



FRAM
The Journal of
The Framlingham & District
Local History & Preservation Society

Number 4

**5th
Series**

August 2006

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Framlingham and District
Local History and Preservation Society

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*Heir of Antiquity! - fair castle Town,
Rare spot of beauty, grandeur, and renown,
Seat of East-Anglian kings! - proud child of fame,
Hallowed by time, illustrious Framlinghame!*

From: *Framlingham: a Narrative of the Castle,*
by James Bird (1831)

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

Occasionally it seems to me to be useful in the editorial to *Fram* to pause from theorizing about the nature and purpose of history and its source materials, and tackle issues closer to home.

This issue of *Fram* comprises twenty pages. The last one had twenty-eight, the one before twenty, the one before that twenty-four. The first issue (third series) of the re-born *Fram*, back in 1997, boasted just twelve pages. Then, in the following year, the Society's Committee agreed that each issue could extend to twenty pages, though this has often since been extended. Still, as Editor I do try to keep to an average length of twenty-four pages, though with the Millennium issue the number of pages climbed (as authorized) to forty.

Self-evidently the size of each issue (in multiples of four pages, for collation purposes) is critically determined by the length of the contributions that I have submitted to me for publication. Several long-standing members of the Society have suggested to me that the journal should also include more short pieces - say, just two or three pages each. However, two major factors apply here: our sister publication, *Framfare*, already publishes short historical items (often by authors whom I ache to publish in *Fram!*). Secondly, there is for me the issue of supply - I have far more long articles on file awaiting inclusion than I have short ones.

I have emphasized several times in my editorials to *Fram* that I do not want the journal to be entirely "parochial" in its content. Hence we have had - to take only two examples - articles on the Suffolk poor law, and on its agricultural history.

Perhaps in a later issue I will muse over, and also invite comments on, the *raison d'être* of the Society as a whole, a process that would, of course, have to be critically informed by inputs from the Society's elected officers and the whole membership body. For the present, however, I think that I can say with some confidence that ours is a *historical*, rather than an amenity, society (a fact very largely confirmed by the themes of our monthly winter lectures), and that that distinction is reflected in the content of the Society's journal.

Turning from themes to format, most articles as published here contain a number of source references. I normally try to incorporate these as footnotes at the end of the paper's text, so that their intrusion does not detract from the reader's enjoyment (or otherwise!) of the article as a whole. They are, I feel, essential. A journal like *Fram* can have many functions - community loyalty and involvement, personal education, to name but two - but of primary importance among these is that the journal's content provides a small but none the less valuable input to the history of the county and of the country. It is a case of micro-history feeding into macro-history. To validate that input, the sources of the facts, trends, assumptions etc. etc. contained in articles need to be specified. In the context of any historical society journal, at whatever level, the editor has a key role in achieving this, and one that I am proud to assume with this journal.

Fram is privately published and is no longer made available for retail sale - its primary audience has, by definition, to be the individual members of our Society, whose subscriptions (augmented by support from one greatly valued sponsor) fund its production and distribution. It is, however, far from being a newsletter, that latter function being supplied by circulars and programme cards often included in the *Fram* mailout. In addition, copies of each issue of *Fram* are passed to a number of specialist libraries, archive repositories, and organizations with related interests to our own, providing, in the process, publicity for our Society, and also, from time to time, new Society members. But most importantly, that broader dissemination of *Fram* is key to its wider role, in providing a modest contribution to our understanding of the evolution of our country.

THE MARKET HILL FRAMLINGHAM ITS BUILDINGS AND TRADES

By Jennifer Broster

Framlingham now gives the appearance of a peaceful town with an attractive centre, around which dormitory housing estates have developed. At times in its past Framlingham has been a busy place. Sitwell cites the medieval Court Rolls and the Bailiff's Accounts of the castle as documents which show the importance of Framlingham in the fourteenth century, when goods "were channeled from all over East Anglia towards the Earl's warehouses at Framlingham".¹ Framlingham's Market Hill is intriguing because it is different from many market places in other towns in that it is triangular in shape, as opposed to rectangular or linear, and it is on a slope. At first sight, this is not the easiest ground upon which to erect an array of market stalls, so one asks why the market came to be in such a position. A market is still held on the upper and widest part of the triangle on Tuesday and Saturdays, so the site must have proved its suitability over the passage of time.

The topography and streetscape of the Market Hill

As far as it is possible to ascertain, the Market Hill has been triangular in shape from the outset. There could be at least two reasons why it is shaped as it is. The first theory is that to the north-east of the Market Hill lies the castle, with principally only St. Michael's church between it and the market place. Indeed, it is conceivable that some market trading could once have taken place in the churchyard.² The northern edge of the Market Hill could reflect the line of the castle boundary. Given that the occupant of the castle was instrumental in the formal establishment of the market (see below), it could be that the market naturally expanded here under the protection of the castle, with the widest area of the market nearest to the castle's perimeter.³ It was also sensible to set out temporary stalls at the top of the Hill to escape the danger of flooding from the river Ore, which is a short distance down Bridge Street at Riverside. At the same time the slope downhill means that rain-water, and perhaps other debris, drained well away, protecting the merchandise from excess moisture.

A second theory is that as the town is at the junction of three roads, best described today as the road east to Saxmundham, the road north to Yoxford via Badingham, and the road leading west to Earl Soham and south to Wickham Market. It may be that the roads originally went through the middle of the town, and the meeting point of the roads widened to form the triangle, as at Market Harborough and Bampton.⁴ Certainly Andrew Lovejoy is of the opinion that before 1500 the Ipswich to Norwich road passed through the Market Hill via the arch in the Crown Inn, a right of way which was not blocked until 1952.⁵ He also points out that the road from the castle, named Church Street, met this important road at the Market Hill.⁶

The market appears to have been established by Royal Charter in 1286,⁷ when the last Hugh Bigod was Lord of the Manor of Framlingham Castle. It is likely that some market trading took place before then, and this idea is supported by *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1515*,⁸ in that it lists Framlingham market as being prescriptive, i.e. one held by custom. Maybe the then existing trade was sufficient to encourage the Lord of the Manor to think that either directly or indirectly, he would benefit from its income.⁹ According to Sitwell, Hugh Bigod created Framlingham a borough at the same time; the market was held on Fridays, as well as on Tuesdays and Saturdays.¹⁰ Loder, writing in 1798, lists seventy-two burgage-holders.¹¹ The Framlingham Town Trail refers to the Cattle Market being held until 1937, at an area called The Elms to the west of the Market Hill, where today there is a block of flats and a car park. (There appears to be no corroborative evidence of the date of closure).^{11A} The Market Hill would not have been used to accommodate the animals, and therefore the relatively narrow entrances to the central triangle would not have been too much of a problem.¹²

The streetscape was somewhat different at the end of the seventeenth century, because

the Parish Register indisputably proves the fact of this visitation [of the Plague], as from March 1666, to March 1667, there were one hundred and fifty burials ... during the calamity, tradition adds that the Market-Hill was entirely covered with grass.¹³

It must be remembered that an application to tar the Market Hill was not made to the District Council until 1911.¹⁴ The road surface has a rough unmetalled look to it in a photograph taken around 1886, as shown in Figure 2.^{14A} The two buildings outlined in black in Figure 1, occupied now by the Indian Restaurant and its neighbour containing three retail elements, represent the only visible signs of encroachment into the triangular Market Hill.

Two buildings can be said to dominate the Market Hill, namely the Crown Hotel on the eastern side, formerly a coaching inn, and the Mansion House, previously known as the guild, or gild hall. Taking the Crown Hotel first, when the arch crossing the road that ran through the inn was filled in 1952, it was discovered that the front of the building was "an eighteenth century replacement of a Tudor inn".¹⁵ No evidence has been found to indicate what the building would have looked like in Tudor times, but an illustration of The Old Sun Inn at Saffron Walden¹⁶ shows an arch through its jettied timber frame, so it is feasible that the Crown Inn spanned the road from when it was first built until 1952. Sitwell speculates that the Inn was built around the mid-sixteenth century when Queen Mary Tudor was at Framlingham¹⁷; if one accepts this hypothesis, then it would most likely have been a timbered framed building.¹⁸

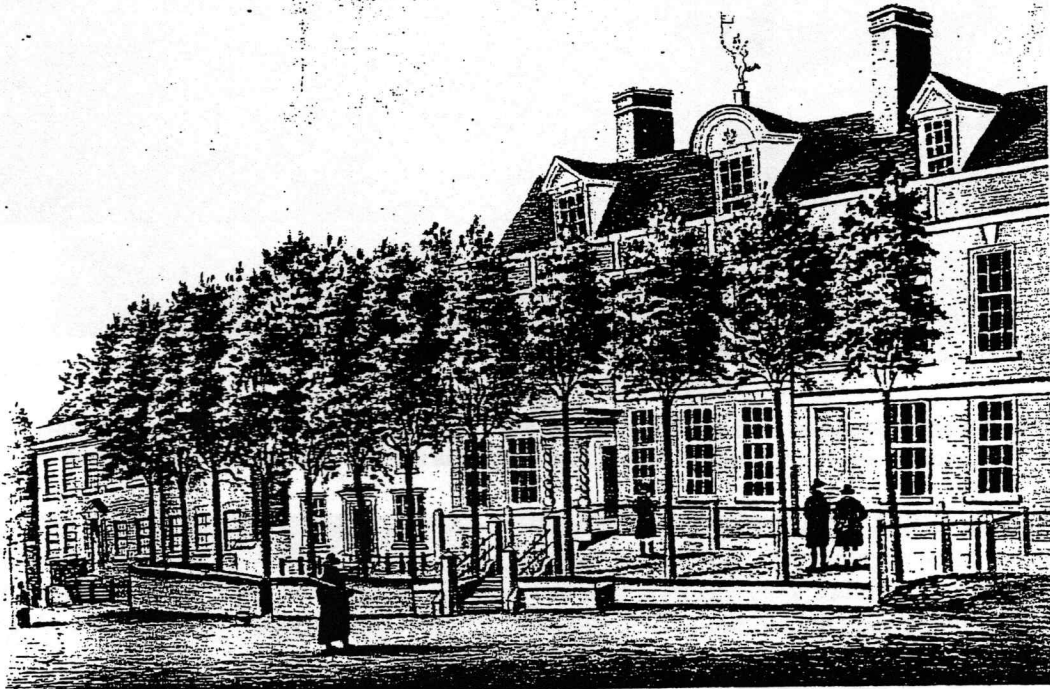


Figure 2
Crown Hotel pictured in 1906, showing its arch (Self Collection, Lanman Museum, Framlingham)

An early photograph by John Self, shows the arch through the Crown Inn, and confirms it was a posting house.

To the left of the Crown are two buildings that were once one, the grocers Carley and Webb, and the ironmongery/hardware shop of Bridges and Garrard. Both these buildings extend backward to the street behind the Market Hill, where the brick wall of 1779 dividing the properties can be seen.¹⁹ The wooden crane which once hoisted goods up into the upper floor of the warehouse behind Carley and Webb was refurbished in the late twentieth century.²⁰ The original timbers of the warehouse are still visible from inside the building.²¹

The other predominant building on the Market Hill, the Mansion House, was previously known as the Guildhall. It faces the northern edge of the Market Hill and backs on to the churchyard. There is no physical trace of the original Guildhall now; it was demolished in 1564 and replaced with a large house built by Simon Pulham. Figure 3 depicts the Mansion House as it would have looked around the late eighteenth century.^{21A} The segmental pediments to the dormers, the porch and the mathematical tiles, which are not easy to see in the picture but can still be seen on a field trip today on both the Mansion House and on the adjacent buildings to the right of the picture, support the idea that a Georgian front was put on to Pulham's sixteenth century timber framed building.²²



The Mansion House, Market Hill, 200 years ago.

Figure 3

The tree-edged terrace with inserted steps in Figure 3 appear to be similar to the present arrangement as shown in Figure 5, whereas in the photograph, Figure 4, the retaining wall looks to be non-existent and there are more steps. This leads one to speculate whether the drawing of two hundred years ago was done somewhat from imagination at a much later date. What Figure 4 definitely indicates is that by the late nineteenth century, the ground floor had been converted to provide for shop frontages and the ornate sculpture between the chimneys has disappeared. Continuing along the raised terrace one comes to the site currently occupied by an Estate Agent and the Newsagents at the corner of Church Lane. The house that once stood here was part of the Mansion House "and in the late 1660s regarded as one with it. They were separated legally in 1788 ... it [the separated section] was burnt down in 1956 and was rebuilt."²³ Today the Estate Agent's and Newsagents properties are pink-painted brick with the corner plot being single storey. They do not complement the Mansion House. Crossing Church Lane the pink theme continues with a three storey, pan-tiled roof building standing on the site of Stair House, an eighteenth century mansion, which can just be seen in Figure 2 beyond the curve of the wall.

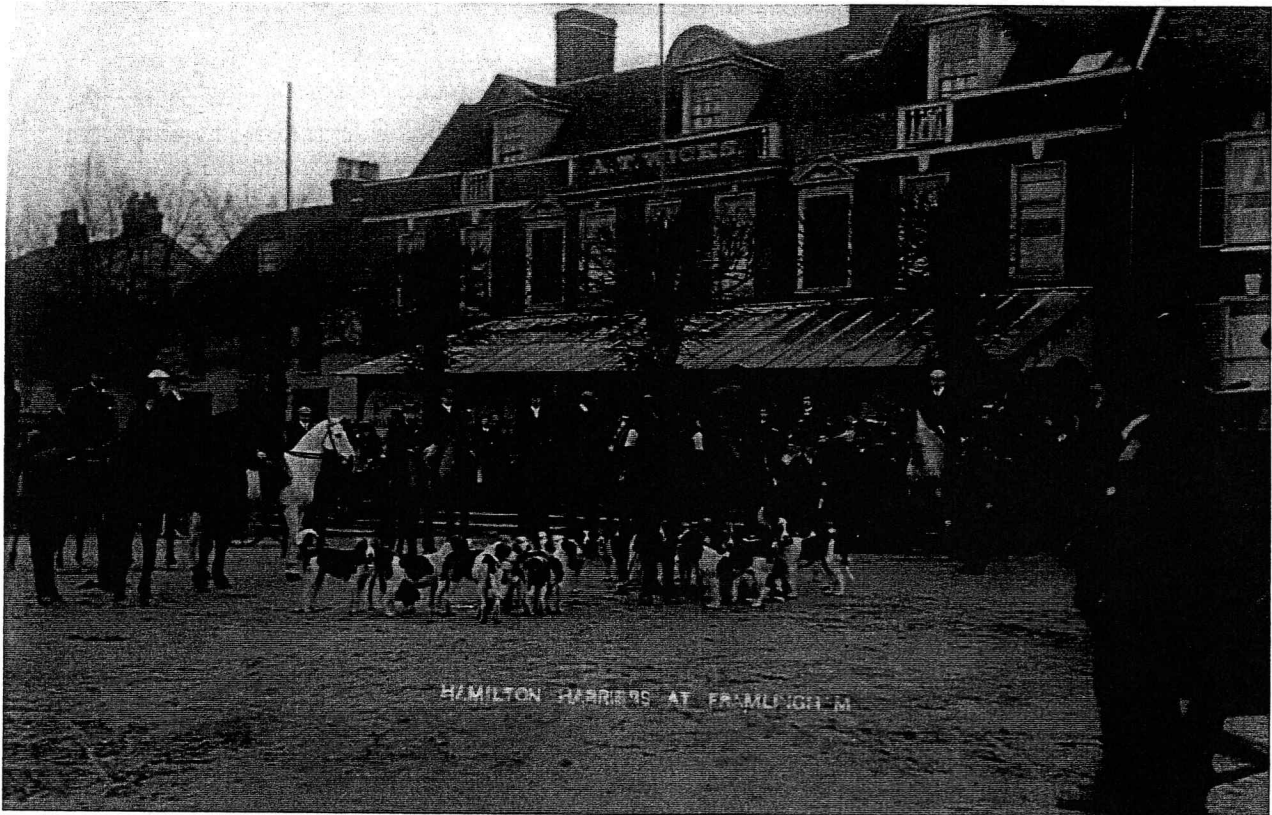


Figure 4
(Self Collection, Lanman Museum, Framlingham)



Source: Fieldwork, author's own photograph (October 2004)

Figure 5

Stair House was demolished after the bankruptcy of its then owner in 1832²⁴ and replaced with the current building, whose vertical sash windows tend to be consistent with a building date of the 1800s.

Diagonally opposite what was Stair House the only sign of encroachment into the Market Hill can be seen. This consists of two buildings, one of two storeys and one single storey. The two storey structure gives the appearance of being a dwelling at one time because of the external chimney stack, which also suggests that it is a timber-framed building, a fact that has been verified by observation when a repair was carried out to that wall, exposing an area of lathe and plaster.²⁵ The single storey building is more problematic. Sitwell refers to documentary evidence in the Pembroke archives which give a date of 1789.²⁶

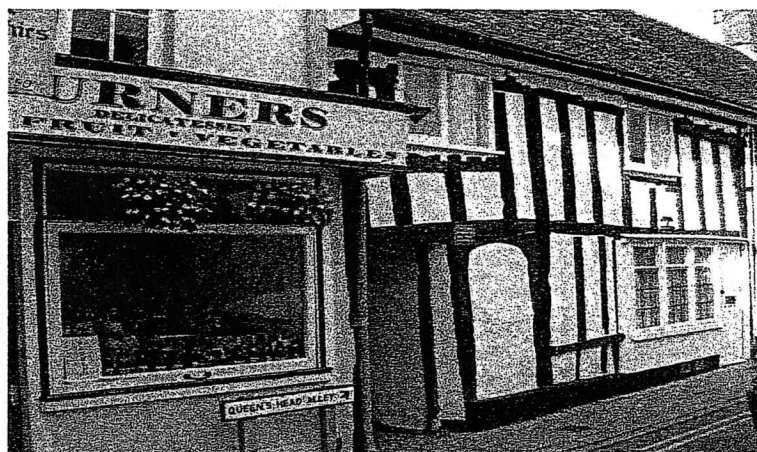


Source: Fieldwork, author's own photograph (October 2004)

Figure 6

Buildings encroaching onto the Market Hill. Note the chimney behind the lamppost to the left of the two storey building, and No. 12 Market Hill, Bank House to the right of the picture.

Tucked away behind the encroachment in the southern corner of the Market Hill is an interesting feature called Queen's Head Alley, Figure 7. The entrance to the alley actually cuts through the building rather than between buildings. It is the adjacent greengrocer's building which forms the corner of the Market Hill. The alley appears to be named after the Inn, which once stood at this point.



Source: Fieldwork, author's own photograph (October 2004)

Figure 7

The entrance to Queen's Head Alley. Note that the building extends over the opening, with what may have been a door to the former inn to the right.



Source: Fieldwork, author's own photograph (October 2004)

Figure 8
The corner of the Market Hill behind the encroachment.
Note the position of Queen's Head Alley entrance before the corner.

As to the reason for the alley, Sitwell puts forward the theory that, since it runs from the Market Hill to what is now Fore Street, but was once called Back Street,²⁷ it may have been the narrow route for traders through an earth bank to the Market Hill, thus making it easier to exact fees for trading on the Market Hill.²⁸ To support this view, Sitwell points out that the earliest deeds available for the properties adjacent the Queen's Head to the west are dated 1751, despite their black and white features. Number 12 Market Hill, called Bank House, which is in this row, was once the Marlborough Inn. This may be an indication that the western boundary of the Market Hill was not built until approximately the beginning of the eighteenth century; maybe they were built on the site of a former earthen bank, mentioned above.²⁹ Bank House has a tall Georgian front. The back part of the house is lower in height, as well as being further down the slope away from the hill.³⁰ Number 13, Hill House, is in white brick about half a storey lower than number 12, but otherwise similar in appearance, which may point towards a frontage of a similar date.³¹

The trades and occupations that have been followed in the buildings bordering the Market Hill

The plan in Figure 1 indicates what the buildings surrounding the Market Hill are used for now [2004]. Some plots appear to have accommodated the same trade over a long period of time, whilst other buildings have been used for a variety of businesses. Some houses have always been private residences. There are instances where trades have been advertised as or referred to as being in the Market Hill, but it is not possible to pinpoint exactly where. Most of the information readily available refers to the nineteenth century with some exceptions.

Beginning with the two most prominent buildings, the Crown Inn seems to have been used as such since it was first built. Nineteenth century directories show it as a posting inn as would befit its position on the main road. "It had a lock-up coach-house and excellent Stabling".³² The building to the right of Crown Inn was once used as a barber's shop.³³ In 1847, a year after the repeal of the Corn Laws, the barber's premises were replaced by the Corn Hall.³⁴ The relaxation of controls on imported corn would probably not have affected the local arable market in Framlingham immediately; certainly the Corn Hall was well used not only as a market for corn, but for social meetings, as is evidenced by articles and advertisements in the *Framlingham Weekly News*.³⁵ By 1870 the American prairies were producing wheat on a large scale and that had an impact on British arable farming,³⁶ so it is not surprising that according to one source, citing *Lambert's Family Almanack*, Gurneys Bank replaced the Corn Hall in 1873³⁷, but it is interesting that the *Kelly's Directory* of 1900, twenty-seven years

later, still talks of the "Corn Exchange, adjoining the Crown Hotel is a large room, with an entrance on the Market Hill, and contains stands for thirty members".³⁸ Maybe the Corn Hall was always within the Crown building, because Sitwell refers to the "demolishing of the old Corn Hall built in 1847" when the archway through the Crown was closed in 1952³⁹. Gurneys Bank has subsequently become Barclays Bank, which maintains its position on the Market Hill today.^{39A}

The Guildhall appears to have belonged to the religious guild "incorporated by the name of the Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary".⁴⁰ Green thinks the Guild existed at least as early as 1363 and was there until approximately 1564,⁴¹ when like others it seems to have been a casualty of the Dissolution of the monasteries. Adjacent to the churchyard, it would have been ideally placed for arranging priests to say prayers for the dead and centrally placed for other parochial, charitable works. It may have been a smaller version of the Gild of Blessed Mary at Chesterfield with its own open hall, buttery, pantry and kitchen.⁴² The Mansion House was erected in its place.⁴³ A member of the Worshipful Company of Drapers bought the property in 1674, although whether he actually traded from there or lived in it as a status symbol is questionable,⁴⁴ but it was certainly used as a private residence by Samuel Kilderbee in the late eighteenth century,⁴⁵ and in the nineteenth century by John Peirson.⁴⁶ After Peirson, Stephen Starling did trade from it as a draper, using the terrace for displaying his goods at sale times⁴⁷ and he appears to be still there in 1891.⁴⁸ It continued as a draper's under the name of Wicks.⁴⁹ By 1972, when Sitwell was writing, the western section of the building was used as an accountant's practice, which is still there. The remaining parts are currently used as a photographic gallery and travel agent's as can be seen in Figure 1.

An academy, not taking boarders, was at the site of the Stair House in 1842-44.⁵⁰ There was at least one other such establishment around the Market Hill.⁵¹ Sitwell notes that a school house existed in the "room above the Market Cross from approximately 1698 to when the Market Cross was demolished in 1788".⁵² Ridgard interprets the word Teloneum in an extent of 1270 to describe "a toll house with a temporary cage for prisoners", and he adds that "sufficient references are available to confirm that Framlingham had a house on the market place for the collection of tolls and a number of other purposes. It appears possible that this building was of medieval origin."⁵³ It would seem that the piece of infilling in the corner of the Market Hill has been there in some form for a long time. The toll house and temporary gaol would have been close to the narrow entrance from Queen's Head Alley mentioned previously.

The Queen's Head was previously called the Blue Boar, and it is regarded now as one of the earliest of the many Inns recorded as having existed in the town's past. The greengrocery shop, pictured next to the former Queen's Head, in Figures 7 and 8, was a butcher's shop for many years with at least two different family owners.⁵⁴ Prior to that it too was an Inn called The Duck and Mallard.⁵⁵ Carley and Webb and Bridges and Garrard, north of the Crown Inn, when they were one building, formed The Griffin Inn. The Black Swan, on the site of the Stair House, was demolished in 1832 to be rebuilt and used as the academy mentioned in the previous paragraph.⁵⁶ Number 12 Market Hill was the Marlborough Inn at one point in its interesting past, as mentioned when talking of the topography of the Hill. Another Griffin Inn existed around 1771 to 1815 at numbers 10 and 11 Market Hill.^{56A} The number of hostelries on the Market Hill indicates how busy it must have been with many people requiring overnight accommodation or somewhere less public than the Market Hill or the Corn Hall in which to conduct business.⁵⁷

Numbers 10 and 11 Market Hill have had various uses. Prior to their joint existence as one of the two Griffin Inns, number 11 was a grocery business. After the Inn ceased trading, it became an Ironmongers. Richard Green, the printer whose *History of Framlingham*, printed in 1834, has been quoted elsewhere in this article, lived in this building. From 1909, both numbers 10 and 11 appear to have been used as a small department store by F. Barnes, with various elements being used as a draper, milliner and dress and mantle-maker.⁵⁸ The Wareings continued in similar fashion until 1927, when "the premises were taken over by Potters of Framlingham"⁵⁹ for car showrooms. Within the author's living memory, number 11 has been a ladies dress shop. Number 12 Market Hill was bought from a butcher by a surgeon in 1828⁶⁰, who both lived and practiced from it. He increased its height and added the Georgian front. After his death the house was used by Lloyds Bank from

approximately 1919 until the time of World War II, when they withdrew from the town.⁶¹ It then reverted to a private residence. Carley and Webb's building⁶² was in use as a grocery store by 1844, when the proprietor, Charles Edwards, also operated a banking counter⁶³ and other ancillary services.⁶⁴

Number 13 Market Hill, also known as Hill House and shown as such on Figure 1, appears always to have been a private residence⁶⁵, but number 14 was "Edward Wells Tailor and Draper".⁶⁶ The chemist at the corner of Church Street seems to have been used as such over a long period, although the name of the proprietor has changed. Other occupations were followed in buildings around the Market Hill, although it has not always been possible to establish their precise locations. Amongst others, these included straw hat makers, a saddle and harness maker, and a cabinet maker. It would seem that the properties surrounding the Market Hill have contained over the years to this day an eclectic mix of trades among the private houses.

Trades that were and are represented on the temporary market stalls

Green records that in 1640 Nicholas Shene was fined for "having permitted the street leading to the Butter-Market to be landed up with dirt".⁶⁷ It is likely that butter was one of the commodities sold in or under the Market house to protect it from the elements,⁶⁸ although Green continues "no particulars are extant shewing where this Butter-Market was held". Ridgard notes that "Ten persons were listed as holding shoppes in Framingham Market ... a further thirty five were listed as stall holders, according to a late seventeenth century market Rental."⁶⁹ Fortunately the same Rental, lists the "retail trades followed by the stall holders". Ridgard presumes that the ten shop-keepers traded "from within the Market-house, two were butchers, two were barbers, other shops were held by a glover, a shoe maker, a sadler, a pewterer and a chapman." He goes on to list the stalls as follows, "twelve butchers' stalls, six stalls held by chapmen, five by weavers and four by shoemakers". Other trades mentioned were a pedlar, a mercer, a smith and a cobbler.⁷⁰ Hawes writing in 1712 describes Framlingham "market-place ... and in the midst thereof is the Butchery, with severall shops under two great chambers belonging to the Lords of the Manor; where the stalls for the fairs and markets are laid up."⁷¹ Despite the fact that these sources may be as much as fifty years apart, they do seem to be saying the same thing in general terms, in that there were probably around forty retail outlets, some of which were classified as shops trading under or in a market house.

In his own time, 1834, Green writes that "the only market day now is weekly upon Saturday, which is well attended by merchants and farmers, for the sale of corn &c., from October till May".⁷² This was before the Corn Hall was built (see above), so presumably the grain dealing was done either in the open air, in the Market House, or in the local inns.⁷³ The 1851 census includes the occupations of lodgers at an inn in the Market Hill. It does not specify which inn, but gives Samuel Sheppherd as the innkeeper. Two journeymen, a smith and a printer were in the parlour, whilst two more journeymen, both carpenters, have no room designated against their names. In addition three hawkers were there.⁷⁴ It could be construed that these peripatetic tradesmen were passing through Framlingham to or from the market. So, it appears that a mixed market, with an emphasis on grain was still flourishing in the nineteenth century.

The field trip made by the writer in October 2004 revealed that, discounting the mobile ice cream van, fourteen stalls were trading, up to five of which could be said to be selling foodstuffs, namely the butcher, the fishmonger, the whole food stall, the fruiterer and the greengrocer. The greengrocer also sold cut flowers, and there was a second stall combining cut flowers with shrubs, a third selling bedding plants, and a fourth selling small plants as well as one selling bulbs; all reflecting the current popularity of gardening. The butcher came from Halesworth, the fishmonger from Southwold, so the idea of peripatetic stallholders still survives to a certain extent.

Girouard could have been talking specifically about Framlingham Market Hill when he talks of "houses on the market place tending to become the property of the richer citizens dealing in more valuable and profitable goods, especially grocers ... and mercers or drapers" and talks of some of these

developing into banks.⁷⁵ It has been shown in this article that these trades either have been or are represented on Framlingham's Market Hill. Further on in his book, Girouard could again have been describing the appearance of Framlingham town centre today when he says "the style of the buildings on the [burgage] plot varies, because they have been built by different owners and at different dates".⁷⁶ It seems from these observations that Framlingham's Market Hill is perhaps typical of many others, in that it is a diverse mix of trades and private residences, and the buildings appear to give the eye a variety of styles to enjoy, where buildings have been replaced or embellished over the years. At the time of writing no national chain stores are represented on the Hill, and therefore Framlingham has escaped their nationwide uniformity of design.

Notes

[Editor's interpolations enclosed in square brackets].

1. O. Sitwell, *A Guide to Framlingham* (1972) p. 5.
2. M. Aston and J. Bond, *The Landscape of Towns* (1976) p. 96.
3. *Ibid.* p. 87 cites Windsor, Skipton and Taunton.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 34.
6. A. A. Lovejoy, "Market Hill, Framlingham" in *Fram: the Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society* 3rd Series no. 6 (April 1999) p. 9.
7. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 34.
8. S. Letters, *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516* (2003) p. 328.
9. R. Holt and G. Rosser (eds.) *The Mediaeval Town: a reader in English urban history, 1200-1540* (1990) p. 23.
10. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 5.
11. R. Hawes, *The History of Framlingham ... with ... additions and notes by Robert Loder* (1798) pp. 373-7.
- 11A. [The statement contained in *Framlingham Town Trail* (c. 1995) that the saleyard closed in 1937 is disputed by local people still living, who claim to remember its being in at least partial operation after the Second World War. *Framlingham Weekly News* August 21 1937 refers to its "going from bad to worse". I quote here with acknowledgement from our Society's President's invaluable "Synopsis" of the contents of *FWN* (Unpublished: copy available for consultation by arrangement at the Lanman Museum)].
12. M. Girouard, *The English Town* (1990) p. 13 "beast markets were normally kept separate".
13. R. Green, *The History, Topography, and Antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted ...* (1834) p. 178.
14. B. Whitehead, "The Early years of the Parish Council in Framlingham" in *Fram op. cit.* 4th Series no. 3 (April 2002) p. 22.
- 14A. [Self Collection, Lanman Museum Framlingham.]
15. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 28.
16. R. W. Brunskill, *Timber Building in Britain* (1985) p. 55.
17. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 28.
18. R. W. Brunskill, *Vernacular Architecture, an illustrated handbook* (1971) p. 177.
19. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 29.
20. Field study - author was present at the celebration of the refurbishment [which was funded by the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society].
21. Field study by author.
- 21A. [Lanman Museum Ref: FRMLM:1986.693.]
22. Brunskill, *Vernacular ...*, *op. cit.* pp. 64, 98, 143.
23. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 27.
24. *Ibid.*
25. Information from Mr. J. A. Broster.
26. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 27.
27. W. White, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk ...* (1844) p. 195.
28. J. Broster, "An Investigation of 18-20 Fore Street also known as The Old Surgery, Framlingham" (unpublished, Suffolk College BA Hons. year 1 2002) p. 20.
29. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 15.
30. Private tour given by owner Mrs. Woods to author 12 December 2004.
31. D. Lloyd, *The Making of English Towns* (1998) pp. 188-190.
32. J. McEwan, "Glazier, plumber, painter, Volunteer and innkeeper" in *Fram op. cit.* 4th Series no. 10 (August 2004) p. 17.
33. J. McEwan, "Bible, barber, surgeon and Maharajah" in *Fram op. cit.* 4th Series no. 4 (August 2002) p. 4.
34. W. White, *op. cit.* (1874) p. 404.
35. *Framlingham Weekly News*, 17 December 1859, 24 December 1859.
36. Lloyd, *op. cit.* p. 234.
37. McEwan, "Bible ..." *art. cit.* p. 9.
38. *Kelly's Suffolk Directory ... 1900* (1900) p. 135.
39. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 28.
- 39A. ["In 1872 a very elaborate-fronted structure was erected by Messrs. Gurneys and Co., on the Market-hill, on the site of Harveys and Hudson's old bank, for carrying on their banking operations ..." *Lambert's Family Almanack 1873* title-page verso.].
40. Ipswich Suffolk Record Office JC1/1 (10) R. Hawes, "The History or memories of Framlingham and Loes Hundred in Suffolk in the eighteenth century" (1712) p. 2.
41. Green, *op. cit.* p. 187
42. J. West, *Town records* (1983) pp. 104, 113.
43. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 28.
44. *Ibid.* p. 26 [i.e. Francis Kilderbee].
45. Green, *op. cit.* p. 260.
46. White, *op. cit.* p. 195.
47. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 26.
48. Ipswich Suffolk Record Office RG12/1479 Fiche 161 (1891) Census enumerators' returns.
49. [*Kelly's Directory of Suffolk ... 1904* (1904) p. 145].
50. J. Bridges, "The Framlingham Tithe Map 1842" in *Fram op. cit.* 4th Series no. 4 (August 2002) pp. 25-29; White, *op. cit.* p. 194.

51. White, *op. cit.* p. 194.
52. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 9.
53. J. Ridgard (editor), *Medieval Framlingham: selected records, 1270-1534* (1985) p. 17.
54. Within the author's memory.
55. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 23.
56. *Ibid.*
- 56A. [See also P. J. Stannard, "The Inns of Framlingham, past and present" in *Fram op. cit.* 3rd Series no. 1 (August 1997) pp. 4-6; no. 2 (December 1997) pp. 9-11; no. 3 (April 1998) pp. 4-6].
57. Girouard, *op. cit.* p. 15.
58. J. Bridges, *Framlingham: portrait of a Suffolk town* (1975) photograph 13 caption.
59. Ipswich Suffolk Record Office HD1672/4 Wareing Bros. archive, letter from Donald R. Wareing.
60. A. A. Lovejoy, "William Jeaffreson of Framlingham 1790-1865: physician and surgeon" in *Fram op. cit.* 4th Series no. 8 (December 2003) pp. 8-15.
61. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 17.
62. North of the Crown Inn, see Figure 1.
63. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 17.
64. [M. L. Kilvert, *A History of Framlingham ...* (1995) p. 82].
65. Sitwell, *op. cit.* p. 28.
66. *Framlingham Weekly News*, 26 November 1859.
67. Green, *op. cit.* p. 183.
68. Girouard, *op. cit.* p. 18.
69. Ridgard, *op. cit.* p. 17.
70. *Ibid.* p. 18.
71. Ipswich Suffolk Record Office JC1/1 (10) R. Hawes, "The History or memoirs of Framlingham and Loes Hundred in Suffolk in the eighteenth century" (1712) p. 2.
72. Green, *op. cit.* p. 183.
73. Girouard, *op. cit.* p. 15.
74. Ipswich Suffolk Record Office HO107/1802/FO111 Fiche 190 (1851) Census enumerators' returns.
75. Girouard, *op. cit.* p. 15.
76. *Ibid.* p. 69.

FRAMLINGHAM IN THE 1930s

By G. Taylor

The details of the workings of the Public Assistance Board in the 1930s in a recent issue of *Fram*¹ was most interesting to me, as my father was the Relieving Officer at Framlingham, and he was responsible for twenty-two villages in and around the town from 1914 to 1936, when he moved to Woodbridge.

This post was the forerunner of the system now dealt with by Social Services. In Suffolk at that time most workers were employed on farms and did not pay an unemployment stamp to provide money in the event of unemployment, and in the winter months many were stood off, as there was little they could do on the farms until the spring ploughing². If a man was stood off by his employer, he would apply for help from the Public Assistance Board, and my father would visit the house and complete an application form giving a lot of detail as to the number of children, how much rent to be paid, and any other outgoings such as the shilling-a-week clothing club, to which many people belonged. Even any married children were shown on the form, together with their income, and I think I am right in saying they would have had to contribute to the parents' subsistence if able to do so. The application form would then be taken before a local committee, consisting often of the local parson, a shopkeeper in the village concerned, and so on, and this committee would then decide how much money would be granted, which was always less than the applicant's normal earnings. Then my father would have to go to the applicant each week and pay him this money. In those days a cottage rent would be about a half-crown (12½p) a week or less, and most cottages had coal or wood fires on which most cooking was done, as few, if any, had electricity, and no gas, though Framlingham itself did have a gas-works, and there were street-lights on most roads in the town, and a gas lighter on a bicycle kept them going.

There were then quite a few tramps or "travellers" as they are now known, and they walked everywhere, and had to get an entry certificate from Father before being admitted to the workhouse at Wickham Market, where they had to stay a minimum of a few days and work in the kitchen garden there before being allowed to go on again.³

One well-known tramp and a frequent visitor was called Tom Wink, who spoke as if he had been well educated, and he had a very red face and looked extremely healthy. If Father had been out all day in the pony and trap in heavy rain, Tom Wink was not too welcome, especially as my mother had given him a hot meal in the dry in the garden shed in our house in College Road, and Father was very wet, cold and hungry. Tom then had a seven mile walk to the workhouse at Wickham Market, and probably slept beside a haystack if he could not get to Wickham that evening. If a tramp called at a house for water or food they were seldom refused help even though they were regarded as work-shy.

In those days Framlingham had a railway which terminated there, and if Father was a little late in getting ready in the morning to go to Wickham Market, I, or another brother, would go to the station and ask the staff to hold the train for a while until he arrived. At some level crossings the driver would open the road gates, drive the train through, and the guard at the end of the train would shut them again after the train had gone through.⁴

As Relieving Officer, Father had to go to the Workhouse on pension day, collect all the inmates' pension books, and when on holiday from school, I would go to the Post Office in the village and cash the pensions, which was then ten shillings (50p) a week, of which they were allowed to keep a shilling (5p) for themselves, and the rest was for their keep.

Another responsibility of a Relieving Officer was to arrange for persons of unsound mind to be taken to the mental hospital at Melton. Father was usually informed by the local policeman, and on my school holidays I often accompanied him and the local village policeman in a hire car from Potters Garage. The car used was a large one, and there was a thick glass partition between front and back seats. I sat in the front with the driver and the patient was in the back between Father and the policeman. However violent they had been, they were usually quiet once Father had removed their boots, which he always did as soon as he could. We then had to get a JP at Wickham Market to see the patient before proceeding, and the patient was then taken to the hospital, and on one occasion the village PC said, "Come on Charlie, I'll given you a piggy back", which he did much to Father's anxiety, because as he said "He could have strangled you and I could not have stopped him".

My parents moved from Harrow in 1914 just a few weeks before the First World War began, to escape the incessant fogs, and also because Father had previously received a flesh wound from a violent man with a revolver when he went with two PCs to take him to the mental hospital. The two officers overpowered the man, and it seems these two reasons made up their minds to get out of London. Father was also the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the same area here, for which he received no salary, but he was allowed to keep the fee charged for certificates, a shilling (5p) for a short certificate giving little information, or a half crown (12½p) for a full length certificate as required by Insurance Companies.

After moving from Harrow he travelled round the villages by pony and trap, but later in 1931 he bought a motor-cycle, which he did not seem to be very clever at riding, as he had frequent accidents, but he was never injured by them. We had various hours of attendance in the villages, and it was usually at the village shop, where local people would come to register a birth or death. The birth book was coloured red, and the death book was black, and each one held five hundred entries, and when full they had to be deposited at the house of the Superintendent Registrar at Wickham Market, and later they were sent on to Somerset House in London.⁵

It was not unusual for someone to come in and name their child with a Biblical name such as Moses, or some other similar name, and Father would put down his pen and say to the father or mother, "Are you sure you want that name? When he goes to school, all the other children will make fun of him"; but usually the parents would not budge from their first choice.

Editor's Notes

- 1 J. Black, "The Care of the poor in Suffolk" in *Fram* 5th Series, no. 2 (December 2005) p. 16
- 2 See also A. R. Staniforth, "A Country upbringing: life at the D'Urban's Farm, Framlingham" in *Fram* 4th Series, no. 7 (August 2003) pp. 15-16
- 3 See also Black, *art. cit.* pp. 14-16
- 4 See also J. C. Simpson, "The Railway line to Framlingham" in *Fram* 3rd Series no. 12 (April 2001) pp. 15-21; D. J. Pitcher, *All change for Framlingham* (2002) *passim*.
- 5 Copies now available for consultation without prior formality at the Family Records Centre, Clerkenwell, London.

FRAMLINGHAM

A SESTINA

*Whene'er I gaze upon thy Castle walls
And think of thee! O Framlingham beloved!
Today a picture of abandonment,
Of ruined towers and hoar antiquity.
My mind goes back to those far distant scenes
When thou didst stand admired and feared by men.*

*Ah! yes, indeed, how oft those warlike men
Did fight and conquer 'neath those massive walls;
What furious battles, what enthralling scenes,
When fathers, son, and all that was beloved
(For women loved in far antiquity)
Fought to the last, spite all abandonment.*

*Yes, Framlingham, to thy abandonment
Thou art now left, a different race of men
With scarce a feeling for antiquity
And lacking rev'rence for thine ancient walls
Have come, for other things to them beloved
They have no liking for thy quiet scenes.*

*But heaven be praised that they like other scenes,
They leave thee to thy calm abandonment -
They leave thee to us, Framlingham beloved,
We gaze upon thee undisturbed by men,
With loving look we trace thy crumbling walls
Thou relic of the past antiquity!*

*O thou dost bind us to antiquity,
Thou guid'st our eyes to picture other scenes,
And then, beneath thy battlemented walls,
Lulled by thy silence and abandonment,
We con the parts we play 'mongst other men
And think of those now gone, how much beloved;*

*Ah me! Oh Framlingham! thou town beloved
How many, in thy great antiquity,
Hast thou observed amongst the race of men;
How oft thine eyes have dwelt on changing scenes
How often noted the abandonment
Of men ephemeral beside thy walls.*

*O castle walls; by me so much beloved,
O thy abandonment! - antiquity;
Thy scenes can give repose to restless men.*

ARTHUR L. HAYWARD

This evocative rendition originally appeared in the *Framlingham Weekly News* for Saturday August 22nd 1903, on its front page. Its author explained there in a footnote that

A Sestina is a form of Romance verse consisting of six stanzas of six lines each, with a final triplet, and using the same terminal words in each stanza, but in different order.¹

Arthur L. Hayward proves to be a difficult person to trace. That surname and those initials do not appear in local directories under Framlingham and surrounding villages at that period², neither is he listed in more general sources such as *Dictionary of National Biography*³ and dictionaries of authors and literary figures of that time.⁴ Several persons of that surname were interred at the cemetery at Framlingham, but none with these initials.⁵

Certainly a family named Hayward was prominent in the town of Woodbridge in the early years of the twentieth century,⁶ but we have no evidence to link this family to the poet. For many years in the late nineteenth century, a person with that surname traded as a cabinet maker and upholsterer at Church Street Woodbridge,⁷ and by 1892, an Arthur Hayward is recorded as trading there in that capacity.⁸ In 1896 one of that name is listed as practicing at Church Street Woodbridge as "school attendance, relieving and vaccination officer, Wilford District, Woodbridge union";⁹ by 1908 Arthur Hayward at Church Street is also recorded as "registrar of births and deaths for Wilford District, Woodbridge Union".¹⁰ (The town of Framlingham was, of course, in Plomesgate Union.¹¹).

Slightly later, in 1916 and 1922, directories record an Arthur Hayward at 13 and then 7 Warwick Road, Ipswich.¹²

Here once again, we have a mystery figure from Framlingham's past, recalling perhaps Francis Charrington, a leading figure in the Framlingham Town Pageant of 1931, of whose origins few if any details can be definitively traced.¹³ Once again, we appeal to readers of this journal to provide any further information from memory or from documents seen or in their possession.

In the meantime, what astonishment would Arthur Hayward feel, were he to return to Framlingham, to see what was at that time a lonely, crumbling and neglected Castle, now transformed and lovingly preserved, visited by eighty thousand people a year, and enlivened from time to time by richly presented historical re-creations?

Would he relish the change, or regret it?

MVR

Notes:-

- 1 *The Oxford English reference dictionary* (1996) confirms that definition, but notes that the line endings may or may not rhyme. The latter is the case here.
- 2 Suffolk county directories over the period 1883 to 1922 have been checked.
- 3 No identifiably relevant entry appears in *Who's Who*, *DNB* plus *Supplements* to 1930, or in Oxford and Cambridge University alumni lists.
- 4 For example, S. J. Kunitz and H. Haycraft, *British authors of the nineteenth century ...* (1936) and *Twentieth century authors ...* (1942) and supplements.
- 5 Unpublished list and index of inscriptions: copy in Lanman Museum Framlingham.
- 6 *East Anglia in the twentieth century: contemporary biographies* (1912) p. 205; also confirmed by Suffolk county directories from mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries.
- 7 *Kelly's directory of Suffolk* 1883 records (perhaps significantly) Richard Hayward *and son* [my italics].
- 8 *Ibid.* 1892.
- 9 *Ibid.* 1896.
- 10 *Ibid.* 1908.
- 11 *Framlingham Weekly News* contains regular news reports relating to Plomesgate Union Board.
- 12 *Kelly's loc. cit.* 1916, 1922 respectively (in Private Residents section).
- 13 *Fram* 4th series no. 5 (December 2002) pp. 15-17.

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

No. 5.
DECEMBER
1969

Fram

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

At the Society's Annual General Meeting (October 29) it was a matter of mutual regret that Mr. Frere Kerr, who had been Chairman since 1966, intimated that he was unable to continue as Chairman owing to pressure of business. A sincere vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kerr. Fortunately, we will continue to have the benefit of his advice and co-operation in that he has agreed to continue as a member of the committee. Mr. Fiske was invited to serve as Chairman and his acceptance was warmly acclaimed. Mrs. Packard was popularly elected Vice-Chairman. The business of the AGM having been dealt with expeditiously, Commander Sitwell gave a talk, full of interest, on Framlingham 100 years ago. This was based mainly on the *FRAMLINGHAM WEEKLY NEWS* (published 1859-1907) and on *LAMBERTS' ALMANACK* (1870-1917). Lamberts were the successors to Mr. Green's printing business which incidentally published in 1835 a history of our town. Lamberts were succeeded by Mauldens who only recently ceased operations. In 1893 the *F&N* carried a series of articles "Framlingham 65 years ago" and Commander Sitwell in his pleasantly discursive manner drew on this to deal with facets of life in our town about 100 years ago. For instance, that the public clock was given to the town by Sir Henry Thompson in memory of his father; that Double Street was so named because it had houses on both sides.

* * *

The meeting of November 26 was well attended to hear Mr. J.G.L. Spence, editor of the *EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE*, give a talk on East Anglia in the 18th Century. To the question "Well, what did happen?" Mr. Spence whimsically answered "Nothing." The moneyed classes were quietly coping with considerable economic and social changes. The working classes had their work cut out simply to survive. Nevertheless Mr. Spence ranged widely over human activities from music to social organisation to give examples of how our ancestors were thinking about and coping with the problems of their day. 'Turnip Townshend' and Coke of Holkham had perhaps been over-credited but they and others had done much to popularise and to spread newer ideas in agriculture. Even that curmudgeon Cobbett praised Coke for his reorganisation of the estate to which he succeeded, this included giving his 2,000 tenants security of tenure and in so doing making their fortunes. Another example of coping was that the first workhouse for the rural poor in England was built in Suffolk in 1756. The rest of England, too, adopted the Norfolk four-course rotation of crops and the practice of marling. Perhaps the most flourishing industry in East Anglia was, however, smuggling. Customs men, brave as many were, had an invidious task because most of the population would assist the smugglers. The spread of information was surprising. One way of warning that preventive men were on the war-path was to set the sails of windmills (and windpumps) in a vertical position, *i.e.* as the Christian cross.

* * *

Our new Chairman, Mr. Herbert Fiske, a Chartered Architect, born in Framlingham, completed his education at Manchester University and saw military service for the whole period of the war, for some time as a Staff Major in S.E.Asia. He held a senior position in the Corporation of London Department of Architecture and Planning until he commenced private practice in 1963. He is a member of Framlingham Parish Council. Our new Vice-Chairman, Mrs. J. Packard, has been a member of the committee for three years. Always an active worker for the Society, Mrs. Packard further excelled herself by providing tea and biscuits at each meeting this session - a popular innovation.

* * *

The inquisitive reader is often gratified by the local newspaper printing details of 'some recent wills' but some not so recent are also interesting: "Proved at Norwich on 19 January 1388 the Will of Riquier Frere, Priest, of Framlingham at the Castle" He left his soul to the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints, and his body to be buried in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Framlingham. He leaves two shillings to the High Altar in the same church, two shillings to the priests and twelve pence to Richard Clerk of the same town. The residue to Ade Kyng, Priest, and Thomas Crane to be distributed in charitable works." There are Clerks and Kings in Framlingham now and I work not thirty yards from the church where, no doubt, old Riquier Frere still lies far below more recent graves.

(Photocopy from Norfolk & Norwich Record Office)
(JOHN FRERE KERR)

* * *

New Members Wanted - Invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society.
Minimum Subscription 10/- p.a., or two dollars.

DEPARTURE POINT

During the second half of the twentieth century the rate of publication of parish and community histories accelerated. At the same time, the character of this body of local historical work shifted. It relinquished some of the antiquarian tendencies associated with the long-established tradition of writing parish history, and adopted some of the newer approaches that are often identified as "community history". In this article, current "local" history is considered to embrace both the traditional and ongoing "parish" history approach, rooted in antiquarianism, and the more contemporary "community" history and "new" local history, which owe much to micro-history ...

from A. J. H. Jackson, "Opinion: published parish and community histories - a starting point in adult learning and the re-theorism of local history".

in The Local Historian, vol. 36, no. 1 (February 2006)

“History is five minutes ago”

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