FRAM

THE JOURNAL OF THE

FRAMLINGHAM AND DISTRICT

LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

3rd Series Number 9

CONTENTS

ENTRANCE LINES

And so to Framlingham, that small but well-known town so greatly overshadowed by its historic castle. Writers have assured us that no other town in all East Anglia is more worthy of attention. Both town and castle have been so often described that it seems superfluous to add much about either. The town is oddly laid out, having grown up - thank God! - before the days of town-planning; turn where you will you come to a meeting of the ways.

From H. W. Tompkins, *Companion into Suffolk*, London, Methuen, 1949

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SOCIETY NOTES

The Society's annual day-out this year will be to Butley on Wednesday 21st June. Members should by now have received written details of this event; any queries on this trip and on membership of the Society and its activities should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. A. Lovejoy, 28 Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HA (telephone 01728 723214).

Copies are still available of the facsimile published by the Society of *Lambert's Almanack 1901*, price £5.00. The *Almanack 1901* details a diary of events in Framlingham and the surrounding towns and villages for the year 1900. While stocks last, copies will be available from the Castle Bookshop, Castle Street, Framlingham, and other main bookshops in the area (as this is a New Millennium project we will not be reprinting).

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FRAM

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

To be surrounded as we are in the centre of Framlingham by beautiful and ancient buildings can at times be rather a mixed blessing. One may gaze and admire; one might be able in some way to assist in their preservation and upkeep - certainly one can explore their history by reading books and articles, attending lectures, etc. But there may at times be a danger that our attachment to the sentimentally evocative and the physically attractive could get in the way of our appreciating other buildings in the town that might seem more humdrum, but may be just as historic.

Next door to my own home in College Road is a detached dwelling which was built during the Civil War period as the first purpose-designed Non-conformist Chapel in the town of Framlingham. Although in need of some care and attention, objectively, that building is a major monument in the town's religious history, as much so as St. Michael's Church.

A few yards further down the road is a terrace of three tall "step" houses, of unique design for this town and with extensive cellars - why? One of them may once have been a maltsters - perhaps? And was the brick building at the rear originally a brew-house? Down the hill further past Vyce's Road, and there is the town's fish and chips shop - did it really once have an additional storey? When did that go and why?

To answer just some of the questions posed above might take complex and extensive research. Treasures such as our ancient church and castle are comparatively well documented and we have available for study published accounts, of varying levels of scholarship. However, not surprisingly, the less glamorous the building, the more challenging the task becomes to trace its history - and perhaps, in many cases, the more important that we should try to do so.

I suppose that for most people here, the town of Cheltenham is all about a race-course, a ladies college, and some fine Georgian terraces. But it also possesses a council housing estate, Hesters Way, a close-knit community whose members have recently compiled and published a history of the buildings, streets and services of the estate, also describing the background to the area and its development in recent decades. As a concise but detailed forty-four page account, it is a model of its kind, and something that, sadly, we currently lack for Framlingham.

Nearer to home, a new free glossy magazine has recently appeared, *Suffolk²K*. The first issue, for 6th December 1999, includes a brief history of a pub/restaurant on the old A12 road, only built in the '30s, but of considerable social significance for the area that it continues to serve. For our successors a hundred years hence to research that history, particularly its social impact locally, would not be easy, but the brief detail provided in this ephemeral publication (hopefully now filed permanently at Suffolk Record Office) could help that task along.

Coming over the boundaries of our own parish, Brian Collett in a letter published in a recent issue of *Fram* described the creation and later history of a "plot-land" development that was rare in deepest Suffolk, but which occurred by tens of thousands in the county immediately south of us. Had he fallen beneath the wheels of the proverbial 'bus before writing that article, the early history of what later became his bungalow might have been largely irretrievable.

What a building means to us is not just about its style and construction but also its *raison d'être,* its changing uses over time, its impact upon the surrounding community. That meaning can be a source of fascination to the building's proprietors at any particular time, but it will also interest all the other people who have passed by the place, visited it, used it.

There is still much to be done in tracing the detailed evolution of our local area, which has witnessed development without the seismic change and destruction inflicted upon so many other communities. Members of our Society have much to contribute in taking forward that research.

This issue focuses on small matters - an ancient workaday farm, a minor political revolution and the early years of a local school - all demonstrating the point I made here a year ago, that it is out of ordinary people, places and activities that history is at this very moment being made.

YEW TREE FARM, SWEFFLING AND ITS PEOPLE

By Michael Bowers*

PART 1

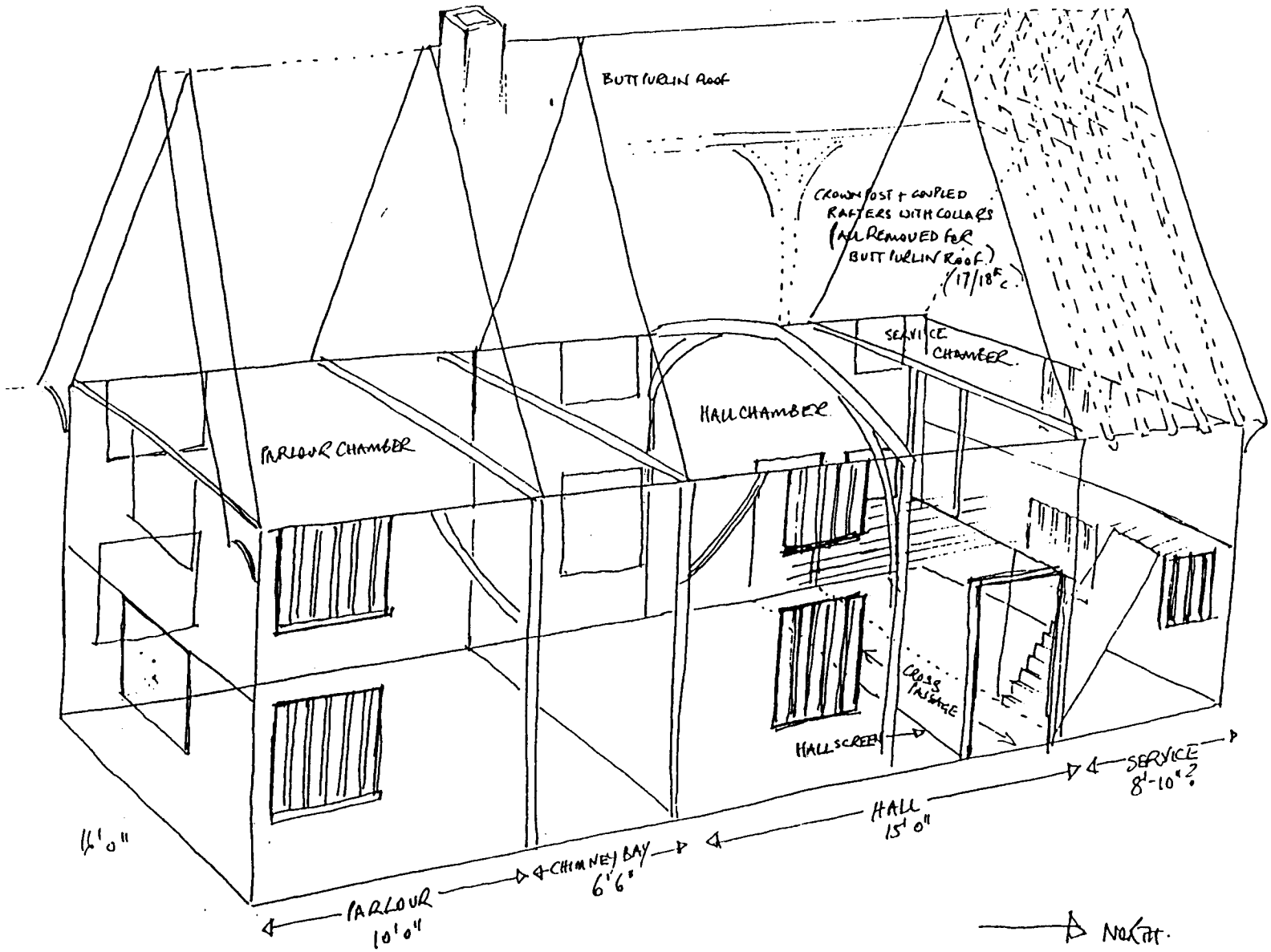
When the Bowers family moved into Yew Tree Farm at Easter 1967 it seemed a pretty ordinary brick farmhouse. There was timber work round the back, but it did not seem very old. Then one wet winter day we hacked out the stove in the dining room with a pickaxe, only to find behind it a pretty early Victorian grate which had itself been cut into a big broken crossbeam.[1] As we cleared up we found a large red-brick open fireplace and there fell out from the chimney breast, two old leather shoes, a poster about a meeting to celebrate the passing of the 1832 Reform Act, and someone's complete diary for 1846. The house was plainly older than we had thought and our curiosity was aroused. There was no name on the diary, but then we noticed that the names in the diarist's regular cash accounts were the names of the pubs in the middle of Woodbridge. How had the diary come to the house? Our deeds began with a 1906 conveyance. How could we discover any more?

Tracing owners backwards is surprisingly difficult. Most of Yew Tree Farm appears to have been freehold, which is what one would expect for a property on the edge of two parishes, Sweffling and Cransford. Copyhold land would normally be in the earliest settled areas around the village centres. East Suffolk had very few open fields so there are no enclosure awards to show the assembly of the holding: this has always tended to be a land of small peasant proprietors. Freeholders did not have to register anywhere and earlier deeds are rarely kept. There seemed to be no references to our farm in Sweffling Manorial Court records, and it is not even clear if the whole farm belonged to one manor, and if so which manor.

But by a strange chance our 1906 Abstract of Title includes "All that one acre of copyhold land lately enclosed with a ditch and fence, late parcel of tenement Lewyns in Cransford",[2] and the devolutions of that Lewyns copyhold can miraculously be traced in Cransford Hall Manorial Court rolls back to the fifteenth century (although there are no records after 1706). Only a part of the Yew Tree Farm holding is in Cransford, but it is reasonable to infer that those who farmed the holding always farmed Lewyns/Lewens. The account that follows is based on the assumption that the copyholders of Lewens also owned and farmed Yew Tree Farm at least from the mid-sixteenth century. It must be emphasised that prior to the mid-eighteenth century this account is to that extent speculative.

Another serious problem is that before 1832 we have no secure name - indeed no name at all - for Yew Tree Farm. Lands and houses were frequently known by the changing names of their occupiers or owners. For instance, Lewens probably took its name from Roger Le Wyne whose family name appears in the 1327 Subsidy Return for Sweffling, and a field on the Sweffling-Framlingham road, which was the site of the ancient vicarage, where Robert Leegate was vicar 1533 to 1540/41, is still called Leegates. A Shuldham estate map of 1830/40 shows the house and its lands clearly called Office Farm, but we do not know the origin of that name. Then for a time it was called Lime Tree Farm. Hilda Hurlock who came here in 1922 when it was again being called Yew Tree Farm, knew that as the old name of the house, and she remembers the roots of a very old yew tree in the front garden. But she does not know why her father started calling it Office Farm again in the Electoral Register from 1930 or what the name signified.

* What follows relies very heavily on Joanna Martin's work on the earlier records and Timothy Easton's expert examination of the house itself. I am most grateful to them both. Thanks are due to Don Mann, Tim Kindred, Derek Bolton, Hilda Hurlock, Mark Schreiber (Lord Marlesford), Brian Sedge, Joan Hambling and other local people for their help.



TIMOTHY EASTON, BEDFIELD 1998

YEW TREE FARM, SWEFFLING, SUFFOLK.
SHOWING THE TWO MID-16th CENTURY PHASES
VIEWED FROM THE BACK, EASTERN SIDE

The centre of Yew Tree Farm is a mid-sixteenth century timber-framed house. There is no stone in Suffolk and bricks were expensive until the eighteenth century, so most pre-19th century Suffolk houses were made of wood with infills of lathe and plaster. Other rooms were built around the frame in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In about 1850, Mary, the daughter of our diarist Benjamin Gall, married into the house and built, probably with his money, two new rooms, a staircase and a new front door at the southern end, and the whole of the front of the house was cased in brick, effectively concealing its age.

There were probably buildings here before the sixteenth century, as this is a natural house site raised above the flood plain of the river Alde, but in about 1540-60 a small rectangular timber framed hall (now the dining room) and then a small parlour (now the middle room) were erected. Other earlier buildings and service rooms have probably disappeared without trace. Before about 1530, most halls were open from floor to roof, but our hall included from the outset a sub-dividing floor to create a solar or hall chamber above, with a cross-passage and a wooden screen.[3] A wooden smoke-hood or bay at one end carried the smoke from the fire up past the solar to the thatched roof, and there are no signs of smoke deposits on the walls. Not long after, say in 1560-70, a rectangular timber parlour was added with another solar or chamber above, and later still the smoke hood or bay was replaced by the very substantial central chimney stack, which had at least three and possibly four hearths. The height of the ceilings in the ground floor rooms, even allowing for some excavation, and the decorative mouldings of some of the windows (which can be inferred from the evidence of the quality of the parlour rear window), all point to a builder who was a well-off yeoman. The upper solars or chambers were used for the storage of tools and crops, and not for sleeping accommodation until the early seventeenth century. The upper rooms were not ceilinged but open to the roof, and reached by steep stairs from a cross passage. They made the ground floor rooms warmer and more comfortable, but the low door heights in the upper rooms attest their lower status. The red (ruddle) colour to be seen on the vertical studs in a number of the rooms is part of the early if not the original decoration. The black pigment on parts of the outer frame is unusual.

The first possible owners we can trace for the lands now called Yew Tree Farm were the Legate/Lygatt family. The Cransford Hall Manorial Court rolls tell us that at some date before 1458 Henry Legate/Lygate I (?1430-1504) had bought a small piece of copyhold land in Cransford called Harecroft from one John Sharp.[4] He may also have bought freehold land - possibly including at least part of the Yew Tree Farm lands - at the same time. When Henry Legate I died in 1504 he said in his will, that he was "dwellyng withyn the parysh of Swyftlying", and he left all his lands in Sweffling and Cransford to his son Robert Legate I (1480s - 1540).[5]

When Robert Legate I died in 1540 he was living in Sweffling and his will shows he had a wife Mawte (Maud), five daughters and one son Henry Legate II.[6] He gave all his freehold and copyhold lands in Sweffling, Cransford and Rendham to Henry Legate II, but he provided carefully for his elder daughters and for Mawte. His detailed bequests are interesting. Mawte may have been his second wife and she had been married before and had had a son Robert Fryer, and lands of her own in Benhall. In the 1524 Subsidy Returns, Robert I is shown as owing £1 on goods worth £20 in Sweffling: he was clearly a prosperous yeoman farmer. He makes bequests of corn in his sollars and his fields, and he mentions cheese and butter, cattle, sheep and pigs, and the horse "Byrd" left to his widow. Robert Legate I probably lived on or near the site of the house and may well have built the hall: he certainly had a large family and adequate resources.

His son Henry Legate II (?1510-1568) had a larger family and added to his inherited lands by making purchases from the Rous family who had acquired the lands of nearby Bruisyard nunnery when it was dissolved by Henry VIII. Henry Legate II is shown in the 1568 Subsidy Returns as owing £1: 6s: 8d, which made him the richest man in Sweffling. It is very likely that he was the builder of the parlour, if not of the hall as well. Our house was probably part of "my tenement that I nowe dwell in both copye and free with all lands belonging to the same tenement called Sharpes, Birdes and Bartrams with the appurtenances thereto belonging" which he left to his son Robert Legate II by his 1568 will[7] confirmed by the Manorial rolls[8], along with Lewens. It is almost certain that our house was somewhere in "Sharpes, Birdes and Bartrams". He divided his lands (including Hayres Croft, which the 1458 rolls show his family acquiring more than a century earlier) between six sons, gives money to his daughters, makes arrangements for the education of his youngest son, and a gift "to the child that my wife is now with if it is a boy". (If it was a girl, different arrangements were to apply.) He also gave a rent charge of 40s a year to the churchwardens of Sweffling to be distributed among the poor: this is the origin of the still extant Sweffling Town Lands Charity.

Dividing up lands amongst his family like this broke up Henry Legate II's estate, and in autumn 1573 Robert Legate II sold the main part of Lewens and probably other inherited lands to John Driver. In 1589, he sold more property including the rest of Lewens and Harescroft and probably Sharpes, Birdes and Bartrams including our house to Anthony Reeve, a chirugeon (surgeon), who had already been buying land in the area. By 1619 Reeve still had property in Rendham and Bruisyard, but he had sold Lewens and other lands as well to William Fisher I.

William Fisher I, a Sweffling yeoman, in his 1618 will, left "the messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell" with freeholds and copyholds in Sweffling, Cransford and Rendham to his only son William Fisher II and also "four milch cows, the posted bed in the parlour, the long table in the parlour with the stools belonging to it and the horse mill."[9] Alice Fisher, his wife, was to have and enjoy during her life "the parlour and the parlour chamber and the vaunce roof over the same in my cheefe messuage"[10] and the use of the oven for baking and the use of the horse-mill for grinding her grist with liberty for fetching of water at the ditches there. William Fisher II was to give his mother four loads of wood every year to be placed in the yard, and she was to have the use of half the garden "for planting and gatheringe of hearbes". This all sounds like our house.

William Fisher II came to the Cransford Hall Manorial Court in 1655 and surrendered the acre of Lewyns to the use of his son William Fisher III and his wife Bridget.[11] Then in 1669 William Fisher III (describing himself as a gentleman) and Bridget surrendered to John Fisher (also a gentleman) who may have been William III's brother. John died in 1671 unmarried, describing himself as a yeoman, and left his lands and tenements in Sweffling to another brother Thomas Fisher I, but only until his nephew Thomas Fisher II (son of William Fisher III) reached the age of thirty. Abigail Fisher, William Fisher II's wife and the mother of the five sons, also died in 1671 leaving another fascinating will.[12] She left to William Fisher III "my damask table-clothe", to Thomas "one 6-shilling piece of gold", to Edward "my long table in the parlour", to Joshua "my best pewter pot and one frying pan", to Daniel "my bed and bedstead as it stands in the chamber over the hall called the Green Chamber, which he used to lie upon, my least joined chest, and my best pair of coarse sheets that use to lie on the bed that he useth to lie upon". To her daughter Anne Mason she left "my silver porringer marked with the letters E:S. Also my great looking glass". And to Margaret Fisher her daughter-in-law "my wedding ring and my mourning ring", and bed linen and furniture to her grandchildren. She must have been a formidable old lady. In 1686 the next copyhold tenant, John Fisher's nephew and "next heir", Miles Fisher, was admitted and held the property until 1704.

From these Fisher wills we can infer that they were well-off yeomen running dairy herds in the water meadows between the house and the river. During the seventeenth century, and probably during the Fishers' time, a number of improvements and additions were made to the house. The old outside north wall of the service area was demolished to make a large kitchen, and a big new chimney was built (now by the front door) with facilities for baking and brewing. Probably at the same time a new dairy (now the work-room and earlier used as a garage) was built for the Fishers' dairy business to the north-east of the house with two upper rooms and access by a stair (not the existing staircase) near to the back door of the hall. Plaster ceilings were put into the hall and the parlour. The chambers were probably ceiled too. Abigail Fisher's reference to a Green Chamber does not necessarily mean it was painted green: the wall colour in the hall chamber was definitely red, and it is possible that some sort of green fabric was attached to the walls or that the furniture was green.

On the ground floor of the Fishers' new dairy there were wooden slatted windows with up and down shutters (which we had to remove) and on the first floor, cross-sliding shutters (although those now in place are eighteenth century replacements). A little single-storey extension (now the study) with new oak bracing was added to the east wall of the parlour, and its east window and the east window in the floor above it were then blocked. These new areas would have provided cool storage for dairy produce.

It looks as though in the Fishers' time in the second half of the seventeenth century the mediaeval roof at the south end of the house was completely dismantled and replaced by a new higher roof of butt purlin construction. The attic room was constructed over the hall chamber and it can be seen that it had a window (now blocked) looking out to the front garden. (The present dormer is much later). All traces of the older attic room over the parlour chamber were cleared away.

Notes:

1. The chimney had caught fire in about 1950 burning the cross-beam, and the stove was then put in.

2. The title of a Copyholder to land consisted of copies of entries in the rolls of the Manorial Court. Most owed rents or services to the lord of the manor - in 1449 and 1573 Lewens was held for a rent of 2s 6d a year and a day's work in the harvest. The land had officially to be surrendered at the Manorial Court on the death of a copyhold tenant and sometimes a virtually fixed fine had to be paid, but successors were admitted "by the rod" to "seizin" almost automatically.

   The transactions reflected in the Cransford Hall Manorial rolls in 1448/50 (see 4 below) suggest that Lewyns was or included a house or building which had got into bad repair or had been burnt down. The most likely site of Lewyns is on Cransford Hill where two cottages were burnt down in 1932 or, less likely, at Bruisyard Arch crossroads opposite the old smithy. Lewyns was finally enfranchised and the freehold obtained by C. S. Schreiber from G. E. J. Mowbray, Earl of Stradbroke, by deed as recently as 25 June 1901.
   [Editor's note: The "ditch" that is mentioned would almost certainly have been the original moat - Suffolk has more moated sites than almost any other county in England].

3. The evidence for this is that the main beam which spans the width of the hall to the surviving bay post is jointed in, and there is a breach stop on either side of the ceiling beam and its supporting post. The first floor window is framed with a rebate for a sliding shutter and a walling space was left between upper and lower light.

4. Suffolk Record Office. HB26: 8039/10.

5. Suffolk Record Office. Ipswich Archdeaconry Court IC/AA2/4/174.

6. *Ibid.* IC/AA2/13/239.

7. *Ibid.* IC/AA2/23/40.

8. Suffolk Record Office. HB26: 8039/12.

9. Norfolk and Norwich Record Office. Norwich Consistory Court 21 Mason.

10. A vaunce or vance roof is an East Anglian term for the space in the garret - just like the top of Yew Tree Farm house, even though the roof was later raised.

11. Suffolk Record Office. HB26: 8039/16.

12. Suffolk Record Office. Ipswich Archdeaconry Court IC/AA1/101/110.

WORKING CLASS CONSERVATISM IN FRAMLINGHAM, 1910-1913

By M. V. Roberts

In an earlier article in *Fram*, I summarized the circumstances surrounding the actual building of Framlingham Conservative Club and its Assembly Hall[1]: this next piece examines the background to and impact of the Club's creation upon both the town and the surrounding area.

An article by Alan Sykes in *English Historical Review*[2] briefly describes in its opening paragraphs the national context of party politics in the mid-Edwardian period: the débacle suffered by the Tories in

> the general election of 1906 ... reduced the Conservatives to a rump of 157 MPs. The party lost heavily throughout the country. More alarming still, thirty members of the newly formed Labour party were returned.
>
> To contemporaries the election seemed to mark even the end of the Conservative party. Sir John Gorst, architect of the historic victory in 1874 ... thought that "the old Conservative party has gone ... hereafter the Liberal and Labour parties will divide ... the state". Other, less pessimistic, Conservatives agreed that the cause of the defeat was the desertion of the Conservative working class voter.

Following the 1906 Election, Framlingham's own local newspaper, the *Framlingham Weekly News*[3] noted in an editorial by a "Special Correspondent"[4], that

> ... It may be taken for granted at the outset that the Labour members will make their presence felt in Parliament ... The election of so many members of the working class to Parliament is an evidence of the progress that has been made in popular representation since the time of Lord Chatham ...

Over the nation as a whole, Doctor Sykes refers in his paper to

> ... demands [by the Conservative party] for a positive approach to the working classes ... both as an attempt to devise a social regime that would regain working-class support, and to develop organizations for working-class Conservative voters as alternatives to trade unionism.[5]

This national situation provides some kind of a backdrop for the local initiatives in Framlingham which are briefly considered in the contribution that follows.

Until 1885, Framlingham was part of the East Suffolk constituency, and formed a strongly Liberal enclave there, such that it was claimed that the Conservatives in May 1870 were having difficulty in finding a candidate to contest the East Suffolk bye-election.[6] The *Framlingham Weekly News* itself was unashamedly partisan for the Liberal cause at this time:

> Brother Electors, it is an honour for any constituency to have so pure - so brave - so intelligent a spirit to champion their cause [i.e. Sir Shafto Adair, the Liberal candidate] ... Men of Suffolk, do your individual duty to swell the rising tide in his favour to the utmost height.[7]

The *FWN*'s re-action when Adair was defeated by the Conservative Lord Mahon was perhaps less than sporting:

> We suppose, however, "the stupid party" - as the Conservatives are so appropriately named by the greatest philosopher of the day - are satisfied with their choice, and if so, it would be a sin for us to disturb their joy. Little things please little minds ... And not only would we prefer losing than to have such a nonentity as our representative, but also, and a thousand times over, than to have gained victory by means like those used by our opponents.[8]

By the first decade of the twentieth century, much had changed in the local context. The creation in 1885 of the Eye electoral division comprising a part of the old East Suffolk constituency provided a veritable honey-pot for generations of local Liberal candidates. Even in the October 1900 "Khaki Election", when Liberal party divisions on the prosecution of the Boer War enabled the Conservatives under Joseph Chamberlain to secure a majority in Parliament of 134, the Liberal candidate at Eye romped home with 61% of the vote against his Conservative opponent.[9] Ten years later, in January 1910, the Liberal candidate Harold Pearson was said by the *FWN* to have achieved the second highest number of votes ever recorded for a candidate in the Eye Division.[10] Following the December election in that year, the *FWN* noted that

> The Liberals have now held the seat continuously since 1885 - the year when the Eye Division first came into being, and are not unjustified in their claim that the seat is one of the safest [Liberal constituencies] in Great Britain.[11]

In the period since 1870, however, the *Framlingham Weekly News* itself seems to have undergone a change in its political attitudes. Writing of the Marquis of Graham (the previous Conservative candidate) in 1910, it noted that

> Shortly after the General Election of 1906 came the By-election ... and the memorable fight made by Lord Graham on behalf of Unionism is known to everyone ... From being an apparently unassailable fortress of Radicalism it [the Eye Division] is now plainly a constituency that must be won, for what is a majority of 400 in these days?[12]

However, in both of the elections of 1910, Eye continued to return Liberal MPs. The Marquis may or may not have been the charismatic character evoked by the *FWN*: that the paper was able and eager to depict him in those terms demonstrates how far its political stance had changed.

Into this transformed local political arena came a new factor, as noted by the *FWN*:

> To have dared to hint years ago at the possibility of forming a Conservative Working Men's Club in Framlingham would have been considered preposterous in the extreme, but the working man is now beginning to see that there is something good in conservatism after all, and judging by the attendance of working men at the Crown Hotel last Wednesday evening [23 March 1910], he has openly expressed his desire to throw in his lot with the great Constitutional party and support it by every means in his power.
>
> As a speaker at the meeting truly remarked, it was difficult twenty - or even ten - years ago to find a Conservative working man in Framlingham, but now it has suddenly been discovered that there are scores ... The idea of a Club of this kind originated among the working men themselves ... the outcome was the meeting at the Crown ... when the proposal to form a club was ... unanimously carried.[13]

A news item in the 9 April issue makes it clear that the newly-formed Club was quite separate from the Framlingham and District Conservative and Unionist Association, which was already long in existence, but with no dedicated premises of its own. At the "Formal Opening of the Framlingham Club" in May 1910, the *FWN* noted that

> The membership ... has already reached 160, and continues to increase. It comprises principally working men, with a number of tradesmen and professional people. Although it was informally opened only a month ago, the accommodation is [already] found to be inadequate.[14]

The Marquis of Graham, the Club's first President, defined unequivocally in his speech at the Club's formal opening his perception of its future role:

> After [the] last election people said they thought that the result had put an end to Tory politics, as represented by the landlord, the squire, and the parson. They might have thought that they had put an end to them, but he was afraid they had reckoned without the working man ... It would be a great mistake if the people of the country thought that the Conservative policy lay in the hands of the landlord, the squire, and the parson. It concerned working men as much as anybody else ... The Radicals said the result of the election would knock out the Conservative party altogether, but it seemed to him that, instead of their running away, they had got a supply of fresh ammunition, and they would make a fresh start again.[15]

It is open to question, self-evidently, how far this local Framlingham initiative formed part of or had been influenced by the

> attempt to devise a social programme that would regain working-class support.

identified by Dr. Sykes in his article, as having occurred a few years previously.[16] As regards political effects, the Eye electoral division continued to return Liberal MPs until 1950, other than the period 1923 to 1929.[17] Whether all those Liberal majorities may have been trimmed as a result of the existence of a flourishing Conservative working men's club in Framlingham, has to be a matter of speculation (and considerable doubt).

The club's practical social impact, however, can more easily be appreciated. The membership of 160 claimed at its initial formation cannot have been less than 20% of the adult male population of the town,[18] and that proportion was to increase over the immediately ensuing years. With the transfer of the care of Framlingham Castle in 1913 to the Commissioners of Works under the Ancient Monuments Act of that year, the "Great Hall" in the old poor-house ceased to be available for social functions[19] Its role as a

substantial space available for hire for all kinds of social (non-political) functions was effectively taken on by the Assembly Hall added to the Conservative Club premises in the following year, 1914. Meanwhile, a Liberal Club had also been set up in the town.

> Suitable premises having been taken in a prominent position on the Market Hill ...[20]

Not surprisingly then, in 1912, for the first time, *Lambert's Almanack*'s Framlingham section included a paragraph headed "Political Clubs", noting that

> The Conservatives have moved to larger premises in Church Street, where a Billiard and other rooms are in course of erection, and we understand a bar will shortly be opened. Whist drives have taken place, as well as competitions in various other games. They have also played Easton at Cricket. At the outing in September [1911] 130 members journeyed to Great Yarmouth by Saloon Carriage.

(Great Yarmouth remained the favourite destination for the annual Club outing for a number of years). In 1913, *Lambert's Almanack*, recording that

> The Conservative Working Men's Club was opened by the Duchess of Hamilton in April [1912] ... accompanied by the Marquis of Graham ...

went on to make an intriguing assertion:

> As a result of the prosperity of these clubs [the Conservative and the Liberal] the old established Reading Room has been unable to hold its own and has closed down.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the Reading Room was flourishing, lending out 2,500 books in one year.[21] How far its subsequent demise was really an outcome of the founding of the "political clubs" is open to conjecture. What can surely not be denied is that the creation of the Framlingham Conservative Club had a major effect upon the social fabric of the town, although (significantly?) the Parish Council took no formal cognizance of its presence.[22] Mr. G. F. Ling recalled at the first official opening of the Club in its original premises

> This was almost the first Conservative Club formed in the Division - certainly the first in a purely agricultural district.[23]

Not for the first time, this town was to lead where many others were to follow.

Notes:

1. *Fram* 3rd series no. 5, p. 19
2. A. Sykes, "Radical Conservatism and the working classes in Edwardian England..." in *EHR*, vol. 113 Nov. 1998 pp. 1180-1209
3. *FWN* 27.1.1906
4. Editorials in the *Framlingham Weekly News* ascribed to a "Special Correspondent" were probably created in London for a number of provincial papers, and do not normally address specifically local issues. That the *FWN*'s Editor chose to include this one would suggest, however, that he at least in some measure endorsed its comments
5. Sykes, *art. cit.* p. 1181
6. *FWN* 21.5.1870
7. *FWN* 28.5.1870. See also *Fram* 3rd series no. 3 "Entrance Lines" and "Exit Lines"
8. *FWN* 4.6.1870
9. *Fram* 3rd series no. 8, p. 20
10. *FWN* 29.1.1910
11. *FWN* 17.12.1910
12. *FWN* 29.1.1910
13. *FWN* 26.3.1910
14. *FWN* 4.6.1910
15. *Ibid.*
16. Sykes *art. cit.* p. 1181
17. F. W. S. Craig, *British Parliamentary Election results, 1918-1949*. 3rd edit. 1983
18. Small area tables for the 1911 Census do not provide separate figures for adults by gender, but 20% seems a very modest estimate
19. *FWN* 15.11.1913
20. *FWN* 5.11.1910
21. *Fram* 3rd series no. 8 p. 23
22. Suffolk Record Office. Framlingham Parish Council Minutes. 1910-1920
23. *FWN* 4.6.1910

THE HEADMASTER'S BOOK, 1879-1894

Compiled by A. J. Martin

PART 3: CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that Framlingham was extremely fortunate to have, as Head of Sir Robert Hitcham's Boys School, a man who was so tenacious in his pursuit of excellence. Perhaps he set his standards too high and his expectations exceeded the abilities of many of the pupils. The Reports from Mr. Swinburne, Her Majesty's Inspector for Schools are generally fairly glowing although sometimes with some gentle qualifying remarks. For instance:

March 6th 1884
"The Order and Instruction here deserve much praise generally, and the tone continues to reflect high credit on the Master. It was for some time a matter for consideration with me whether the award of the highest Merit Mark was not justified in this case. I came to the conclusion that while it had not been actually gained, it might have been, with but a slight improvement in the general character of the Standard work. The Master has had serious difficulties to contend with. English, Geography and Singing by rote are well taught."

[Truanting continued to be a problem, and the parents of these boys were not always supportive of Mr. Warren.]

March 25th
Sam. Fennell, Fred Spink and William Packard, all of Saxmundham Road being absent this afternoon, I sent to their parents to enquire the reason why. The two latter were truanting and the former one's parents said "that they had sent the boy on an errand". This however was false as the boy had taken the other two away. As he had truanted so recently before, I deemed it prudent to expel him from the School. The other boys were punished. I ought to add that the boy expelled was over 13 years old and has only made 14 attendances out of 38 in the month.

[In March, William Francis, who had been the Assistant Master since the School opened five years earlier, left to take up an appointment as Master of the Rushmere National School near Ipswich. Actually, he had given his notice in February, and Mr. Warren had previously made this entry in his book:]
January 18th
The Assistant Master received instruction from me that in no case was he to punish the boys, and that if they wanted correction he must send them to me and I would correct them. Also requested him not to visit the Infants Dept. during school hours ...

[One wonders whether perhaps Mr. Francis had been at Framlingham for too long.[1] But the pressures on the teachers to retain the attention of sometimes rough and recalcitrant boys must sometimes have caused them to lose their tempers. In February 1884, Mr. Warren had cautioned the Pupil Teacher, Mr. Holland, about striking a boy.

I think the age range of the boys under Mr. Warren's Headship was from 7 years to fourteen and the Standards or classes are numbered 1 to 7. As well as the normal school subjects, the pupils were introduced to a wide-ranging and unrelated series of "Object Lessons" which Mr. Warren tabulated in his book from time to time. In 1884, between May and October, the children were told about the following:

Standards 1 and 2: Beer, the whale, cotton, sugar cane, glass, the bat, boots and shoes, timber, paper, common objects.
Standards 2 and 3: Rivers, objects in nature, minerals, animals, vegetables in food, clothing and trees, coal, useful animals, iron, copper, cereals and gold.
Standards 4, 5, 6 and 7: Silkworms, algebra, iron, climate, clothing and its sources, tobacco, liquid foods, solids, tides, useful vegetables, volcanoes, glass and winds.

Quite often throughout the book, Mr. Warren notes that he taught the children songs. He mentions "The Farmer's Boy", "The Wind", "The School in Winter", "Winter is Over", "The Cobbler's Song", "Excelsior", and "Oh! I'm a British Boy, I am!". He also taught the boys about the "Tonic Sol-fa System" and remarked that they appeared to become quite interested in it.

As well as the several days and half-days holidays that Mr. Warren felt obliged to give on account of local events such as the Farmers' Club Show, the Framlingham Colt Show, circuses, the Band of Hope, the Flower Show and other attractions for which the boys might have absented themselves anyway, severe epidemics disrupted the school from time to time. Whooping cough has been mentioned before, and in 1884, there was a serious measles epidemic. Before the school closed for the Whitsun Holiday on June 29th, the average attendance was 142. After the holiday it was 127, and by the fourth week it was down to 114. On July 2nd, Mr. Warren brought the question of illness before the governors, and on July 5th, he received permission to close the school if attendance was still low. In fact it did improve (although the infants school closed for a fortnight on July 7th). On July 11th the school was given a day's holiday anyway, for an unspecified reason, and Mr. Warren remarked that the average attendance for that week was 125. He also said that several boys stayed away who had not got the measles!].

[The following entry pleased me greatly].

August 8th 1884
The following boys received medals for not having been absent once during the year: James Martin (St. 2), E. Stannard (St. 3), Shepperd Brunning (St. 4), William Crowfoot (St. 4). These boys also received a book prize for good attendance: Standard One: J. Button, E. Smith, E. Stannard, A. Martin, Wm. Northcote, Hbt. Simpson, A. Banthorpe, E. Scotchmer.

[My Grandfather James was born in 1876 and his brother Albert one year later, both in Albert Road, so that at the date of this entry they were eight and seven years old respectively. Therefore, I think that my Grandfather was in his second year and Albert in his first. In 1885, they had both moved up a Standard and both got medals again for not having missed an attendance in the preceding twelve months. They repeated their performance in 1886. Mr. Warren makes no mention of the boys who won prizes in 1887 and 1888, but in that latter year he records that James Martin of Standard 7 had been elected on the Pembroke Nomination to a Scholarship at the College. Somewhere during his time at the school he had jumped a Standard.

On September 26th, 1889, the children had their annual prize-giving at the Castle Hall, when prizes were given to those who had not been absent more than 15 times. Albert Martin, for the 6th time, received an extra prize for not being absent once.

My Grandfather always maintained that the grounding he received from the Hitcham School which enabled him to achieve a Pembroke Scholarship to attend the College, was the basis of his successful life. He became a solicitor in Ipswich, a wealthy collector of antiquities - especially those with a Framlingham connection - and he retained an enduring affection for the place where he was born. Appeals for help never fell on deaf ears. Clients from Framlingham with an appointment at his office found that most of the time was taken up with reminiscences of the old days, and the business concluded in short order by an application of straight talking and commonsense!

Albert went to Framlingham College in 1889, and they both left in 1894. In 1896, Albert joined the crew of a brigantine bound for Valparaiso with a cargo of dynamite, keeping a record of the journey which still exists. He experienced homesickness for Framlingham during the Christmas spent on some lonely stretch of ocean, and thought of his brother catching the train for Campsea Ashe to change for Saxmundham, where he was an articled clerk. Family legend has it that Albert shot a man on one voyage during a mutiny, but he made no mention of this on the dynamite run, although he did record some unpleasantness on account of the First Mate. Later he emigrated to Canada to set up a banana export and distribution business, and he was the Chief Officer of the Lombard Steamship Company in 1901. Albert was a larger-than-life character who liked the ladies, a pint of English beer, and touring all the cathedral cities of England with his brother in a week!

So these two Hitcham boys, with such differing lives, went out into the world and did much good with the conscientious teaching of Edward Warren in their hearts. I do not know what happened to Albert's books and medals that he was given at the school, but my Grandfather kept his, and I have it before me as I write. It is of a silvery pot metal and about two inches in diameter. On one side are the words "Reward of Merit" surrounded by a laurel wreath and the other depicts a winged hourglass surmounted by the words "Delay Not: Time Flies" and below "Awarded for Attendance".]

October 28th, 29th
Master absent.

November 3rd, 4th
Master absent in order to attend the funeral of his father.

[In 1884 the chimneys were at last dealt with. In the week of November 14th, the school was much troubled by smoke, and at the same time the bricklayers were engaged in heightening the chimneys. Mr. Warren said that both these things considerably upset the routine of the school and the children appeared totally indifferent whether their work was done correctly or not.]

November 21st
It was quite a pleasure to be in school this week as the winds have not laid in the quarter which causes the chimneys to smoke.

December 4th
The heightening of the chimneys has now been effected.

[Smoke-logged classrooms are not mentioned again in this book!]

January 5th 1885
Wrote to Mr. Jones (Double Street) informing him that I could not allow his son to attend school again unless he (the father) apologised for causing his son to wilfully disobey my orders. Mr. Jones attended and stated that he should not apologise, consequently I have struck his (the boy's) name off the register until such time as I can bring the matter before a Governors' meeting.

January 9th
Mr. E. Lankester [a governor] visited to ascertain the facts as to the dismissal of the boy Jones. Informed Mr. Lankester that it is my practice to lock the front door immediately after the second ringing of the bell until such time as the boys (who assemble in the playground) have led into the school. The boy Jones went home - as directed by his father - "because the door was locked". I sent after the boy telling the father my usual custom of assembling and asking him kindly to send the boy back. This the father refused to do.

January 10th
Mr. Lankester stated that he had seen Mr. Jones and asked that the boy might be sent back.

January 12th
Received a note from Mr. Jones asking whether I still insisted upon refusing admission to his boy - and that if the boy did again come he should claim religious exemption for his boy, likewise his nephew. I replied that as Mr. Jones had acknowledged that he was in error to Mr. Lankester, I took such acknowledgement as to myself, therefore the boy would now be admitted. I embraced the opportunity of informing Mr. Jones that it would be better for both parties if he could attend personally when the boy next came, as he (the father) could then ascertain from me the rules and discipline of the school; and also informed him that on further enquiry I found that the door was not locked at all when the boy came (the boy having assumed it was locked because he was to go home if it was locked) and that in going home he had tried to induce two others to return home too.

[Nevertheless, in spite of this unproductive call on his time, Mr. Warren managed to run a good school and on January 15th, he received Mr. Swinburne's report - with its usual caveat.]

BOYS SCHOOL. "The Master here, who has had to contend against the depressing effects of much domestic affliction, deserves very high praise for the condition of his school. I have much pleasure in awarding the Excellent Mark; though I wish it to be understood that the general quality of the work, though very praiseworthy, is still capable of improvement."

[On February 4th, the governors considered the case of the boy Jones, and on February 24th, he was re-admitted. The school was also inspected annually by the Diocesan Inspector. In 1885, the Rev. J. H. Gooch reported:]

"... that this [Boys] is an excellent school, the teaching is accurate and systematic. The answers both written and verbal to questions on those parts of Scripture taken up for examination were with very few exceptions, remarkably good. I was much pleased with the singing of the first Division, that of the 2nd, though correct, was wanting in expression. The simple forms of prayers used are good and suitable, the discipline and general tone are satisfactory."

[Mr. Warren's criteria for educational standards may have been higher than those of the Diocesan Inspector and Mr. Swinburne. On October 1st 1885, when the boys had returned from their summer holidays, Mr. Warren gave the boys their first monthly test. To be fair, they had returned to school on September 14th so he had had a fortnight to refresh their memories. This is what he found:]

"... the results as a whole were very disappointing. Carelessness in spelling ("dounb" for "bound") an inaccuracy in arithmetic (8 + 5 = 12) were the chief causes of failure. The reading as a whole in 3 and 2 was lacking in expression. The 4 and 2 spelling is sadly behindhand. The arithmetic, too, in these standards is bad. Tables are not known in 2 and the working of the sums inaccurate in the 4th. Composition is weak in the 5th and 6th, the latter standard, tho' all passed (save one) have not a good style of expressing their thoughts on the subject selected."

[Yet in January 1886, Mr. Swinburne presented his report:]
BOYS SCHOOL. "The Tone, Discipline and Instruction of this pleasant school continue to exercise a salutary influence upon all connected with it, while they reflect very high credit on the Master and his staff. Upon a percentage already high there is a rise bringing the percentage of passes to a gratifying level. Intelligence throughout shows signs of careful development; considering more than one third of the scholars are presented in and above the fourth standard. Singing is taught well by rote and a specific Subject is attempted neatly and with fair success, the 3rd Standard being the weakest point. English is also good though the 2nd and 3rd Standards should be stronger. The mark "Excellent" is recommended, though not without hesitation as the quality of passes in Standard work as a whole does not justify that award if viewed alone, with the exception of the following good work:- Reading in the fifth, sixth and seventh Standards. Handwriting in the first Standard. Spelling in the first and second Standards and arithmetic in the second Standard."

[Mr. Swinburne had inspected the school on December 10th and 11th and at the same time had examined the boys. 143 names had been submitted for examination, two were excused through "obvious dullness" and one because he was sick. Of the 140 boys, 137 passed in Reading, 131 in Writing and 128 in Arithmetic. The percentage of passes was 94.

Edward Warren was not quite so voluble in his entries towards the end of this first book. The years from 1879 to 1885 inclusive had occupied 170 pages, but the next eight years to the middle of 1894 only occupied 120 pages. In these years the school ran normally - if one can say a school ever runs "normally"! In 1886, a backward boy, Louis Anderson, fell off a wall and broke an arm and could not attend for some time. Frederick Vyce was away for "sometime" due to an unspecified "serious illness". James Cunnell who was "delicate" and George Chilvers who was "very dull" oscillated back and forth to the infants most of the year. There was an epidemic of mumps, and Mr. Warren's mother died at Christmas.

In February 1888, a parent brought a "most serious charge against a Pupil-Teacher viz: One: that he wrote bad words on the blackboard. Two: that he drew old men and women on the blackboard and Three: that he exposed himself". Mr. Warren investigated these charges and, although he could not find him guilty of the last, the Pupil-Teacher did admit that he "had been indiscreet in his actions for a teacher". Mr. Warren wrote to the boy's grandfather who came to see him. Together they found that the boy had been deceitful and lying in other matters and had stolen money from his grandfather, and had thrown it into hedges for other boys to get. One boy found 1/7d this way. On March 9th, Mr. Warren gave the Pupil-Teacher 1000 lines to write: "I must not tell lies". He was to show this to his Grandfather. On April 12th, the governors dealt with the matter of the Pupil-Teacher. They asked Mr. Warren to request the grandfather to withdraw the boy from the school. On April 28th, both grandparents visited the school and asked Mr. Warren if the boy might stay. He said he would recommend to the governors that they retain him. At this interview the grandfather said he had never seen the 1000 lines! On April 30th, Mr. Warren suspended the Pupil-Teacher for calling out bad things about another boy and on May 2nd the governors expelled him.]

March 9th 1888
School slightly disturbed this afternoon owing to the classroom chimney being on fire.

June 7th 1889
A severe thunderstorm passed over Framlingham and thoroughly upset the children.

[Then a curious entry].

April 2nd 1891
The Governing Body intimated by note that the services of the Headmaster and the Assistant would not be required after July 6th 1891.

July 10th
Mrs. Warren's service as an Assistant terminated today.

[In February 1893, the school was still without an Assistant Teacher and Mr. Warren was still performing this work. On February 12th a prospective assistant came to Framlingham "but being of diminutive stature (about 4ft.), he was not engaged."]

December 8th 1893
Have investigated a serious case of using bad language in the playground during the week. Peter and William Smith (brothers) were accused of swearing and altho' six boys positively affirmed that they heard the language used, yet the Smiths denied they had used the words. Being convinced however that they were guilty, I punished them and denied them the use of the playground for a week.
Peter Smith has given a great deal of trouble lately.

December 21st
Boys dismissed for the usual (two weeks) Christmas vacation.
In the playground this morning, a little boy named Wm. Shulver came into collision, while running, with a bigger lad named Geo. Easter; both fell down and Easter was so annoyed and angry that when he got up he kicked Shulver with such force as to break his leg. Denied Easter the use of the playground until further notice. Knowing the fact that Easter suffers very much from bleeding of the nose, deemed it prudent to ask the parents to administer corporal punishment, as it would have been folly to have punished a boy lightly for such an outburst of temper.

. . . . . .

The book provides little insight into Mr. Warren's personal life, and no mention of his wife, except that she sometimes helped out in teaching the boys. The first book ends quite suddenly on May 3rd 1894 but the record, of course, continued in Book Two. Mr. Warren continued his Headship until 1916, when he retired to live in Double Street, dying a year or two later. He must have been a good and almost saintly man to endure 42 years of school life at the turn of the century, stoically carrying out the day-to-day routines of the school, dealing with the problems of children, parents, staff, visitors, governors, epidemics and truancy. Though there were clever children whose progress must have been richly rewarding for Mr. Warren, Framlingham, like all other small towns, contained an element of uncouth, tough children whose last wish would have been to sit indoors and learn anything. Nevertheless, he treated them all fairly, punished them justly and shows an even and tolerant nature in his writing. He took life's knocks and rode the storms. His days must have been exhausting with the constant, wearying effort of dealing with so many people of all ages and backgrounds.

Like Brandeston Hall, which for fifty years has nurtured children under happy circumstances because it started out that way, perhaps Edward George Warren was the original spark that set Sir Robert Hitcham's School on a course of excellence which has endured for 125 years. In which case the future for Framlingham is still bright, if the education of its very young children is to count for anything at all.

Editor's note

[1] Francis' headship was at the National School, Rushmere St. Andrew, subsequently known as the Elementary School. After the rather inauspicious start mentioned in this article, Francis' career prospered, and has interesting parallels with that of Warren. Originally built in 1846, and substantially extended in 1870 and 1894, the National School's building (which still survives in what is now Humber Doucy Lane) was at this time of similar style to the Hitcham School. Francis appears to have married shortly after moving to Rushmere, his wife, Gertrude Melnotte, becoming the Mistress at the National School. He continued as Head there until at least 1921. (*Kelly's directory of Suffolk* ... 1888, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1904, 1916, 1922.)

MOATED GREEN: Mr. Jones points out that it seems probable that in former times SAXTEAD GREEN was completely surrounded by a moat. Most of it survives today but mostly out of sight behind the perimeter hedges. Up to comparatively recent times coastal districts (and this includes us) experienced raids by pirates or enemies. By the time troops could be alerted and arrive the intruders would have re-embarked. Most old farmhouses have evidence of moats which could have enabled the farmer, his employees and friends to make some defence. It may be that the moated Saxtead Green was a defence. Can anyone add information?

From *Fram* 1st Series, no. 9, p.2

[Members of the Society, and many others, will be fascinated by the new display at the Lanman Museum at Framlingham Castle, relating to Suffolk moats. Professionally designed, this very evocative presentation may serve to remind even the longest-established residents in the town of a significant part of local topography that they might hitherto have overlooked. *Editor*]

FAMILY HISTORIES

By Helen Pitcher

In my first Framlingham incarnation - Rector's wife 1976-91 - I used to love dealing with the letters which came in enquiring about family histories. I loved searching in the Parish records, but I never got beyond those at local level. However, I was involved in several fascinating correspondences, and learnt some interesting stories. Two of these (1 and 2 below) were published in the Parish magazine at the time.

(1) *John Norcross*

John Norcross, Rector 1813-1837, wrote to the Duke of Wellington asking for the name of some hero of Waterloo, to whom he could pay a pension. The Iron Duke replied, nominating a sergeant who had been a hero of the battle in an engagement at the farmhouse of Houlgate.

I do not suppose that it was for any reason connected with the above that the farmers of Framlingham became very bolshie in the matter of paying tithes to Norcross. Suffice it to say, that he shook the dust of Framlingham from off his feet, became an absentee rector, and took up residence in Lyme Regis.

(2) *Eight generations of the Attwood family*

We have heard much of this family recently and their association with Mendelssohn.[1] Here is a fuller account of their history.

The Oxford Companion to Music tells us that Thomas Attwood (1765-1838) was the son of a trumpet-playing coal merchant, sang as a boy chorister in the Chapel Royal, taught music to members of the royal family, and became organist of St. Paul's Cathedral. As a composer he had an early career for the stage, and an equally successful later one for the Church. In youth he was Mozart's pupil in Vienna; in old age, Mendelssohn's host and friend in London.

In May 1837, Thomas's son George became Rector of Framlingham and remained so until 1884. Thomas's widow came to live here in the Rectory and is buried in the Cemetery. At the age of 48, George married and had a son called Carew Reynell. Carew appears to have been educated by a tutor at the Rectory. When George died, Carew and a friend from Framlingham decided to seek their fortunes in the New World. A farewell tea party was held for them in The Crown, attended by the great and the good of the town. (George Cooper, who lived in the tithe barn, showed me an invitation card to this party).

Carew departed, with all the possessions of a young English gentleman, including the family silver, good clothes etc. He and his friend settled in Texas where they hoped to raise cattle. But these were the days of the Wild West and fortunes were not always realised. His friend went on to New York. At the age of 48 (like his father), Carew Reynell married, but he married his 16 year-old Spanish maid. Neither spoke each other's language. However, they had six children, who remembered their father as a man who never smiled. The family possessions were sold and lost, and the six children were not particularly interested.

However, in 1984 I received a letter from his granddaughter who was extremely interested. Her name was Lydia and that year she and her daughter Oralia visited Framlingham (this was partly to distract them from the death of an older daughter in a domestic violence incident). Lydia and Oralia were quite Spanish in appearance, but Lydia showed me photos of her grandchildren, some quite Anglo Saxon blonde, others dark and Spanish. I asked her whether there was music still in the family. "Oh sure", she replied, "they all love Country and Western".

(I think this would make a great T. V. mini-series).

3. *Newson/Fiennes*

A few years ago I had a correspondence with Lady Fiennes, mother of Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer. Does anyone in Framlingham know that she is part of the Newson family? One of her ancestors had a mill in the town, I think.[2]

There is a William Newson of India in the early College records, and it was in India that the family prospered and Lady Fiennes' father was made a baronet. I cannot remember exactly whether it was her father, or someone else in the family, who was called Sir Percival Wilson Newson of Framlingham. At the end of our correspondence, Lady Fiennes was trying to check records in Calcutta, and I know no more. Does anyone else?

4. *Smith*

I once had a letter from a young lady in Australia about her father, who had been in Framlingham in the Thirties. He was a Smith. I could find nothing and gave the enquiry no further thought. A few months later this same young lady and an older lady appeared on the doorstep. "We have come to tell you our story" they said. It turned out that young Smith, a violinist, had left a wife and two daughters in Aldeburgh while he tried to establish himself in Australia. He always promised that when he had the means he would send for them, but this he never did. His wife raised the daughters, worked herself to death, wrote to him regularly, even sent him money. She did not know that in Australia he had set himself up with her sister, had two more daughters, to whom he gave the same names as his first two daughters, and managed to keep secret from both families the existence of the other. However, when he died all the letters and photos from Suffolk were discovered under the bed by his astonished Australian family. "Just you wait till I meet him in the next life!" said his totally delightful granddaughter. His favourite saying was always "Be sure your sins will find you out"!

Postscript

Another lady recalled how her grandmother, an emigrant to Canada late in the nineteenth century, had to be carried to church, as she was a hunchback and a cripple, through the snow after the birth of her children, in order to be churched. Whatever sort of existence did this poor lady have? Surely life would have been kinder to her had she stayed in Framlingham!

Editor's Notes:

[1] See also *Fram.* 3rd series no. 8 p. 39.

[2] Certainly a "Mr. Newson, a workman" narrowly escaped death when a mill collapsed on 19th September 1842 (M. L. Kilvert, *A History of Framlingham* (Ipswich, 1995) p. 131.)

CORRESPONDENCE

27-11-99

61 Melrose Drive
Flinders View 4305
Queensland

Dear Mr. Roberts,

I saw the report in the August edition of *Local Historian* giving your details. For your interest I enclose a copy of a letter in our possession addressed to John Sheppard Esq at his house in Ash Campsey, written by "Robt Hawes of fframlingham".

I give a transcript below.

> Sir,
>
> Before this time you had received an answer to your letter, could I have returned you such an one, as might reasonably be expected. Now at length Mr Naunton the ffather tells me that the ffreehold is worth near forty pounds per annum that Mr Spenser gave both the copyhold and ffreehold by will to his son Robt. Naunton and his heirs for ever upon condition to pay his sister two hundred pounds, which was paid her and Mr Naunton wld have the discharge. But upon search among the writings Mr Naunton could not find this will or probate, whereupon I took this copy of his sons Admission wherein there is a recitall of the will to the effect abovementioned, and there is not any occasion for a ffine, but if you are not satisfied without a full copy of the will he must procure it, which is all at present from
>
> Yr Humble Servt
> Robt Hawes
> fframlingham
> 15 ffebr 1715

Best wishes.
Eunice Shanahan

17-12-99

61 Melrose Drive
Flinders View 4305
Queensland

Dear Michael,

Thank you very much indeed for that prompt response, full of just the information I need. I was very interested in the article you enclosed about Robert Hawes - anything relating to the history of England is of interest to me.

I notice that your postcode is IP13 - you may be interested to know that we are in the Ipswich postcode here in Queensland. Ipswich is the largest and the first provincial city in this State and Flinders View is a suburb of Ipswich. It was originally called Limestone but some bright spark decided that the landscape reminded him of Ipswich in Suffolk so it was re-named. Needless to say, it does not resemble it in the least!

Best wishes for the new Decade and Century.

Eunice Shanahan

10-1-00

St. Gallerstrasse 49
8400 Winterthur
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 Dec. enclosing my contributor's copies of the *Fram*. I was very happy with your production of my article on Thomas Ladd and pleased to have been able to contribute to your journal.

I couldn't help noticing from your two page article (pp 3/4) that you are inviting members to comment on the Society and its operations. As a non-member with ancestral ties to Framlingham for 170 years, may I add a word?

Two matters are relevant to the Society's activities. The first depends on the purpose for which the Society was founded. The second depends on the attitude of members. To flourish, both need a will to be active. In other words, the Society needs to enable its members to carry out research in line with the objectives of the Society. It is not enough that members attend lectures and outings. They should be motivated to do research on behalf of the Society for their benefit, the benefit of other members and future members, even schools etc.

What should be researched? I would say anything that members wish as long as it is centred on Framlingham. For example, does the Society have a bibliography of Framlingham? A starting point might be the Framlingham section within *A Suffolk Bibliography* compiled by A. V. Steward and published by The Suffolk Records Society.

Does the Society possess a comprehensive list of maps/town plans? It doesn't have to own them; it just needs to know where they exist. A catalogue of paintings/photographs would be attractive.

From town plans, it is a short step to asking about the origins of street names, how they have changed and why.

Does the Society have knowledge of all the businesses based in Framlingham since its beginnings?

One marvellous aid to folk interested in family history (here I admit to a personal bias) would be an index to all Framlingham's inhabitants since records began. Sources could include census returns, the parish registers, voters lists, etc.

And has the Society ever considered transcribing the splendid Overseers' and Churchwardens' Accounts?

The point about all these suggestions is that members could contribute wherever their interest was strongest and the Society as a whole would benefit from their efforts.

Setting deadlines for the completion of pieces of research may smack of too much direction, but some co-ordination would be needed.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Ladd

28-1-00

Castle View
42 College Road
Framlingham
Suffolk. IP13 9ES

Dear Sir,

Since the excellent lecture enjoyed by the Society in December, given by Viscount Midleton about watches and since the TV programme about the problem of longitude with its solution by means of Harrison's chronometer, I seem to keep running up against matters horological. Perhaps the Society could organise an outing to Greenwich to see the four clocks which Harrison made and which Robert Gould so fortuitously preserved. People now and again replicate these machines and I have seen them at the Model Engineer Exhibition. There were none this year, but I was able to see a reproduction of the Congrieve clock where a ball runs down a zig-zag track until it tips a balanced plate to the opposite incline and so runs back again. Each journey of the ball takes one minute and brass mechanisms such as these are hypnotically fascinating to watch.

However, I digress. Today I have been to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, where, co-incidentally, a small exhibition called "Tempus - Time and Art", is mounted. The exhibition was, overall, rather a disappointment as there were not many mechanical things to see. However, there was a small clock which was a source of considerable amusement to me, and I thought to share this with your readers.

Apparently, after the Revolution, the French Government thought it would be a good idea to introduce Decimal Time. Therefore, in 1793, clocks were made whose numerals only went up to 10 and the division of minutes and seconds were not as we are used to. The calendar was rewritten so that the year consisted of twelve months each containing 30 days. Each month consisted of three weeks and each week was made up of 10 days. A day had ten hours in it. An hour was a hundred minutes long and a minute lasted for one hundred seconds.

The clock on display in Cambridge did indeed have only ten numbers on its dial and the accompanying caption said that under the system the French "had a ten hour day". On reflection, I am not sure whether the "ten hour day" was the equivalent of our present 24 hour day, or whether the caption meant there was a "daytime" period of ten hours and a "night-time" period of equal length, making, in fact, a twenty hour equivalent to our 24 hour day.

Apparently, the Government also renamed all the days, as obviously they required three more than they had names for. I think the lady guide said they were named after animals, which highly agitated the French because then they lost all their Saints Days upon which they are still rather keen and which provide them with holidays.

Mathematicians will also observe that, under the above system, there are now 100,000 seconds in a day where there were 86,400, so seconds are now shorter than they should be and minutes are longer.

The French Government managed to maintain this farcical situation until 1805, when it eventually conceded defeat and admitted that the population of France were never going to get the hang of Decimal Time. (They probably didn't consider the effect of their action on the rest of the world; but then, some things never change!).

Clockmakers obviously jumped on the bandwagon and produced decimal clocks to satisfy demand. They even produced clocks with Decimal Numberings on one side of the timepiece and "normal" numberings on the reverse.

All of this was completely new knowledge to me but other readers may know of it and be able to contribute some additional information.

Finally, something has just occurred to me. Under French Decimal Time, a year had 360 days - five or six less than us, depending on the business of Leap Year. If they started the system, say, with Day One at midnight on New Year's Eve, 1793, what day was it and what was the time when they packed it in on New Year's Eve in 1805, just in time for Trafalgar?

Yours faithfully,

Tony Martin

MR. LANMAN REMEMBERS:

Mr. H. H. Lanman, the well-known Framlingham antiquarian, has done much over the years in collecting interesting objects, pictures and photographs for our museum in Double Street. His father was a clockmaker and Mr. Lanman recalls that the Benson clock given to St. Michael's Church by Sir Henry Thompson had cost £460 when installed. Mr. Lanman learned about clocks as a boy from his father and from the age of 17 had looked after the church clock, winding it each day for eight years. What a record of devoted service! The clock is now supervised by Blyth R.D.C. In Mr. Lanman's day it used to play four hymn tunes every four hours in the day and night - at 4 am, 8 am, 12 noon, 4 pm, 8 pm and midnight. During one day the clock weight would drop from the belfry right down into the vestry. On one occasion Mr. Lanman senior was winding up the quarter ton weight when the cable snapped. The corner of the belfry had a compartment of sand to cope with this but the sand had been allowed to dissipate and broken chairs had been piled there. When the weight hit this mass chair pieces showered everywhere and on to the vestry meeting then in progress.

(Mrs. F. Packard)

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THE CELEBRATIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST CENTURY

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

Lord McIntosh of Haringey, the Deputy Chief Whip, finally stated on 2nd December 1999 that the Government have always recognised that the new Millennium would start on January 1st 2001.[1] The same controversy raged in the letter columns of newspapers at the beginning of the twentieth century. Officially, it was decided in Great Britain that the new century started on 1st January 1901. Only Germany and Sweden in Europe decided that 1st January 1900 was the correct date.[2] The letter columns of *The Times* said it all. Mr. E. J. Reed, writing on 31st December 1899 from his home in Westminster, explained the problem:

> The controversy on this question might prove interminable unless a clear understanding of the duplex meaning of the word century as employed by opposing parties is understood. If the object be to measure out the years of time by hundreds (*i.e.* centuries) then it is absolutely certain that the next century will not commence for another year. But if the object is to settle a matter of nomenclature and usage, then it is no less certain that the century during which you and I have lived ends tonight. What does this quantity (1899) signify? It signifies 18 centuries plus ninety plus nine years. Is it not manifest therefore that insofar as dates and records are concerned we are passing in the matter of centuries tomorrow. For the purpose of fixing dates and records, therefore, we do tomorrow enter upon a new century; for astronomical and other purposes requiring the exact measurement of long periods of time, it will be necessary to remember that 19 centuries from the beginning of our era will not have elapsed until 31st December 1900.[3]

Most people ignored the official line and duly celebrated the coming of the 20th century on 31st December 1899. The largest celebrations, as might be expected, were in London. For the country as a whole the celebrations can only be called parochial in character. There being no radio, television and for much of the country no telephones, it was difficult to organise nationally any form of celebration.

Some of the celebrations in London were confined to selected elements of the population and were significant events. The Lord Mayor of London presided over a feast for 1,300 poor and crippled children in the Guildhall.[4]

The celebrations on 31st December 1899 at St. Paul's Churchyard were spontaneous and large. Perhaps a description of the occasion might highlight the character of the event.

> Last year in consequence of the boisterous proceedings which attended the gatherings, the Dean and Chapter decided to have the approaches to the courtyard fenced off. In following the precedent, last night it adopted a wise course, for the rowdy element entered largely into the assembly. The police, however, adopted stern measures and during the coming and going of the crowd of people, several rowdies were conveyed unceremoniously to the Bridewell and there charged with disorderly conduct.
>
> Long before 11 o'clock the crowd began to assemble and shortly after, all traffic which proceeds by way of the Churchyard was diverted. At half an hour before midnight St. Paul's Churchyard was completely filled. A few minutes later the crowd extended down to Ludgate Circus in one direction and towards Cheapside in another. The latest music hall songs were rendered by small knots of enthusiasts whilst others remembering the present war [Boer War] cheered for the soldiers of the Queen, and the leading figures in the present campaign.
>
> At about 5 minutes to 12 the crowd became conscious that the hour of midnight was approaching and when the warning chime sounded there was a hush and in silence the clock bell began to toll. The crowd listened to the chime and as it died away they sang with great heartiness Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.[5]

Officially, little happened beyond what was customary at the end of any year. The newspapers hardly reported any of the New Year celebrations. Their column inches were dominated by articles on the war in South Africa, which was not going well; Ladysmith and Mafeking were under siege. And it was generally felt from rumours coming out of Buckingham Palace that Queen Victoria really was getting old.

But what of the rest of the country? Framlingham seemingly typical of many places: nothing happened at all. The bells at St. Michael's were silent and New Year's Day was an ordinary working day.[6] Generally, there were instances reported of mere purposeless promenades and indiscriminate cheering.[7] On a domestic and personal level there must have been many toasts to the New Year. But, for the most part, civic leaders toed the line and celebrated the beginning of the 20th century on 1st January 1901.

The Times in line with other papers reported many of the celebrations taking place on the Continent on 1st January 1900. What happened in Germany might be indicative.

> The Emperor [Wilhelm II] and Government [of Germany] have decided that the Twentieth Century begins on January 1st 1900. The religious service which is usually attended by the Court on New Year's Day will not be held tomorrow. In its stead there will be a service at a quarter past eleven o'clock in the Chapel at the Royal Castle in Berlin. This will be followed by a Defilerkour or levée in the White Hall. At the beginning of the levée the Life Guards Battery of the First Guards Regiment of Field Artillery will fire a salute of 33 rounds in the pleasure gardens.
>
> At midnight [31.12.99] at the levée, the members of the Court and the Ambassadors of foreign powers will pass before the Emperor in order to congratulate him on the occasion of the New Year. His Majesty will be surrounded by members of his family and other members of German foreign houses who have come to Berlin to bring their congratulations.[8]

Does one detect in all this a note of triumphalism? Such were the celebrations on a formal basis in Germany.

Paris, it might be added, was at that time informality itself. 1st January 1900 was confirmed as a grand holiday with most of the shops and banks closed and everyone bent on pleasure.[9]

If the celebrations in Great Britain on 31st December 1899 passed off relatively quietly, what happened on 31st December 1900? There was much official celebration marked by church services throughout the land. At Hereford Cathedral, for instance, the Dean preached a sermon based on a text from Psalm 90, "Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another". He concluded his sermon with a brief allusion to the present difficulties of the nation and a personal application of his text.[10]

On a more civic basis the Lord Mayor of London and Sheriffs attended in state a service which was held on 1st January 1901 at St. Paul's Cathedral. Nearly every seat in the great building was occupied.[11]

At a more parochial level, church bells rang out (as at St. Michael's Church, Framlingham) throughout the land. But it is strange to report that the *East Anglian Daily Times* has little to report of what went on in the County over the New Year 1900/01. Perhaps this invites the question, were the celebrations on 1st January 1901 slightly moderated by the thought that the Queen was dying? At least there was one cause for rejoicing on that day: the Boer War was nearly over, and the war had been won. But at a price: as it turned out, it appears to have been a pyrrhic victory. The hero of the war, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, was due to land in Southampton on 3rd January 1901, and arrangements were being made for the large crowds greeting him.[12]

It was not long, however, before a more sombre cause for national ceremonial was to take place. Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901

Notes

1. *Daily Telegraph* 3.12.99
2. *Ibid. Millennium Supplement 1999*
3. *The Times* 1.1.1900
4. *Daily Telegraph Millennium Supplement 1999*
5. *The Times* 1.1.1900
6. *Lambert's Almanack 1901*
7. *Daily Telegraph Millennium Supplement 1999*
8. *The Times* 1.1.1900
9. *Ibid.* 2.1.1900
10. *Ibid.* 2.1.1901
11. *Ibid.*
12. *Ibid.* 3.1.1901

EXIT LINES

..... Those bully-boys, the Bigods. Truculent and treacherous by turns - or sometimes both at the same time - they were a continual thorn in the flesh of the kings by whose grace they enjoyed their lands, until Henry II gave them their quietus. They are remembered today by the ruins of their castles at Framlingham and Bungay and an odd entry here and there in the pedigree of honest folk who may derive a melancholy satisfaction from this somewhat undesirable ancestry.

From K. W. Strugnell, *Seagates to the Saxon Shore.* Lavenham, Dalton, 1973.

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