expert in these parts on matters heraldic.

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EXIT LINES

THE ELECTION

Another battle has been fought by the Electors of East Suffolk, and again has might triumphed over right. The people and their cause are again left behind in the race, whilst the powerful few and their truculent myrmidons are declared masters of the situation for a time. But, thank heaven, only for a time.

Framlingham Weekly News, 4 June 1870

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
FRAMLINGHAM
1ST - 4TH MAY 1998**

**THE PRINTER, THE PARSON
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**A PRESENTATION OF HISTORY
1798 - 1998**

TWO LECTURES AND AN EXHIBITION

Hawes & Loder
and
The History of Framlingham
1798

Rev. George Crabbe
and
The Flowers of Framlingham
1798

DR JOHN BLATCHLY

DR RAYMOND HARDINGE

Friday 1st May at 8.15pm

Saturday 2nd May at 7.30pm

Tickets £3.00

Tickets £2.00

An exhibition will run from Saturday 2nd May until Monday 4th May showing copies of books printed by Robert Loder of Woodbridge, examples of Robert Hawes' *History of Framlingham* and a display showing "The Flowers of Framlingham" and where they grew 200 years ago.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

The above tickets may be secured by sending a S.A.E. and cheque made payable to: Tony Martin, 42 College Road, Framlingham, Suffolk.

IP13 9ES. Both lectures may be attended for £4.50 in total.

Tickets can also be bought at the door.