



FRAM

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

Number 3

**6th
Series**

April 2013

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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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FRAM

6TH Series Number 3

April 2013

Registered Charity no. 274201

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

The article in this issue of *Fram* by our former President, Canon David Pitcher, imparts an important object lesson for those who are concerned with the nurturing and sustaining of history, not just the immediately local but in a wider context. To quote from that article

Theirs was a tale to tell with no-one to whom to tell it and so it was that their letters and Arthur's war diaries were lost.

...Arthur was very busy sustaining his diary and letters to Edna; it is a pity they are lost.

To take personal examples, for a number of years I was on the Board of a City charity, chairing it for three years. When I stood down six years ago, I ensured that all my files (other than those duplicating official ones already held) were passed on to the appropriate officers of that charity. More recently I retired as Chair of a national archives organisation; I am currently sorting my own papers relating to my service, shredding the ephemeral and passing over any files remotely likely to be of lasting interest. In short, one should hand over not just the "seals of office", but also the records of one's tenure of a position.

Coming down to the strictly personal, my own children have clear instructions as to what I have previously stored in a cabin trunk, a biscuit tin (!), and numerous files, the miscellaneous correspondence, file-notes, photographs and diaries that I have created, received and held over many years, all these to be disseminated as appropriate when I have passed away. These life documents would certainly be of some interest to my immediate family, perhaps to local historians, or even in a wider context.

Our individual legacies to our successors comprise more than cash, property, and memories of our life and works. They also include the image, artefacts and paper trail of our personal interface with the world from which we have departed. That trail should not be lost.

* * * * *

In my footnote four (page 24) to the article "Framlingham in the nineteenth century" in the October 2012 issue of *Fram* (6th Series, number 2) I referred to Holgate Hill as being the road that we now call Mount Pleasant. Our President John Bridges has pointed out to me that the Ordnance Survey map has Holgate Hill as the present Broadwater.

We have been delighted recently to welcome John as a Trustee of the Lanman Museum at Framlingham Castle; his involvement with and knowledge of our local history will be a significant asset for the town's museum.

* * * * *

Finally, here is a date for all our Society members to place in their diaries.

On Saturday 25th May at St Michael's Rooms, there will be a Local History Fair, provided under the aegis of our Society President John Bridges. Displays will be provided there of exhibits from the Lanman Museum at the Castle, and several other local organisations. There will also be an opportunity to fill the gaps in your back-files of this journal, and other publications, in return for modest donations. Bring along your friends who are not members of our Society - they may well feel motivated to join up at the AGM in October!

FROM THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI: ARTHUR NEWSON, 1917-2012

By David Pitcher

Arthur was born and died in Castle Street; his father brewed in and ran the Castle Inn. There and thereabouts was the scene of Arthur's entire life except for military service in World War Two, and for a short time in his youth.

While at school and for some further months later, he spent much time at Potters' garage when it was on Market Hill and at Bridges and Garrard during the time when they also were in the motor-car business. He readily acknowledged that he should have been an engineer but other events intervened, not least the taking to himself a wife, Edna, from East Harling, whom he met while later serving an apprenticeship with a barber in Diss. He eventually started his own barber's shop in Castle Street where Edna also ran a ladies' hairdressing business.

It was their sorrow never to have children of their own, but their own devotion to each other was recognised as very special through all their seventy-three years together until Edna died two years ago. Theirs was a tale to tell with no-one to whom to tell it and so it was that their letters and Arthur's war diaries were lost. However, it has become possible to discover what a remarkable part Arthur played in the Royal Army Service Corps in North Africa.

His knowledge and abilities with the internal combustion engine continued for the rest of his life. Evidence of that was the collection of all the road tax discs that he kept from 1947 in his garage which still survives in its own garden between the Castle Inn and the Castle car park. Other parts of his garden now belong to the Bowls Club or to English Heritage. Arthur himself was a prominent member of the Club and before World War Two he was a member of the Framlingham Town Band; some of the instruments were saved by him and are to become features of the Lanman Museum collection now kept in the Castle.

War was declared against the German Nazis invasion in Europe on 3rd September 1939 and on the following Christmas Day King George made his broadcast address to the British people and Commonwealth nations. He included a little known poem at the time called "God Knows" by Minnie Louise Haskins:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.
And he replied, Go out into the darkness and put your hand
into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

These words were engraved on Arthur's inner being and whenever he was reluctantly persuaded to speak of the war, even to his customer victim, he would recall those words. He went to Felixstowe and was enlisted to join the Royal Army Service Corps and to train as a driver, which suited him well with his own driving licence. He wryly recalled that his first task was to cart away the ash from Felixstowe gasworks.

His first overseas posting was from Liverpool to Durban in South Africa en route to Egypt. He was detailed off with one of twelve ambulances, still as a member of the RASC. An incident immediately occurred when Arthur saw a man fall off a lorry and stopped to pick him up. He was severely reprimanded but remarked, "We weren't taught anything, just learned by (un)common sense".

In mid 1942 he was returning to a camp hospital with a wounded soldier and hit a mine which killed his co-driver and knocked him unconscious. He was taken to Palestine to recover and took the opportunity to do some site-seeing before returning to base for further RASC duties. Towards the end of the battle of El Alamein, Arthur was attached to an Indian regiment engaged in a pincer movement to guard against a German attempt to escape across the Mediterranean.

Field Marshall Rommel was succeeded by General Von Armin as chief of the German land forces. He came from a long standing German army family but was forced to surrender to the 4th Indian Division known as the "Fighting Fourth", a Gurkha regiment. Arthur's version of that particular incident, still in the RASC and driving his ambulance, was interestingly more detailed.

Some Germans did escape but me and my mate, a sergeant, came across this German general Von Armin. He immediately surrendered and we handed him over to the Gurkhas. They didn't like Germans and Germans didn't like Gurkhas! We were then detailed off to drive the German van and mobile HQ to Amariah, near Alexandria to hand it over to our base. My mate was a sergeant and we were able to get food and fuel easily.

They then picked up an army truck, visited more sites, including the famous greatest Roman ruins in Africa at Leptis Magna, collected fuel and ammunition, and returned to base. At some time Arthur was also made a sergeant and the rest of his war took place in Sicily, then Monte Casino and driving his own truck attached to an Ordnance Field Park Unit, a sort of mobile administrative unit. Finally he was involved along the Italian east coast with the Eighth Army under General Montgomery. In 1944 he contributed an article to *The Spokesman*, a sort of in-house publication of the RASC, which is an exhilarating account of a TT race before the war in The Isle of Man. Perhaps he was dipping into memories of happier days. The editor recalls that Arthur was very busy sustaining his diary and letters to Edna; it is a pity they are lost.

Arthur had been suffering with his feet and was brought back either to Selly Oak or Biggleswade before being considered whether fit for the D-Day invasion of Normandy. The Colonel in charge of the rehabilitation units classified him as unfit for further front-line duty, and Arthur finished his military career driving in England in the RASC.

When the war was over he and Edna ran a barber and hairdressing business in Woodbridge Road in Ipswich for a short while until they returned to Framlingham for the rest of their days, except for their holidays with Arthur safely at the wheel. The Automobile Association sent him a special commendation; he had completed seventy-five years of driving without any untoward incidents.

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH. FRAMLINGHAM

By Nicholas Nottidge

An early reference to the creation of The Friends is in item 4 of Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 26th November 1996. The minute read as follows:-

Friends of St Michael's, now registered as a Charity, is progressing well under the chairmanship of Mr Nicholas Nottidge, with committee: Hon. Secretary Mrs Jennifer Nottidge, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Olwin Bridges, Mr Alistair Douglas and Doctor Stephen Norton. Membership will be £10 per annum, per head, and a suggestion was made for corporate membership. Decisions on using money raised will need approval by the PCC.

It is interesting that two committee members, Mrs Olwin Bridges and Dr Stephen Norton, were not members of the church congregation.

The idea of creating a Friends of the Church was the brainchild of Mr John Millard who was employed at the time by the Diocese as a fundraising adviser to parishes in the Diocese. Mr Millard was a member of the congregation at St Michael's and made his suggestion to Mrs Beryl Gilder, a Churchwarden, who energetically welcomed the proposal and devoted a great deal of time to setting up the scheme. Discussions of how The Friends would best function went on for months, but throughout it was emphasised that the sole function of The Friends would be to operate as a Fundraiser for the Parochial Church Council, which would have sole power as to how funds would be applied. This has remained the case ever since.

The Friends was formally launched at a public meeting held in St Michael's Church on 4th April 1997. It was initially separate from the Parochial Church Council, registered as such with the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue. It maintained its own bank accounts and made its own income-tax repayment claims.

In 2003 it was decided that the original resolution setting out the constitution of The Friends was too limiting, as it basically restricted the expenditure of money raised to maintenance and repair of the church. Accordingly the Parochial Church Council resolved that henceforth The Friends would be a sub-committee of the PCC, and that the PCC would assume all responsibility for The Friends' financial affairs. At the same time, the PCC resolved that the application of funds raised by The Friends be extended to include improvements and embellishments.

The pre-launch planning of The Friends enabled fundraising to start at once (April 1997) and in the first year £15,000 was raised. Fundraising at this level continued for some years, widespread publicity being a major factor: an initial mail-shot in the town inviting membership at £10 per annum, per head brought many applications, some of which still continue. Support for The Friends was therefore sought from non-churchgoers as well as from members of the congregation of St Michael's.

The issue of frequent Newsletters kept members in touch with progress in fundraising and events.

At the time of The Friends launch, there were a motley collection of chairs in St Michael's. Many were in a poor state of repair, uncomfortable or too heavy to move about easily and the Parochial Church Council wanted to take action. Mrs Val Speight was inspired by a particular design and personally raised the bulk of the money needed, so The Friends were able to provide funds for a hundred new, folding and upholstered chairs, and portable racks for their storage. The chairs are still in excellent condition after some fifteen years of use and represented The Friends' first funding outlay. Ever since then fundraising in support of the PCC has continued and its success has been largely due to the hard work of a succession of The Friends Chairmen.

The first Chairman was Mr Nicholas Nottidge though his contribution, together with that of Mrs Beryl Gilder, was mainly in starting up the whole operation. The next Chairman was Mr Alistair Douglas, whose skill as a fundraiser was phenomenal. His wife, Mrs Janet Douglas, a renowned cook, provided lunches for members of The Friends on a three monthly basis until Mrs Jennifer Nottidge volunteered to take over. One meal was enough for Mrs Nottidge, who then organised monthly lunches at the Conservative Club. These were eventually transferred to the Crown Hotel and are now back at the Conservative Club and organised by the Rector, Canon Graham Owen. The lunches raise substantial funds for The Friends.

From Mr Douglas's time onwards, The Friends raised very large funds which the PCC allocated to church roof overhaul and repair, and throughout his time in charge of The Friends Mr Douglas was tireless, with endless attention to detail. There is a memo about a Quiz Evening held in St Michael's Rooms in 2001. The heading is 'Alistair's Notes' and below that someone wrote "(which almost tells you how to breathe)".

For some time while Mr Douglas was in charge, Mr Robin Self was on The Friends committee and he took over from Mr Douglas in 2004, remaining Chairman until 2008. During that time a new piano was funded as were further major repairs to the north chancel roof and to the clerestory and chancel windows refurbished as needed.

FRAMLINGHAM - AN APPRECIATION

PART 1

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

The historical background

People have been in the Framlingham area for a long time. There is evidence nearby of an Iron Age settlement boasting West Harling, Norfolk Pottery, while the name of Framlingham ending in "ingham" suggests that Framlingham as a settlement has its roots in the sixth or seventh century. The oldest building still stands in the Castle, built between 1190 and 1210, a Grade 1 Listed Building. It is followed closely by the Church of St Michael's, part of which dates from about 1300. The Church is in the Perpendicular style.

The town was dominated for centuries by the presence of the Castle and its aristocratic occupants. There is no mention of a castle in Framlingham in the town's entry in Domesday 1086. The motte and bailey castle of 1100 was pulled down on the orders of Henry II in 1174 and the present castle was built from 1190 onwards. The Bigod Earls of Norfolk from 1074, Thomas Brotherton, son of Edward I in the 1300s, the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk in the fifteenth century and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk from 1483 to about 1530, all used the castle as their headquarters, and all played a leading social and administrative role in government in their day. The second Duke of Norfolk who died in 1524 in the castle, and the famous third Duke of Norfolk who was integral to the running of England in the reign of Henry VIII in the early sixteenth century, are particularly noteworthy.

The town obviously profited from the castle's leading role. In 1286-7 Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who died in 1306, granted the citizens of Framingham a fair on four days over Michaelmas and a market on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. In 1324 Thomas Brotherton added a Whitsun fair as well. The population of Framlingham in 1330 was about 1,000 persons. The town then was certainly not a village, but even a substantial town with a thriving market base.

The fortunes of Framlingham changed when the Howard Dukes of Norfolk left Framlingham Castle for a more comfortable domestic dwelling at Kenninghall, near Diss in Norfolk, in the 1530s. Eventually the tie with the Howards was cut when the castle and the various Howard interests here were sold in their entirety to a very senior lawyer, Sir Robert Hitcham, in 1635. He died in 1636 bequeathing his estates to Pembroke College, Cambridge.

The town was then called to stand on its own two feet, no longer being one of the social and political centres of East Anglia. By 1700, the town was more than heralding its future as a local centre for about sixteen villages surrounding it. In 1724 the population of Framlingham was 1,460 persons practising twenty-six different trades.

The nineteenth century saw a great burgeoning of activity in Framlingham. The town ran its own affairs, including the education of the young of which it was particularly jealous. From 1870 onwards, however, Framlingham was no longer an autonomous body, as various government enactments played an increasing part in the day-to-day affairs of the town, including matters concerning education, which around 1900 proved to be very controversial in the town, even to the point of some town councillors being threatened with distraint of their goods.

The town from the 1880s was approaching that period at the height of the British Empire. To say the town's citizens were patriotic would be an understatement as the three-day celebrations demonstrated on the announcement that Mafeking had been relieved, an extraordinary outpouring of the townspeople's sentiments. The difference between the rich and poor in 1900 was categorical. The rector at the time received as a stipend £120,000 in today's money, whilst a farm labourer at Saxtead received eleven shillings a week, or £1,600 a year at today's prices.

The twentieth century in Framlingham was heralded by some giant leaps in technology, with the appearance of the motor car, the introduction of the telephone in 1908 and an electricity supply in the early 1920s. (However, a pumped water supply to each house did not arrive until 1938.) Framlingham was adapting to new ways and ideas throughout the 1900s. The town, all said and done, fared well in the twentieth century. The population in 1951 was around 1,900 persons. In 2007 it was about 3,500 persons. An article in *Country Life* recently noted that Framlingham was one of the best ten communities in the United Kingdom to live in. Much of that accolade was earned by the presence here of a central Conservation Area with its many Listed Buildings.

Framlingham boasts over fifty voluntary organisations which cater for all tastes. Perhaps the car is the problem for those in the Conservation Area of the town. Nevertheless the atmosphere is one of kindly co-operation at most times. In this short treatment of the historical interest which goes to make up Framlingham, I hope at the very least to convey the fondness many people have for this town, which has been described as being the finest market town in East Suffolk.

A tour of the town

We start at the Castle Inn which was one of the sixteen licensed premises in Framlingham noted in 1750. In 1790, a brewery existed behind the Castle Inn, and at one time this public house was called The Swan and Castle. Brewing ceased in 1904. Some of the town's older inhabitants still refer to the pub as The Brewery.

We are now in front of the Assembly Rooms, Church Street, which were officially opened in 1913. Three things of note took place in Framlingham in that year. Firstly, the Ministry of Works took over the upkeep of the Castle from Pembroke College, Cambridge, who are still the owners of the Castle.

Secondly, Dr Inskip retired after being Headmaster of Framlingham College for twenty-six years. His tenure of office was an outstanding success for the College. It was, indeed, recognised as being the Eton of East Anglia. On his retirement, the

Chairman of Governors. Mr George Garrett, made the following speech.

Framlingham College was ten-fold fortunate in that it secured the services of a man like that for twenty-six years. It is a long time in the life of a man, in fact above the average of a man's really first-class useful life. We are assembled to demonstrate our heartfelt thanks for what Dr Inskip has done for the school.

Thirdly, in 1913 these Assembly Rooms were opened, by the Marchioness of Graham. She was Mary the only child of the 12th Duke of Hamilton, the senior peer of Scotland, with an un-encumbered income estimated at £9.6 million at today's figures. In 1906, Mary had married the Marquis of Graham and they lived at the Manor House, or as some called it the White House, in Easton village with its seventeen bedrooms, until 1913. The estate was sold and the White House demolished about 1920.

We now pass to the Conservative Club. In 1830 the Black Swan public house, on the site, was demolished by Mr G.O. Edwards, one of the literati of the town, and the present Listed Building was erected. G.O. Edwards was one of the founder members of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. At one time Castle Street was called Swan Street as at that time there was the Swan and Castle pub, mentioned earlier.

At 9 Church Street, Sylvia Coleman of Suffolk County Council discovered, in the attic of the building, some timber frames dated to circa 1475, making it one of the oldest domestic dwellings in Framlingham. The eighteenth-century Regency House, Church Street, is next, the only building in Framlingham to have its photograph in a classic book on the architecture of England, *A Pattern of English Building*, by Alec Clifton Taylor, a well-known broadcaster. At one time this building was called Church House, as for a time, it housed officers of St Michael's Church. Sam Bloss, one of the more extraordinary habitués of Framlingham at the beginning of the nineteenth century, also lived here. He was, firstly, a butcher on the site of Lloyds Bank Chambers, 12 Market Hill, which he sold to Dr William Jeaffreson in 1828. From 1839 until 1851 Bloss, with Sam Fruer, ran the Union Coaches between Framlingham and Wickham Market, connecting with the Blue Coaches which ran from Great Yarmouth to Ipswich. The timetable for the Blue Coaches service was as follows:-

7.00am leave Great Yarmouth, 8.30am Lowestoft, 10.30am Yoxford, 11.00am Saxmundham, 12.15pm Wickham Market, 3.15pm arrive Ipswich

The East Suffolk Railway opened in 1859, along with its branch line to Framlingham, which soon curtailed the coaching way of life. Sam Bloss was also the Post Master of Framlingham being in charge of the Post Office when in 1830 it was located to the rear of the Crown Hotel on Market Hill and in 1839 at the rear of the Crown and Anchor Inn. His daughter, Louise Bloss, was in charge of the Post Office in 1853.

To return to Regency House, the main interest of the building is its use for the printing of the *Framlingham Weekly News* for much of that newspaper's existence between 1859 and 1938. Its principal editor was Robert Lambert, who in 1894 for six months, published in the paper an account of Framlingham sixty-five years before. Robert

Lambert has provided us with an important historical record for these intervening years.

We now pass to the Manor House, the present HSBC Bank. In 1832 the Manor House was the home of the brother of George Brook Kerr, a famous entrepreneur of Framlingham. In that year George became bankrupt. His creditors called him in principally because he had failed to pay to HM Customs and Excise the Malt Tax on his Framlingham maltings. A sale was held of George Brook Kerr's property. Thirty-one lots including twenty-one public houses were in the sale, which took place at the Bowling Green next to the Castle on 21st June 1832. The Manor House, after the sale of 1832, came into the possession of Mr A. Thompson, who opened a theatre on the site of George Brook Kerr's brewery. Thompson became bankrupt in 1880, and the Manor House was bought by Mr E. Lancaster, a wine and spirits merchant. In 1968 the building came into the ownership of the Midland Bank, the forerunners of the HSBC Bank.

Passing to the churchyard, this was closed to burials (other than in family tombs) on the orders of the Secretary of State in July 1856. The new cemetery is in Fore Street. The last burial in St Michael's Churchyard was that of Mrs Stephen Bloomfield in March 1901.

We are now at St Michael's Close, which was rebuilt by the rector George Attwood in 1841, who was rector between 1837 and 1884. Attwood, according to a Framlingham tradition, was instrumental, with his father Thomas Attwood, in persuading the composer, Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn (1809-1847), to visit Framlingham. Tradition states that Mendelssohn played on the Tamar organ in St Michael's, instructed George Attwood's daughter Caroline on the piano, and composed an anthem for the choir of St Michael's Church. However, a search of Mendelssohn's diaries shows no mention of Framlingham. It should be added that George Attwood's father, Thomas Attwood, a prolific composer of church music, was organist of St Paul's Cathedral and in charge of the music at the Chapel Royal. Thomas was also a close friend of Mendelssohn who visited England and Thomas Attwood ten times.

We now pass from the churchyard and Close of St Michael's, cross Church Street and so into Double Street.

At the lower end, we are immediately confronted at 2-4 Double Street with the site of the Farriers' Arms, which was open for business between 1832 and 1976. Latterly it was the home of a retired parson, Canon and Mrs Meynell, stalwart supporters of St Michael's Church. Passing up Double Street, on our left at number nine is the site of the original printing house of the *Framlingham Weekly News* referred to earlier. Number eleven Double Street was the original site of the Lanman Museum before it moved to the Old Court House in Bridge Street and then to its present site in the Castle in 1982. The oldest building in Double Street is number twenty, which has a fifteenth century core. Numbers nineteen and twenty-one, Listed, are ancient. The Antiques Showrooms at the top left-hand side of Double Street was originally the site of a primitive Baptist Chapel. The Gables at the top end of the street on the right-hand side was the location of a school run by the Revd William Hill between 1833 and 1866. He charged one penny a week per scholar. A few of the exercise books

used at the school are now at the Lanman Museum in the Castle.

We end our visit to Double Street by noting the (Listed) Victorian Pillar Box at the junction of Double Street and Castle Street, manufactured by Andrew Hendy of Derby in 1856-7. It has been here since about 1873. Another equivalent Listed pillar box is at the junction of College Road and Mount Pleasant .

Passing into Castle Street, at the end is Jeaffreson's Well. It was the youngest daughter of William Jeaffreson FRCS, surgeon of the town, Elizabeth, who in her will of 1896 left instructions that a well should be bored to obtain a water supply. A sweet supply of water resulted when the well was bored to a depth of 211 feet . Mr A.G. Potter, founder of Potters garage, placed a tank on top of the well and fed, by gravity, the bungalows on the left side of Saxmundham Road, with fresh water. It was the first centrally supplied water in Framlingham, though it was not until 1938 that a mains distribution of water came into being in Framlingham.

Castle Street includes many former artisans' houses. Haynings on the right side of Castle Street next to Jeaffreson's Well, was a doctor's surgery until 1971. On the other side of the road, Moot House has an enormous beam of wood on the first floor, which may have come from the Castle when its interior was dismantled in the 1650's. Apparently during the Civil War of the seventeenth century, the maid of the house collected together all the cutlery of Moot House, and threw the lot in the pond at the rear of the house on the arrival of a squadron of Cromwellian dragoons. Further along Castle Street, The Readery became the abode of the Hitchams Almshouses Reader in 1730. The occupants of the Almshouses had to attend St Michael's Church at 8am and 4pm every day when the Reader would read the scriptures and various improving works.

Our last port of call is 7 Castle Street, Castle Cottage. The dining room on the first floor is known as the Painted Room, which was the subject of a Look East TV broadcast in 2003. The paintings which cover the walls of the room have been the object of much expert study. Mr John McEwan of Double Street has researched the paintings in detail and is of the opinion that the Painted Room is the result of work by Richard Rowlands and his son between January 1808 and January 1833. Mr Rowlands was a glazier, painter and plumber in Framlingham.

Now passing on in our tour, there are only two buildings on Market Hill later than 1828, namely Patrick's Newspapers shop and the front façade of Barclays Bank. An Extent of the late seventeenth century lists ten shops established round Market Hill, with two butchers, two barbers, a glover, a shoemaker, a saddler, a pewterer and a chapman. On Market Days stalls on the hill included twelve butchers, six chapmen, a pedlar, a mercer, a smith and a cobbler.

The interior of the Crown Hotel is sixteenth century in origin, but the façade is eighteenth century. The Crown has been the centre of social life in Framlingham for a long time. In 1823 for instance, sixty men sat down to dinner to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of the pastor of the Unitarian Meeting House, Samuel Say Toms. He was on that occasion presented with a complete silver tea set. In 1847, Corn Hall was built at the rear of the building and not demolished until 1952. The

hotel was bought by Trust House Forte in 1926, then in 1952 it was completely refurbished when the old coach way onto the Market Hill was filled in. A private consortium now owns it.

Sixteen Market Hill is the site of the former Queen's Head, which was a public house until the early 1960s.

In 1850 there were two cottages on the site now occupied by Barclays Bank, and the Town Cross building was probably on the site prior to its demolition in 1788. In 1850 the site was owned by Mrs Catherine Sparkes. In 1855 we read in the *Post Office Gazette* that Henry Harvey of the Harvey & Hudson Joint Stock Bank of Norwich was installed here in a custom-built property. In the 1860s, Sir Robert Harvey Harvey, as he was then, speculated in foreign shares, and later as a result of the financial collapse following the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, Sir Robert committed suicide and the bank closed the following day. His executors put the bank in the hands of John Gurney and William Birkbeck. Extensive works were carried out to the building by Messrs Smythe of Aldeburgh, and it reopened in 1873. By 1891 it operated under the partnership name of Gurneys Birkbeck Barclays Buxtons and Orde, which would become part of Barclays Bank and Co. Ltd.

Coming to the Mansion House, in 1363 the Guild of St Mary was installed on this site. In 1564 the building was demolished by Simon Pulham and the present building, the Mansion House, erected in its place. It was here that the Steward of Framlingham, Mr Alexander died in 1664. In 1674 the building was sold to Francis Kilderbee, who had made a large fortune in the City of London and was a member of the Worshipful Company of Drapers - he was in fact a Mercer by trade. The Kilderbees were here from 1674 until 1813 and their story is one of striking upward social mobility.

It was Samuel Kilderbee II, born in 1725, who in 1755 became Town Clerk in Ipswich, a post he retained until 1767. He was an intimate friend of Thomas Gainsborough (1737-1788), who had a studio in Brook Street, Ipswich between 1752 and 1759. In 1755 Gainsborough painted Samuel II and his wife Mary. That picture is now in an art gallery in San Francisco. Samuel became very rich, and amongst other properties built Great Glemham House, the present residence of the Earl of Cranbrook.

Samuel II's son, Samuel III, born in 1758, was both a parson and very rich; he married a de Hausey and by Royal License in 1832 changed the family name from Kilderbee to de Hausey. Their daughter, Adeline Louisa de Hausey, married the Earl of Cardigan, the hero of the Light Brigade. In turn their son became an Admiral of the Fleet. The Mansion House since then has been both a domestic dwelling and the site of various commercial enterprises.

Patrick's Newspapers shop is on the site of the half of the Mansion House that was burnt down in 1956 when in use as the Eastern Electricity showrooms etc., hence the modern building there. There is one architectural peculiarity about the Mansion House. The walls are faced with Mechanical Tiles and not ordinary bricks.

The Old Bank House 12 Market Hill, was bought in 1828 by Dr William Jeaffreson for his home and medical practice. William started his medical training in 1809 training at Guy's and St Thomas's Joint Medical School. On graduating he worked with Dr George Lynn of Woodbridge. In 1814 he bought a practice in Framlingham, having to earn money to support his mother. In 1828 he completely renovated this building, adding a third floor in the process. It was here in 1836 that Dr Jeaffreson became the first person in England to successfully remove an ovarian cyst. He carried out the operation successfully five times and in 1844 became a FRCS. He was an expert in the subject of Lithotripsy.

Jeaffreson was much loved by the people of Framlingham. One of his four sons, Cordy Jeaffreson, in his book on the family, entitled *Recollections*, had this to say on his father -

Being human he was not absolutely faultless. A man of fervid temperament, he suffered throughout his life from a whimsical excitability that often displayed itself in brief fits of vehement anger at trivial annoyances. With the exception of this solitary and venial infirmity, my father had not a failing. Charitable in his judgments of individuals, he was benign in his dealings with men. A romantic worshipper of his friends, he was implacable to his enemies, and overflowing for his sympathy for the poor. An extraordinary man indeed.

His eldest son, George, carried on the practice here on his father's retirement. In 1919 Lloyds Bank bought the property; hence the elaborate portico. They left the building in 1941 and since then it has been both the site of offices and a domestic dwelling.

Number 11 Market Hill was the site of the second Griffin Inn in Framlingham up to about 1810. In 1812, Henry Thompson set up his grocery and tallow chandlery business here. It was a shop of a superior kind. In 1820 his only son, also named Henry, was born. His mother was the daughter of a well-known Victorian artist, Samuel Medley. At the age of five, Henry started his education in a clerical household in Southwold. He studied Latin at the age of five and Greek at ten years of age. Whilst in Southwold he came into contact with the medical profession and determined on a medical career.

Henry spent twelve years assisting his father in his shop. His father, Henry, was a strict Baptist and even a strict Calvinist. The son became more than a little frustrated. In 1847, his father relented and agreed that his son Henry should leave Framlingham. He was then apprenticed to a doctor in Croydon, but quickly entered University College Hospital Medical School, where he won many prizes including a postgraduate prize, the Jacksonian Prize, for his work on the prostate gland.

By 1862 at the age of forty-two he had become a famous surgeon, with, in particular, his knowledge of the study of Lithotripsy and the diseases of the urinary organs. He became a society surgeon and operated on King Leopold of the Belgians, Napoleon III, and was a surgeon to Queen Alexandra, wife of the future Edward VII. He married Kate Loder, a very distinguished pianist of late Victorian London. They had three children.

Henry Thompson was a man of many parts. He exhibited as an artist at the Paris Salon and at the Royal Academy. He wrote two novels, was a very competent photographer and astronomer, owning a telescope which the Greenwich Observatory much admired. Amusingly towards the very end of his life he advocated raising the speed limit for cars to twelve miles an hour. On 13th January 1874, a group of nine people met at his house in Wimpole Street and founded the Cremation Society. In 1900 cremation was legalised and in 1902 the Golders Green Crematorium was opened. Henry's bust is situated in the foyer of the principle building at Golders Green.

After Sir Henry's father's death in 1870, he installed the clock on the tower of St Michael's Church, Framlingham. The residue of Sir Henry's effects are now on display in the Lanman Museum in the Castle. After 1870 eleven Market Hill became a high-class grocer's named Hatsell Garrard until 1892. George Jude then followed as a silk mercer, hosier, haberdasher, dressmaker, milliner as well as a grocer. Subsequent tradesmen were Barnes (1905), Addy (1910) and Wareing (1911), before A.G. Potter acquired the premises in 1930. They remained here until about 1995 when they moved to custom-built premises in Station Road.

Coming down Bridge Street, the old Court House was built in 1872 at the end of a significant period of agricultural prosperity in Suffolk. Rider Haggard, a farmer on the Suffolk/Norfolk border, had much to say about the agricultural depression of those times.

We come to the Unitarian Meeting House. Dissenting in Framlingham has a long history. Thomas Mills (1623-1703), a Baptist, and Henry Sampson, an Independent and Rector of St Michael's Church Framlingham from 1650 to 1660, jointly were responsible for sustaining the dissenting movement in Framlingham.

It was in 1717 that this building was erected, as a joint Independent and Baptist venture. From 1747, 19a Bridge Street, next door to the Chapel, was used as a manse house for the Chapel's pastor Samuel Say Toms, who was pastor of the Chapel from 1773 until 1822. He adhered so strongly to Unitarianism that he split the congregation, and in 1823 the United Reformed Church opened in Fore Street, Framlingham.

The building is Grade II Star Listed. There is a graveyard behind which was opened in October 1792. Both Samuel Say Toms' wives are buried there. Toms died in 1834 and is buried in the largest tomb in St Michael's churchyard.

Coming to Riverside, in 1836 there was a farmhouse next to the present site of the Post Office, which opened in 1903. The first indication of a Post Office in Framlingham can be gleaned from the *Ipswich Journal* of 1799, when it was announced that the Crown Hotel on Market Hill, together with the Post Office at the rear of that building, was up for sale. After this, the Post Office was located at various sites in the town over the years, including the Crown and Anchor Inn and the present site of the Lemon Tree restaurant. In 1900, the Office was on the site of the Indian Takeaway in Albert Place. The 1st January 1909 was the date when the elderly

received a State Pension for the first time. To qualify for the pension you had to satisfy various criteria. You had to be seventy years or over, have no criminal record, less than £31.50 annual income and have had no recourse to the provisions of the Poor Law Act - in other words you had not availed yourself of the facilities at the Poor House in Wickham Market or elsewhere. The total cost of the Old Age Pension throughout the country in 1909 was £1,200,000. The Old Age Pension was 5/- per single person and 7/6d for married couples.

Passing along Riverside we note the pump with its two outlets, one for domestic needs, the other for watering the dusty roads of yesteryear. The pump is a Listed item.

Albert Place is dominated by the Ancient House, the only vernacular building of its kind in Framlingham. The building supports cruciform window frames, which date the building to about 1680, as sash window frames were not introduced until Queen Anne's reign, namely 1701-1714. The Ancient House was referred to in deeds of the building as Clerkes in 1831. Was it built by Joseph Clerke, son of Richard and Bridget Clerke of 19a Bridge Street who built the Unitarian Meeting House in Ipswich?

One of the more recent occupants of the Ancient House were Oswald and Grace Sitwell, cousins of the Sitwell literary family. Oswald Sitwell's *Short History of Framlingham* was a pioneer work which made much use of Robert Lambert's 1894 issues of the *Framlingham Weekly News*, referred to above.

Passing into Station Road, the Mills Almshouses are opposite the Railway Inn (which was built with the coming of the railway to Framlingham in 1859). The Mills Almshouses were built in 1704-1705. Thomas Mills (1624-1703) was a leading Baptist and one of the two leading benefactors of the town, the other being Sir Robert Hitcham (1572-1636). They are among the earliest such buildings to be built by a Dissenter in England. Thomas Mills was born in Bramfield in 1624 and served a three-year apprenticeship as a tailor in Grundisburgh. He gave up that trade and came to Framlingham in 1641 to take an apprenticeship with Edward Smith, a blacksmith. The working hours were 6am to 8pm for six days a week and the remuneration of 15/- every six months for the first three years of the apprenticeship. Edward Smith died in 1659 and Thomas took over the forge, which was located at Butts Pightle on Brook Lane. In 1662, Thomas Mills married Alice Groom, the widow of Edward Groom, a wealthy property owner from nearby Pettistree. Thomas's income was £300 per year. (When you note that the Rector of Framlingham's stipend, at the time, was £43.6s.8pence, which made Framlingham St Michael's the second richest living in Suffolk, then you can measure the extent of Thomas Mills' wealth.)

Thomas Mills flourished, and by 1696 he had retired and closed down the forge. He died in January 1703. His Will's Trustees commenced building the Almshouses in April 1704. The building was ready for the reception of its first occupants by Michaelmas 29th September 1705. The occupants of the eight almshouses received 2/6d a week for provisions and 30/- a year for firing. They also received clothing to see themselves through the winter months. Any deserving person over seventy years of age of any religious denomination or none, was welcome to become an inmate of the Mills Almshouses. To contrast with that, any inmate of the Hitcham Almshouses

in New Road had to be a practising Communicant of the Church of England. Thomas Mills and his lifelong friend, William Mayhew, are both buried in the garden of Tomb House at the junction of Brook Lane and Station Road.

Well Close Square, at the bottom of Bridge Street, is named after the well there, and not the John Wells emporium of 1828-1831. The White Horse Inn was certainly there in 1630, the landlord then being Nicholas Sheen.

The Hitcham Almshouses in New Road have been there since 1654, the legacy of Sir Robert Hitcham who died in 1636. A Masonic Lodge is now by the end of the almshouses, which was the site of the Hitcham Boys' School from 1788 until 1879.

We end this quick account of some features of the Conservation Area by standing at the front of the Framlingham College and viewing the Castle from what is obviously a vantage point. The Lord Deben (John Gummer PC) and Lord Whitelaw stated on viewing Framlingham Castle from the college grounds, that the Castle was one of the finest sights in England.

(An illustrated book, largely based on the above text and its sequel, is to be published by St Michael's Church, Framlingham, in due course.

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DEPARTURE POINT

While archives illuminate the past, and explain the present, the whole purpose of keeping them is to guide the future. This is true whether we are talking about the archives which we all hold for our own needs, or about the archives of the corner shop, local government or the nation itself. It is a matter of no historical interest to know exactly when we took out an insurance policy on our house; what is important is to have the document that allows us to assert our right to payment when in the future some disaster occurs. Likewise the nation needs to be reminded of its duties, needs to be able to assert its rights, and perhaps most important of all, needs to have the means of examining past decisions so as to avoid mistakes already committed, or working again through problems which have already been disposed of.

From: Patrick Cadell, "Access and information: European attitudes and anxieties" in *Archives: the Journal of the British Records Association*, Volume XXV111, number 108 (April 2003).

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