

# FRAM

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

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Series

April 2009



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

**5th Series Number 12  
April 2009**

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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

5<sup>th</sup> Series Number 12

April 2009

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

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We have all been appalled to read the reports in every national daily as well as news and pictures on television and radio, of gang warfare between groups of youths living on adjacent housing estates in northern cities and in London. Usually involving firearms and knives, the confrontations have often resulted in fatalities and serious injuries, sometimes to young and innocent bystanders, who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

These social situations and individual crimes might be seen by the historian as a new and ugly manifestation of what I would describe as Ancient Rivalries. Up to now, this social phenomenon has been (so far as I am aware) comparatively neglected by both local and national historians. Even so eminent a chronicler of civil conflict in the early modern period as George Rudé, concentrates very largely on the major disturbances, such as the Gordon Riots, their causes, significance and outcomes, rather than addressing endemic, if intermittent, areas of conflict between opposing groups of people defined by occupation, or geographical area, or social class.

My own Livery Company, the Fletchers, earned the reproof and condemnation of the City's Court of Aldermen in the fourteenth century, for murdering rival Bowyers in the streets of central London. Slightly more recently, we have the long-standing rivalry between Town and Gown in Cambridge, not quite so bloody as the foregoing, but still resulting in a colleague of mine in a hall of residence in 1960s Cambridge losing the sight of an eye, simply because he had been going out with a town girl. The situation is, I am told by senior Members, even worse in that city today. Oxford has the same problem, I am advised by an undergraduate currently in her second year at Christ Church College.

Coming somewhat closer to home, the same informant tells me that there have been longstanding rivalries between students at the Royal Hospital School in Suffolk and local young people. This situation has some resemblance to what has been seen in our own Framlingham, where (at least in the past!) there were spats, if not always fights, between scholars at the College and local youths. (When first I came to Framlingham in 1994 senior pupils at the College were advised, if not compelled, to use only one public house in the town, which was regularly frequented by one or two teachers, to ensure, unobtrusively, good order there).

I mentioned at the beginning of this piece geographical rivalries, and certainly these are deeply rooted in our own part of Suffolk. A few months ago, while drinking in a certain licensed premises in Framlingham, I became aware of a youngish person who, if not intoxicated, was certainly very loud in voice and slightly belligerent in manner. After his (very welcome) departure, a local regular at the pub told me that that twenty-something person was almost the last scion of the B----'s, a family who in the quite recent past were notorious for coming over from Wickham Market to Framlingham, "looking for trouble".

The conflicts were (perhaps still are!) hardly one-sided. I know (but will not name) one or two pillars of society in Framlingham today, for whom, in their early youth, a Friday/Saturday evening would not have been complete without a good scrap with the boys from Wickham Market (or Leiston, or Stradbroke). Praise be, weapons were rarely or never used, and, so far as I have been told, innocent bystanders were spared any involvement, and damage to property was usually minimal.

This underside of our town's social history is hardly documented at all by our several excellent local historians, but the phenomenon is another significant expression of, and influence on, the social dynamics of our town.

This editorial seeks to address what could be a wide-ranging topic, and is necessarily perfunctory, and un-referenced. It would be useful, I feel, to study the issues that I raise in much greater detail, and I should be interested to receive from readers (anonymously if preferred) their own experiences of local internecine rivalries, their origins and outcomes.

**THE FRAMLINGHAM AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY  
AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS**

*By Charles Seely*

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The year 2006 was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our Society.<sup>1</sup> It would not have been right to have let that occasion pass without a look back at past years, and perhaps also, to congratulate ourselves on what has been achieved.

The origin of the Society was really in Coronation year 1953, when Mr Harold Lanman, whose antiques business had been at 8 Castle Street for half-a-century, and before that in Bridge Street, staged an exhibition of old photographs and artifacts in the Assembly Rooms at the top of Church Street.<sup>2</sup> He was helped in this by Mr Percy Stannard, who was the managing clerk of Ling and Company, the solicitors, and whose knowledge of Framlingham was unrivalled. Mr Stannard did a great deal of research on the old inns of Framlingham, which was eventually delivered as a lecture.<sup>3</sup> As a direct result of this exhibition, our Society came into being and drew up its first Constitution in November 1956.<sup>4</sup> From the beginning there was always the intention that this historic town should be protected from the wrong sort of development; as a result of this we get our rather cumbersome title Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society.

As far as I can discover, the moving spirits at the beginning were: The Reverend (later Canon) Martin Bulstrode, Mr Henry Turner, Commander Sitwell, and Mr John Self, at that time Chairman of the Town Council. These four worked with Mr Gerald Leedam (first Chairman) and Mr Percy Stannard (first Hon. Secretary).

The aim and purpose of the Society was (a) to encourage and foster interest and research in all matters relating to the social history of the historic township of Framlingham and the surrounding district, (b) to provide and maintain suitable accommodation for all objects purchased by, or given, presented, bequeathed or loaned to the Society. So the first Museum was opened by the Earl of Cranbrook on Market Hill in October 1957.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently it moved to Double Street, then to the Courthouse in Bridge Street, and finally to Framlingham Castle.

It was decided, in April 1978, when it could no longer be housed in Double Street, that a separate Trust should be set up for the Museum,<sup>6</sup> and here it is relevant to recall that in that same year a presentation was made to Mr Harold Lanman, who had collected the six hundred exhibits and provided one hundred and twenty five of them himself.<sup>7</sup> He also became Honorary Life Vice President. It is to honour him that the Lanman Museum now located in the Castle bears his name. Harold died in 1979, sadly a few weeks before the Museum's official opening in the Courthouse.

In the 1950s the annual subscription to the Society, payable on 1 January, was 5/-. Some time after decimalization in 1970, it was doubled to 50p.

I came to Framlingham in 1971 and joined the Society mainly because Miss Patricia Butler, a very forceful character who was head of Ipswich Museums Services (High Street and Christchurch Mansion), told me I had to! From 1972 on, I am able to talk about the Society from my own memory. Here are some of the outstanding lectures from the 1970s:-

George Ewart Evans	The Surface of Past Times
Barrett Jenkins	The Southwold Railway
Stuart Bacon	Underwater Dunwich
John Frere Kerr	The Paston Letters
Lady Lane Turnbull	Life of Lady Jane Grey
Miss Ella Brownsord	The Independents in Framlingham
G Bush	The Story of Bridges and Garrards
Miss Gwen Dyke and The Wickham Market Research Team	Whitmore and Binyon's Writing History
R J Unstead	The Early Years of Framlingham College
A J Martin	The Howards The Suffolk Horse

On the whole, we have had a very high standard of lectures. Our meetings used to take place in the Foresters' Hall (suggesting scenes of revelry in oak-beamed alehouse with jolly fellows in green singing drinking songs), but no, a less exciting building in Albert Road, owned by the Friendly Society of that name. It was sold to the Royal British Legion in 1981, when we moved to our present home – the Free Church Hall. In those days we wanted our meetings to be social occasions as we do now, and so towards the end of the lecture Miss Brownsord would go into the kitchen, fill the kettle, light the gas and return. After a while there would be a loud whistle. It was rather distracting, but did indicate to the lecturer that his time was up! Unfortunately, at a lecture on the history of Barclays Bank, coffee was spilt on some valuable early banknotes – I doubt if they have ever forgiven us! So coffee was off the menu for some years afterwards, but not very long ago we returned to our old custom, and we have Alicia Bond and Margaret Burman to thank for carrying it on for us.

In the 1970s John Frere Kerr was Chairman. He was succeeded in turn by Robert Spitta and Wallace Morfe. Wallace had been Managing Director of Phillips and Piper in Ipswich, and also Mayor of Ipswich. He was an outstanding Chairman for ten years. We organized day outings to historic houses such as Houghton Hall in Norfolk, Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge and Audley End in Essex. We had a newsletter which was edited by Mr George Cooper.<sup>8</sup> In 1974 we raised the subscription to a pound – we had £670 in the bank and at the Annual General Meeting the following was minuted: "The crinkle-crinkle wall between Messrs Potters and Mrs Steggall's [now Akermans] – estimate by an unwilling builder of £150 for repointing and repair. Left open for a more reasonable tender". The old fire engine was moved to the Castle. Mr Henry Turner was thanked for having stored it for so many years. The year 1974 also saw a highly successful coffee morning hosted by Mr Turner and Mr & Mrs Brian Ellerby. As for the fire engine, it became a *casus belli*. The Town Council attempted to lay claim to it, unsuccessfully, and the Friends of Framlingham Castle complained that it took up too much space and wanted it removed – but it is still there.<sup>9</sup> Mr Martin Irving generously purchased the cast-iron Victorian letterbox from the front of the former railway station and presented it to the Museum, where it is still on display.

In 1975 Canon Martin Bulstrode died. He was a Trustee of the Society and a great supporter of it, but his memorial is really the re-erection of the famous Thamar organ in the West gallery of St Michael's Church, which he succeeded in achieving despite great opposition.

In the first half of the 1970s Mr F V Warren was our Secretary. He died in 1976 and the Reverend Jim Lovejoy then held the office until 1982. Mrs Gosling then served until 1985.

In the 1980s we had a brilliant succession of talks. Here are a few of them:-

Dr Ian Allen	Railways
J W Dickson	Suffolk Pargetting
Peggy Cole	The Making of Akenfield
Wallace Morfey	The Painter Thomas Churchyard of Woodbridge
Bridget Harvey	The Easton Harriers
(Her father, the late Tony Harvey, spoke some years later on old vehicles, his special subject, and also on his caravan trips to Epsom and to Appleby Horse Fair)	
Sydney Higgins	Sir Henry Rider Haggard
William Filmer Sankey	The Excavations at Snape
Mike Ashwell	The History of Potters of Framlingham
Mrs Woodland	Brandeston and Kettleburgh in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Mr Plant's Reminiscences

In 1982 Mr Kenneth Cabban gave us a very amusing short talk on "A Vet's Reminiscences".

In 1985 a tape was played of ninety-one year old Mr Morgan Watts' memories of the early years of the Framlingham Fire Service and some time in the 1980s Mrs Betty Kitchen gave us that never-to-be-forgotten talk of the blaze at Mr Reade's house at the bottom of Fore Street and how the fire engine required to be paid in advance and arrived too late.<sup>10</sup> There were also wonderful outings to Hatfield House, Holkham Hall, Oxburgh Hall, Knole House in Kent (our furthest trip) and Ely, with many others.

Commander Sitwell was proposed in 1987 as Hon. Life President. The Minutes record "Carried with acclamation". He died in 1988. In 1983 Mr L A Levy became Chairman. In 1988 he commented at the Annual General Meeting that it would be a good thing "if someone else took over the post. We need a young, energetic person; young means under 75". In 1989 Mr Brian Collett took on the job and held it for ten years. In 1985 Andrew Lovejoy took on the Secretary's job and stayed in that post until June 2004.

In the late 1980s we had a lot of benefit from Mr Keith Patterson on the Committee as Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary. He was keen to see a flag flown on occasions of national importance. As our Society owns no premises, we had nowhere to fly a flag, and in any case we would have needed planning permission. Keith, however, was very good to us in printing notices, and he largely organized our stand at Thomas Mills High School. His death in 1996 was a loss to us all.

Now I come to the year 1990, which has been taken to be the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Framlingham Castle by the mighty Bigods. We decided to put on a lecture by Dr John Ridgard in St Michael's Church. It filled the Church, and among the audience was a party from Framingham, Massachusetts. Here are some of the other really good talks from the 1990s:

Sidney Gray	The History of FADS
Mary Moore	Village Signs
Judith Plouviez	The Hoxné Hoard
Mrs Lawrence	The Blyth Navigation
John Constable	The Paintings of his great-great-grandfather
Muriel Kilvert	The History of Framlingham
John Warwicker	No. 10 Downing Street

Ray Hardinge	Crabbe's flowers
Dr Daly Briscoe	The Seckford Family
Richard Crisp	Saxmundham
Fred Bridges	Lavenham
Air Vice Marshall Sandy Johnson	"1940 and all that".

There were outings to:

- Long Melford and Lavenham
- Bury St Edmunds and Ickworth
- Coggeshall and Constable Country
- King's College Cambridge with talk by Emma Hebblethwaite
- Somerleyton Hall and Lowestoft
- Butley Priory

An evening excursion to see the British Resistance Movement hideout was very popular.

At the 1991 Annual General Meeting we raised the annual subscription to £4.00 as it was obvious that we had to be in a position to pay our speakers and to cover our own costs. At the beginning of the 1990s there was a small falling off in our membership (down to 71) and the average attendance at meetings was only 35. In 1992 Andrew Lovejoy had circulated 300 leaflets to the Mowbrays, Castle Brooks and the Knoll – only one person replied. In January 1996 the Membership Secretary stated that 55 members had so far paid their subscriptions, 22 had not, and of those eight did not pay last year either! Tony Broster became Hon Treasurer in 1994. In 1996 Mr Mike Churchill offered the help of Nuclear Electric at Sizewell for printing purposes, and on 24 April 1997 – "Resolution that Mr M V Roberts be allowed to carry out actions leading to a newsletter sponsored by the Society". This of course was the genesis of *Fram*.

In the early 2000s, Bob Roberts was a very capable Chairman. In 2001 we again increased the subscription to £7.00. We had outstanding lectures by Canon David Pitcher on the Framlingham Railway, Bill Flemming on Framlingham in the 1940s, and Mr Skinner on the Peasenhall Murder, and we arranged the UEA Film Archive show in St Michael's Rooms as a fundraising operation, which proved highly successful.

In October 2003 we again raised the subscription to £10 (but £15 for two people). Ronald Blythe came all the way from Wormingford to speak to us about Edward Fitzgerald. He has been very supportive to the Society over the years. This more or less brings us up to the present day, but I have not yet touched on projects or planning matters.

In the old days we were a poor Society in monetary terms. For instance, in 1978 our total assets were £670 in the bank. Subscriptions were £1.00 a year. However, out of our small resources we contributed £200 to Suffolk County Council for their purchase of the Iveagh papers and £100 towards the restoration of the hatchment in St Michael's Church. The idea of plaques to commemorate distinguished people were first mooted in November 1980, but had to be shelved for lack of funds. We therefore concentrated on inexpensive activities such as the taping of the memories of the oldest inhabitants. Jack Muge, who died in 1982, was the convener of the Projects Committee and started the recording process. After the Annual General Meeting in 1982, Mrs Boddy played tapes of some of these. There was, however, an unwillingness to get going with this. In November 1988, it was minuted concerning Mr Walter Stone, Mr Todd and Mr George Barker that "it was a question of appointing someone to tape these personalities and get on with it". These sound like the words of Mr A J Martin, and certainly in November 1989 he stated that "The Projects Committee should have a project. If it doesn't it is a shame on it, and we should close down the committee".



In 1997 we were all amazed to learn that Mr Walter Pegler had died in Bermuda and left to the Society in his will the balance of his UK NatWest account, which was over £8,700.00. From then on we were much more able to undertake projects. In May 1999, the hoist or crane at the rear of Carley and Webb, which had been there since the early nineteenth or even eighteenth century, was repaired under Mr Martin's supervision. In early 2000 we contributed to the restoration of the gates of the Pageant Field, and on 28 June 2000 the Earl of Surrey unveiled a plaque in the Castle, funded by us, to commemorate Mary Tudor's accession in July 1553, her gathering her army of 8000 men at Framlingham and her procession to London. Dr Beverley Murphy gave an address, English Heritage generously contributed the refreshments, and musicians in costume played Tudor music.

A great deal of the work behind the scenes on this occasion was done by Major Kirby.<sup>11</sup> Arthur Kirby was Chair of the Development Sub Committee.<sup>12</sup> He and his wife Constance left in 2003 to live in Berkhamsted.

In 2000 we reprinted *Lambert's Almanack* from one hundred years ago. Two years later we helped with John MacEwan's splendid exhibition of old postcards of Framlingham entitled "Fading Memories". In March 2002 we received another bequest; Miss Merrells, who was a great supporter of the Society left us in her will £500. Her executor wrote: "Her membership of the Society brought her much pleasure over many years".

Then in 2004 we commissioned the plaque for Sir Henry Thompson's birthplace on Market Hill. The Ipswich and Norwich Co-operative Society, who own the building, generously paid for the erection. Great work was done by Mr Martin, who had been urging that this be done for over twenty years. The unveiling was done by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons and the plaque is an example of the skill of Mary Moore of Brandeston, who made it.<sup>13</sup>

We discussed these projects in Committee at great length and are convinced that in this way we were making a right use of the money left to us.

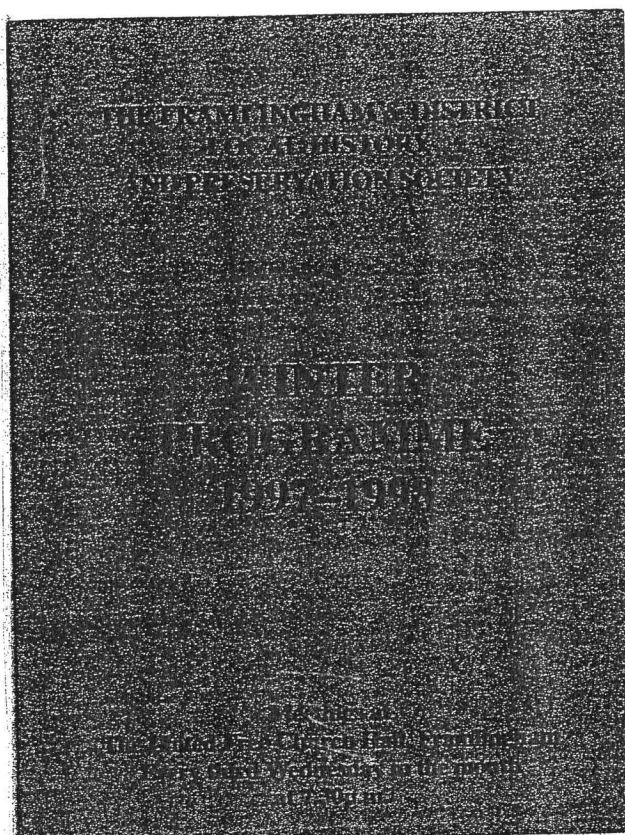
Lastly, I would like to touch on our role in planning questions. We are entitled as an amenity society to receive copies of Planning Applications relating to the town's Conservation Area and Suffolk Coastal District Council is willing to send us copies of other Applications on request. There have been occasions when it looked as if our comments have been taken on board; many more, I fear, when they have been set aside. But in principle, it is a good thing that we should still call ourselves a Preservation Society. We do not know that the future holds for Framlingham, this historic town, but I feel confident that our Society will continue to build on the work that has been done for the last fifty years, and that in 2056 it will be alive and well and celebrating its centenary.<sup>14</sup>

THE FRAMLINGHAM  
& DISTRICT  
LOCAL HISTORY  
AND PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

WINTER  
PROGRAMME  
&  
MEMBERSHIP CARD  
1996 - 1997

NAME OF MEMBER

M. V. ROBERTS



Front pages of the Society's Winter Programme cards for 1996/97 and 1997/98. Note that the former also serves as a Membership Card, and has space for the member's name. In both cases, lectures are listed on the two inside pages of the card, with officers recorded on the back. Interestingly, the summer visits programme for the ensuing year is not recorded, as it would only have been finalized over the winter period after the cards had been issued.

Editor's notes

1. This article is an edited version of the paper delivered by the Society's Vice-Chairman, C W Seely, after the Society's Annual General Meeting 18 October 2006.
2. For further details of the Society's early involvement with the Museum, see A. A. Lovejoy, "Lanman Museum" in *Fram: the Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 3 (April 1998) pp. 7-9; and "The Town's Museum" in *Fram*, 4<sup>th</sup> series, no. 2 (December 2001) p. 23.
3. Published in *Fram*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 1 (August 1997) pp. 4-6 and *Fram*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 2 (December 1997) pp. 9-11.
4. The aim and purpose of the Society are listed at paragraph four of this paper. A second constitution was approved in 1973, again with substantially the same objectives.
5. *East Anglian Daily Times* 30 October 1957.
6. Lanman Museum. Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society Minutes 3 April 1978.
7. The presentation certificate and supporting material are held at Lanman Museum.
8. Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society *Newsletter*, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> series (December 1968-October 1974). There are a number of sets held in the town: the Editor can advise regarding access.
9. Since this paper was written, the fire engine has been removed by its legal custodians, English Heritage, to storage in Norfolk.
10. cf. T. Durrant, *compiler*. "The Fore Street fire" in *Fram* 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 6 (April 1999) pp. 15-17.
11. It may be noted that Millennium Plaque Working Party had as its Convener our President at that time, Reverend Canon Richard Willcock. The plaque was removed in early 2008, but is now being returned to the Castle.
12. The Development Sub-Committee had a comparatively brief existence from 1997 to 1999.
13. It should be noted that Mary Moore was also the creator of the Mary Tudor plaque, referred to above.
14. Extensive, though incomplete, files of the Society's agendas for meetings, minutes, reports, correspondence, and supporting papers, 1962-1982, are held at the Lanman Museum; access is by prior arrangement with the Editor, *Fram*.

## FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE

By Andrew A. Lovejoy

*(This paper is an edited version of the lecture given to members of the Suffolk Local History Council on their visit to Framlingham 27 September 2008)*

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Framlingham Castle has been described as one of the finest medieval landscapes in Suffolk and even England. Such castles are tangible monuments – exciting to explore and exerting a powerful hold on the imagination of children, students, the general public and academics alike, and castles are a potent legacy of the Middle Ages both in England and Europe.

The first point to realize is that a castle is a castle only if it is a fortified residence. Maiden Castle in Dorset and Burgh Castle in Norfolk are thus not strictly castles, but simply fortifications. Studies of castles have until recently largely concentrated on their architectural and military interest. In the last fifteen years or so that has all changed. Their social and economic context is now the frontline study.

It would nevertheless be remiss not to outline some of the basic details of Framlingham Castle as it now stands, and what that means. Framlingham Castle was built by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, between 1190 and 1210, and consists of an enclosing wall forty feet high, eight feet thick and with foundations extending fourteen feet into the ground. Such an enclosure castle, built of stone, with its thirteen towers, was the answer to problems experienced by motte and bailey castles or tower castles, which were vulnerable to sieges, especially in the experience of Crusaders in the Holy Land.

Enclosure castles, of which Framlingham Castle is one, were in the twelfth century in the mainstream of castle design. Between 1066 and 1215, 741 tower or motte and bailey castles were built in England, and in that period 205 enclosure castles. The latter, towards the end of the twelfth century, were built of stone and therefore expensive. Orford Castle, an enclosure castle, of which the building accounts are unique in that it is the only castle in England for which such accounts survived, cost £1,413-10s-10d to build between 1165 and 1172 – a huge sum considering that the central government budget for the whole of England in 1165 amounted to £18,000.

As noted above, the study of castles today is as much about people as anything else. The seigniorial owners of Framlingham Castle had their residence here, including the Bigod Earls of Norfolk, between 1100 and 1306, Thomas Plantagenet and his descendents in the fourteenth century, the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk in the fifteenth century, who have all left few records of their stay here. However, the Howard Dukes of Norfolk, who owned the Castle between 1483 and 1635, are well documented.

In the eyes of the Middle Ages, kings and noblemen were not as other men – the structure of a society which set them apart was divinely ordained and their superiority had to be made clear by pomp, pageant, ceremony and other physical glories. Framlingham Castle appears to have been no exception to that. Perhaps the details of the obsequies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Norfolk, who died on 21 May 1524, will illustrate that point.

The Duke died on 21 May 1524 aged eighty and was given a funeral which was the last of its kind. 'No nobleman was ever to be buried in such style again'. His will too, signed on 31



May 1520, was also the last in which a subject spoke of himself as 'we'. The chamber of state, the great hall and chapel at Framlingham were hung with black cloth and escutcheons of arms while the Duke's body lay in state for a month before the altar in the chapel 'which his grace [had] kept prince like for he had great pleasure in the service of God'. Three solemn masses were sung daily with nineteen mourners kneeling round the hearse, while every night it was watched by twelve gentlemen, twelve yeomen, two yeoman ushers and two gentleman ushers. On 22 June the Duke's coffin set out from Framlingham on the twenty-four mile journey to Thetford, the ancient burial place of the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk, Bigods, Mowbrays and now Howards; the coffin was placed in a chariot drawn by three horses bedecked with black trappings and gold escutcheons and was accompanied by nine hundred mourners, including four hundred torchmen in black gowns with hoods, friars, chaplains, standard and banner-bearers, lords, knights, esquires, gentlemen of the household, and the Duke's treasurer and comptroller. His helmet with crest (which now hangs in the Howard chapel at Framlingham) was borne by the Windsor herald, and hatchments of his arms were carried by the Carlisle Herald, Clarenceaux King of Arms and Garter King of Arms. The journey took two days and the procession rested overnight at Diss where a solemn dirge was sung in the church and alms distributed, as had also occurred in all the churches along the way. A substantial portion of the population of East Anglia must have witnessed this gigantic cavalcade and thousands benefited from the distribution of alms.

On arrival at Thetford Priory, the Duke's coffin was received at the church door by the Bishop of Ely *in pontificalibus* and by the Abbots of Wymondham and Thetford and the Prior of Butley, all wearing their mitres. The body was carried by six gentlemen and six knights to a fabulous catafalque in the middle of the black-draped choir of the abbey church. This unimaginable structure was an enormous heraldic fantasy of black and gold adorned with seven hundred lights, a hundred wax effigies of black-gowned bedesmen holding rosaries, eight *bannerols* showing the Duke's illustrious descent and marriages and no fewer than a hundred hatchments of his arms. There the Duke's body rested in state overnight. The services of the funeral itself began at five o'clock in the morning with three consecutive requiem masses of increasing grandeur, the first sung by the Prior of Butley, the second by the Abbot of Wymondham, the third and final one, a pontifical High Mass of Requiem, celebrated by the Bishop of Ely. They were followed by the heraldic ceremonies which marked the obsequies of a dead duke, including a procession of hatchments of his arms carried by the heralds and presented to the Bishop. The high point however was the dramatic entry into the church of a knight dressed in the dead Duke's armour with visor closed, carrying his battleaxe head down, and mounted on a horse with cloth of gold trappings. This awesome apparition rode slowly up the nave of the church to the choir screen where it presented the dead Duke's axe, still head down, to the Bishop.

There followed a sermon of the same heroic character preached by Dr Mackerell. It lasted an hour and the theme was 'Behold the lion of the Tribe of Judah triumphs'. So effective was this piece of oratory that the congregation fled from the church in terror. The Bishop then consecrated the new burial vault under the choir which the Duke had just had built for his family and which may still be seen today in the midst of the ruins of the abbey church. Finally the body was interred, the Bishop throwing a symbolic handful of earth on to the 'noble corpse' and sprinkling it with holy water while the chief officers of the Duke's household broke their staves of office and threw the pieces onto their master's tomb.

(J M Robinson, *The Dukes of Norfolk* (1995) pp. 21-4)

Clearly that passage indicates that in focusing our minds on the occupants of Framlingham Castle we are dealing with uncommon stock.

The Bigods were here in Framlingham soon after Roger Bigod, a cousin of William the Conqueror, arrived in Sussex in 1066, from France. In 1074, Roger Bigod was created Earl of Norfolk and was granted 117 of the 629 manors of Suffolk, of which Framlingham was one. In 1100, on the accession of Henry I, Sir Roger Bigod built a motte and bailey castle at Framlingham on the site of the present one, and in 1104 founded the Cluniac Priory of Black

Canons at Thetford where, until 1540, the owners of Framlingham Castle met their last resting place.

The Bigods were a phenomenon. Hugh Bigod (1120-1177) and the later Bigods led an existence which was as far as they could go independent of the Crown. It caused Hugh Bigod in the twelfth century much trouble, and indeed for sixty-five years between the accession of Henry I in 1154 and the end of John's reign in 1216, the Bigods were at loggerheads with the Crown. That independence and lust for influence lost Hugh Bigod his castle in 1174, when Henry I, the first Angevin king, ordered that the motte and bailey castle be pulled down. That was done by Alnodus the Engineer, for £14-15s11d. It cost 36s1d to fill the ditches.

Hugh Bigod's successor, his son Roger, regained his land and titles on the accession of Henry II's successor, Richard I. Roger Bigod then built the present castle. In a rebellious mood Roger and his son Hugh were two of the twenty-five signatories to Magna Carta in 1215. As with all the Bigods of the thirteenth century, the imperfections of the Angevin kingship and the inadequacies of the Charter as a remedy for them, continued to be a problem. Just after the signing of Magna Carta, civil war broke out between the barons and the King. Roger Bigod was part of that rebellion. On Saturday 12 March 1216, King John besieged Framlingham Castle. The garrison of the Castle on that occasion consisted of 26 knights, 20 sergeants, 7 Balistarii (Crossbowmen), a Chaplain (Richard Clericus) and 3 miscellaneous persons. The Castle surrendered the next day when King John left for Ipswich. John put the Castle in the hands of two of his men – William de Harecurt and Elyas de Beauchamp. That was the only war-like occurrence in the castle's history.

The Bigods regained the Castle in 1217 on the accession of Henry III. The climax in the relations between the Bigods and the Crown came in 1297, when the last Bigod, Roger IV, confronted Edward I in a famous altercation between the two men. Edward I had ordered Earl Roger Bigod to lead the English army in Gascony, France, in Edward I's absence. The conversation went as follows:-

"Willingly I will go with you O King, proceeding before your force in the first line of battle as it belongs to me in hereditary right."

"By God O Earl either you will go or you will hang."

"By the same oath O King I will neither go or hang"

(M. Morris, *The Bigod Earls of Norfolk in the thirteenth century* (2005))

Sir Roger Bigod left Court, surrendering his titles and property. They were granted back to him in an agreement reached with the King at St John's Abbey Colchester in May 1302, on condition that if Roger died without issue his lands and titles would revert to the Crown. That happened in 1306, and the Bigods eventually came to an end.

The Bigods, with their ownership of Framlingham and Bungay castles, and for a time Walton and Ipswich castles as well, had great influence in East Anglia. By 1165 they were the fifth richest family in England and in the Feudal Inquest of 1166 were valued at 160¼ knights' fees. In those days all roads led to Framlingham.

Little can be said of the immediate successors to the Bigods at Framlingham Castle. Thomas Brotherton, son of Edward I (1272-1307), was in charge of the Castle from 1312 until his death in 1338. He appears to have ignored the Castle. Was it then being refurbished?

After the Brothertons, the Mowbray Dukes of Norfolk from 1399 until 1481 have left few records. It was not until the Mowbray Dowager Duchess of Norfolk died in the Castle in 1507 that the Howard Dukes of Norfolk came into residence there. They had inherited the Castle and Mowbray estates by the marriage of Sir Robert Howard to Margaret, daughter of the first Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

The first Howard to reside in Framlingham Castle was Thomas Howard, who eventually became the second Duke of Norfolk in 1514. Born in 1442 at Tendring Hall, Stoke by Nayland, he led a privileged life. Educated at Ipswich Grammar School, he spent a year at the Court of Charles the Bold in Dijon, which was the most civilised, extravagant and magnificent court in Europe. There the Duke, then Earl of Surrey, indulged his passion for literature, an interest he inherited from his father, the first Howard Duke of Norfolk, a well-read man. On his return to England, Thomas Howard served in the household of Edward IV. Indeed, Thomas Howard's life was a classic demonstration of how it was possible to acquire power and riches in the late Middle Ages as a result of political sagacity, good marriages, fortunate accidents, and proximity to the King's person. The Earl of Surrey's nadir was being on the wrong side in the Battle of Bosworth Field, August 1485. From then until early 1489 he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. By dint of steady and determined application of his gifts he rose to high honours, becoming Earl Marshal of England in 1509, and in 1500 he became Lord Treasurer, one of the three senior executive posts in government, the others being that of Lord Chancellor and Lord Privy Seal. The best military leader in the country, in 1513 he won an outstanding victory against the Scots at Flodden Hill on the Scots border. At a subsequent ceremony at Lambeth Palace, he was raised to his rightful title of Duke of Norfolk. He retired from Court life in 1521 and died in Framlingham Castle, at the age of 80, in May 1524. His household at the Castle was run on simple, even severe, lines, echoing perhaps the fact that he was imprisoned and suffered from poverty in his early days. He was known for his straight dealing and his humanity. Details of the second Duke's funeral rites are given earlier in this article.

His successor, Thomas Howard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke, did not reside in the Castle, though he did add the bridge over the moat and the eight chimney pots which, according to some, dilute the purity of a fine medieval building. The Howards ceased to use the Castle as a residence, preferring their new Palace at Kenninghall near Diss.

In 1547 a surveyor's report noted that the Castle was in a state of decay and another survey in 1589 confirmed that situation. However, the Castle became the centre of attention on one more occasion. On 12 July 1553, Mary Tudor came to Framlingham Castle and set up her standard here while she built up her military forces to a point where she was protected by forces of ample strength and took sure hope for a future victory. She had to contend with Lady Jane Grey and the Duke of Northumberland in her bid for the Crown of England. Framlingham Castle was Mary's headquarters during her rebellion against the "Nine Days Queen". It has been said that this was the only time in Tudor history that a provincial rebellion defeated the central government. On Mary's orders, the Duke of Northumberland and Lady Jane Grey were captured at Cambridge on about 21 July 1553 and escorted to the Tower of London. Mary at that point disbanded her forces and on 24 July made her way to London, where on 10 August she victoriously made her entrance to the Tower of London. She there met the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk who had been imprisoned there since 1547, and returned his lands and titles to him. He then retired to his Palace at Kenninghall and died in his own bed. In effect, his greatest achievement in those dangerous days.

The history of Framlingham Castle, though not as well documented in written records as one would like, nevertheless commands attention. The social and economic facts of its existence,



both in the locality and in the running by the owners of the Castle's vast estates in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Wales, London etc. emphasise that. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Howard Duke of Norfolk was the richest person in England after the King.

The Castle's fate was finally signalled by the marriage of the 4<sup>th</sup> Howard Duke of Norfolk to Mary Fitzalan of Arundel in the spring of 1556. Arundel then became the headquarters of the Howard estates. The Castle was sold by the Howards to a very senior lawyer, Sir Robert Hitcham, for £14,000 in 1635.

Today the Castle is a key tourist attraction for the town, but there is a legacy from the stirring days of the Castle's occupation by noble residents. In 1286 the last Roger Bigod granted the citizens of Framlingham the right to hold a market at Michaelmas (29 September) and Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. And in 1324 Thomas Brotherton did the same for Framlingham; its citizens could hold a market on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays of Whitsun week. Those markets are to some extent being held today.

Today we have a well preserved castle to survey. If it encourages further enquiry into its social, economic and political significance in the locality of Framlingham, Suffolk and England, then much benefit will thereby be gained.

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# THE MILLS OF FRAMLINGHAM

## PART 4

By John F. Bridges

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This final part is a round-up of the known remaining mill sites. It is hoped that more information will be found to extend our knowledge of Framlingham's milling history.

### The Castle - Horse Drawn Mill

There was a horse driven mill, along with a bakery and brewery. In 1386-7, Egidius de Wenlok's Hospice Account<sup>1</sup> shows that 235 quarters and one bushel of wheat were ground, which is a daily average of about 2½ cwt.

### Watermills

Watermills were the main type of mill in this country prior to the introduction of windmills in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of watermills in Framlingham is referred to in Green's history<sup>2</sup> as follows:

... it is certain that just above the bridge, and immediately within or upon the confines of the park, there was a Water-Mill, of which, within the last few years (*relative to 1834*), some remains were found joining the yet mill-bank, such as timber, one piece of which had in it an aperture cased with metal, which mill there can be no reason to doubt, was, from its particular situation, an appendant to the manor ... The other mill, from the circumstances of meeting with similar remains, it is supposed stood at the junction of the Castle-brook with the main river, against the Fair-field ...

The first mill was near the present Tanyard Court development (map reference 283 635), while the second one would have been to the rear of the DIY shop in Station Road (approximate map reference 285 633).

The bridge in Bridge Street was originally called Mill Bridge<sup>3</sup>, and there is little doubt that there was a watermill there. Sitwell<sup>4</sup>, refers to this mill being there in 1340, while George Cooper<sup>5</sup> provides a date of 1327. The evidence from Green's history is in relation to artefacts found some 500 years or so after the mills were built.

### Medieval Windmills

One of the earliest references<sup>6</sup> to a windmill in this country, is that at Bury St. Edmunds in 1191. The Framlingham survey of 1270<sup>7</sup> following the death of Roger Bigod, records both a four sail and a six sail mill. The location of these mills is not known, and any connection with later known sites may be very difficult to establish.

### Coles Hill Mill Site

The main evidence to suggest there was a mill here, comes from the Tithe map of 1842<sup>8</sup>. Field reference 494 was owned by Frederick Corrance and occupied by George Edwards<sup>9</sup>, and was called Mill Hill (map reference 297 622).

The 1547 survey of the town refers to Alexander Gilbert holding the site of a windmill called le Mille Hill. It is not established if they are the same location.

### Double Street

This unlikely location for a windmill comes from local historian Oswald Sitwell<sup>10</sup>. He refers to it being on the south side of the street, behind No. 30. To date, the source of that information has not been established.

### Station Road - Smock Mill (The Round House)



The smock mill was converted into a residence around 1770. The Round House, early 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
(Photo via Tim Hopes)

This is perhaps one of the most interesting mills in the town. The main octagonal structure still exists (map reference 283.631), yet its history is fairly obscure. The mill was converted into a house a very long time ago, but was originally part of an important industrial site next to the tributary of the River Ore. The following information comes from the *Ipswich Journal* of December 9<sup>th</sup> 1769, which with some modern spelling states:

To be sold by auction, on Thursday the twenty eighth day of December, at the Griffin Inn in Framlingham, in the county of Suffolk, at 12 o'clock in the afternoon. All that TANNING-OFFICE in Framlingham aforesaid, containing upwards of 120 vatts, so well supplied by a fine reservoir of spring water, as to be plentiful in the driest season, with all buildings and conveniences for carrying on a large trade. The Situation so remarkably accommodated with all the requisites in that Branch as not to be met with, which induced the late proprietor to spare no pains or expense in making it what is now deemed, one of the completest Offices in the kingdom; the whole having been made and erected within nine years.

There has been also lately erected in a substantial manner on the same spot of land, which contains nearly two acres and a half, a Windmill intended for grinding bark, but not



answering that purpose, it has been lately converted into a flour mill, to which there is a good grist, and under it a commodious horse mill for grinding bark. The whole proposed to be sold with the tan office. All freehold, and late in occupancy of Mr James Cockerell.

It would seem that James Cockerell started the tannery, and developed the site along with the windmill. His wife Mary died in August 1767; in February 1768 he married Lydia Whitlam, and within five months he died, which led to the sale of his estate.

The reference to grinding bark relates to oak bark which contains tannin, and is used in the tanning process<sup>11</sup>. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1770, a further advertisement appears in the *Ipswich Journal*, specifically relating to the mill.

To be forthwith SOLD, and taken down from the brickwork on which it stands, between this time and Lady-Day next. The timber built SMOCK-MILL late Mr James Cockerell's in Framlingham, being 21 feet in diameter, draws about 9 yards of cloth, having a pair of French stones, a pair of Peak-stones, and a flour mill. The whole erected within about three years, with all the going gears, materials and appurtenances.

The reference to being erected 'within about three years', indicates that it was built around 1767. After the auction, the main tannery site continued in use. The earliest deeds<sup>12</sup> for the property start in 1772, when John Edwards was the owner, and it is assumed that he bought it at the auction. Bryant's map of 1826 shows the 'Tan Office' annotated in that location. John Edwards is listed under Nobility and Gentry in Pigot's Directory of 1830.

The important series of articles in *Framlingham Weekly News*<sup>13</sup> (FWN) of 1893-4, refer to trades that existed in the town some 65 years previously, based on Pigot's 1830 directory. The first article<sup>14</sup> describes the same John Edwards as carrying on the business of a tanner, and that he drowned at Aldeburgh. This must have been after 1830, which suggests he was not the same John who bought the mill, due to their likely ages. The second article<sup>15</sup> refers to the business.

The business of a tanner carried on by Mr Edwards, employed several hands, but was later dropped at his untimely decease. The fish pond near the cottage supplied the tan pits with water, and the premises now occupied by Mr Button, miller (*see later section*), was also used in the trade, which was a large one in its day. This is an industry lost to the town. The mill house was added to, and converted into a residence by Mrs Edwards, the widow, where she resided for a time, and afterwards the Misses Oseland carried on a ladies boarding school for many years ... The tannery plant was bought by Mr Bond, and removed to Woodbridge.

A reference by Peter Dolman<sup>16</sup> introduces an element of uncertainty as to the date of the mill. This relates to the two-storey smock mill base being converted into a house, and that it had not been used as a windmill since at least 1712. There is no reference for the source of this information, and it is not included in his general notes on Framlingham mills. Bearing in mind the clear information from the *Ipswich Journal*, any earlier date for the mill is presently discounted.

George Cooper<sup>17</sup> also mentions this mill, and calls it Packard's mill, with his notes stating:

Base still standing. Massive octagonal base for a smock mill, and must have been quite a large one. Have found out very little about it except that it was a manure and fertiliser mill, and a Mr Scotchmer informed me that his father worked there as a boy, and that they ground up bones. I have a bill of sale here of June 12<sup>th</sup> 1863, by Moore Garrard at the Crown hotel. It is called Ivy cottage, also a cottage and pond of spring water and including business premises.

It was still shown as Ivy Cottage on the 1884 O.S. map, and at some later date, possibly in the early twentieth century, was renamed The Round House, although it is octagonal in shape.

The name Packard does not appear in county directories with any connection with milling in Framlingham. It is likely that such activities were carried on, but possibly within a separate building on the site, as the mill had long since been converted into a residence.

Based on the mill being sold in 1770, it had a very short active life, but remains Framlingham's oldest extant mill building.

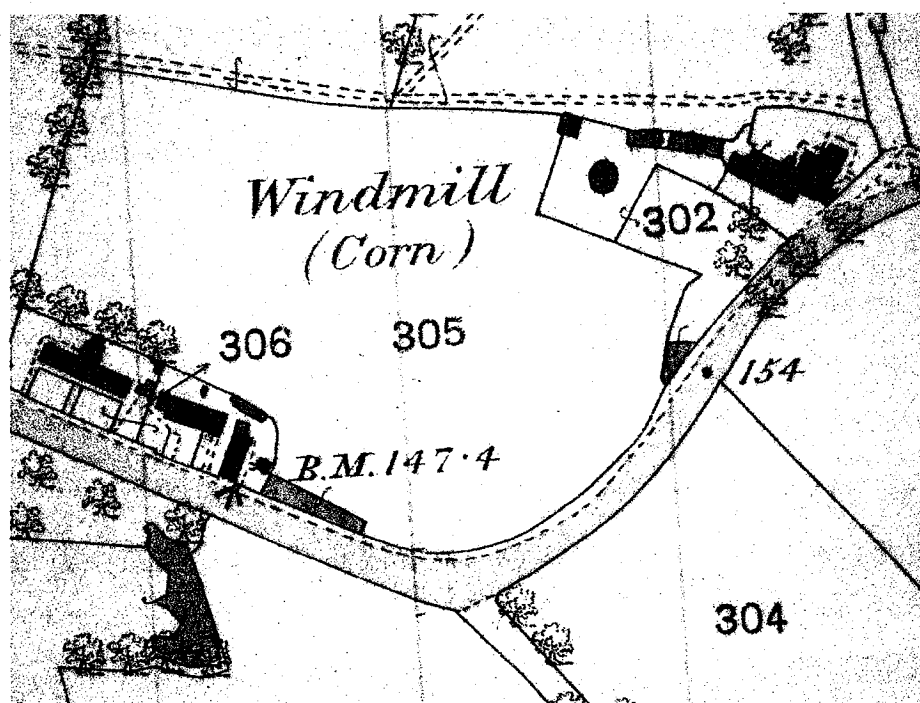
### **Saxmundham Road Post Mill**

There was a post mill here (map reference 292 635) in the nineteenth century. Its occupants can be traced through directories of the time.

Directory	Year	Occupier
Pigot	1823	Richard Smith
Pigot	1830	John Smith
White	1844	John Smyth
Harrod	1864	Francis Sawyer, miller William Noble, flour dealer
Morris	1868	Henry Whatling, beer retailer and miller
Kelly	1875	David Read Deeks, miller and beer retailer
Kelly	1879	John Puttock, miller and beer retailer

All except the first two are specifically noted as being at the Saxmundham Road mill. The comments in *FWN* of 1894 in regard to 65 years ago are:

John Smith occupied the premises now owned by Mr G. E. Jeaffreson on the Saxmundham Road, the latter gentleman having had the mill taken down a few years since.<sup>18</sup>



Location of Saxmundham Road post mill from 1884 map.

The mill is shown on Bryant's map of 1826, but not on Hodskinson's 1783 map. It is also on the 1884 O.S. map, and was demolished in 1884<sup>19</sup>. The Mill Inn was on the same site.

This is the mill that James Maulden rented for a year (see Part 3 in *Fram* (December 2008), only making a profit of 11 pence (c.5p.). George Cooper noted that the mill had patent sails (shutters which were adjustable while the sails turned), and a fly (fantail).

### **Steam Mill, Albert Place**

This mill has the honour of being the first purpose-built steam mill in Framlingham, and the original building still exists as The United Free Church. Steam had previously been used at the Victoria tower mill, but only as supplementary power to the existing windmill. *FWN*<sup>20</sup> again provides a good description :

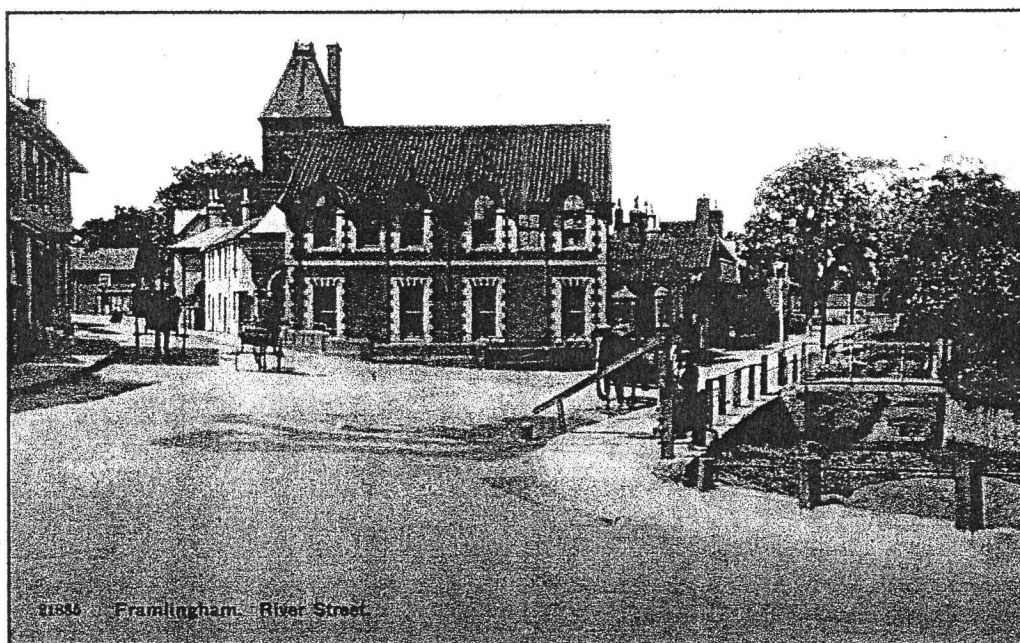
The late John Pierson (Peirson) esq. was induced to erect the first steam mill in the town in the year 1853, for Mr Edmund Kindred, close to the Spring Pump. There was in the spring-time such a great flood that all the foundations of the mill, then in course of erection, were completely inundated. Messrs Malloes were the builders, and Mr Wm. Collins and Mr J Barker the millwrights and engineers. The machinery was second hand, and came from Ipswich. When the chimney shaft, 60 feet high, was completed, Mr Kindred would have a tea party at that height before taking down the scaffold. And one of the self-invited guests was Mrs. Caroline Crisp - a kind of character you rarely meet with in these days. She was of a very masculine nature, and had a 'dare-devil' spirit of action. She mounted the ladder and sipped her cup of tea with the rest. This Mr. Kindred, jun., was a man of great business capacity, and carried on the mills as well as a business at Melton. But although several other tenants (Messrs. Roe, Hall and Sturgeon) had a try at the place, none of them did any good at it, the fault being in its capacity, and did not drive sufficient pairs of stones. The mill was sold at a great sacrifice at the death of Mr Pierson, and was purchased by The Framlingham People's Hall Company, who sold out the machinery by auction, most of which was bought by the late Mr. T. Crisp, of Butley Abbey fame, and taken and fitted up there.

William Collins the millwright lived in the timber-clad house called Boarded Cottage<sup>21</sup> on the corner of College Road and Pembroke Road. He was 70 years old in 1851, and had a son of the same name, who was also a millwright. Details of the mill insurance<sup>22</sup> show:

For an annual sum of £3 including duty, the mill was insured for the following sums:

- £200, the building
- £75, millwright's work, including standing and going gears, mill stones, sieve machines and sundry utensils
- £100, the engine and boiler house
- £150, the steam engine and boiler

There was also the proviso that there was no kiln in the adjacent building, that the mill did not contain more than three pairs of stones, and that no oat shelling would be performed.



Built in 1853 as a steam mill, it was converted in 1867, and is now the United Free Church.

When John Peirson died, his estate was put up for auction, which included the steam mill. The auction document<sup>23</sup> of 1862 provides useful information on the machinery:

The engine, 14 horse power and 16 horse power boiler by Ransomes and Sims, drives three pairs of French stones with spur gears and the screens, flour boulders, jumpers, hoisting tackle, double set of hoisting chairs, with belts, are all new on the most approved principle and most complete. The engine and boiler are in excellent condition, and the mill in perfect repair.

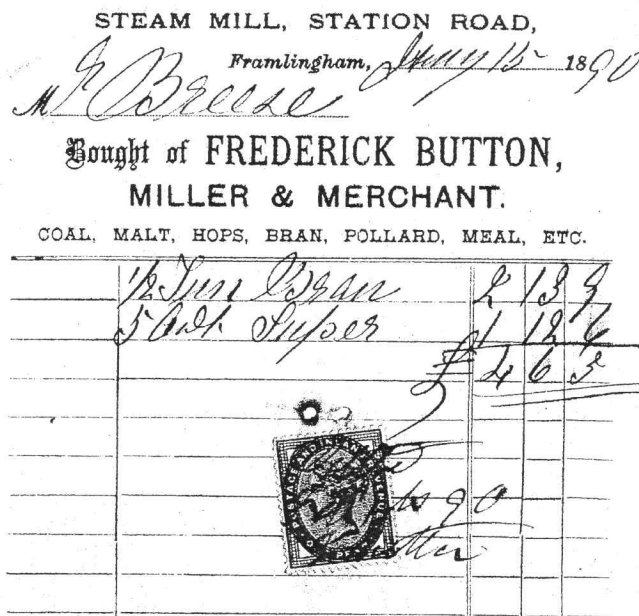
These auction details present a rather rosy picture, which was probably not shared by the tenants. *FWN*<sup>24</sup> says the machinery was all second-hand, yet the above refers to new machinery. The Reverend Watson Wood bought the mill at auction for £330, but promptly sold it on to Sarah Hall for £510, when the mill tenant became Charles Hall. It was then bought by Henry Sturgeon, a miller, for £500 in 1865. It would seem that this was not a profitable venture either, and in 1867 it was up for auction again, but this time it was purchased by Reuben Whitehead, who was the agent of The Peoples' Hall Company, and described in its Articles of Association<sup>25</sup> as a merchant of Mount Pleasant. This would be the same Reuben Whitehead who describes himself as a corn merchant and miller in trade directories of the same period. The loss of a mill would inevitably be seen as a commercial benefit to other millers in the town. The mill machinery was removed, and the building converted to provide a large upper room with Reading and Committee rooms on the ground floor. In 1885, it was taken over and became The Methodist Church. That Church later amalgamated with The United Reform Church, to become The United Free Church.

### Station Road Steam Mill - F. Button

When Augustus Roe bought the Mount Pleasant mill, Frederick Button was the sitting tenant, and had to leave when his lease expired in 1888<sup>26</sup>. He then set up in business on the old tannery site (approximate map reference 283 632), which is close to the present Round House.

He had a pair of French burr stones, which were initially powered by a steam engine<sup>27</sup>, later to be replaced by an oil engine<sup>28</sup>. From about 1892 to 1895, he is also noted as being at Kettleburgh water mill as well as Station Road<sup>29</sup>.





Frederick Button's 1890 bill refers to his steam mill in Station Road.

Following the bankruptcy of Roe, Charles Goodwin bought the Mount Pleasant mill in 1900 on behalf of Button for £550<sup>30</sup>, and moved his business back there after an absence of twelve years.

#### Station Road Steam Mill - E. G. Clarke

The old black granary building which currently still exists on the station site (map reference 285 630), was noted as a granary, stores and steam mill in 1912<sup>31</sup>. This mill was used in connection with animal feed, and not flour production.

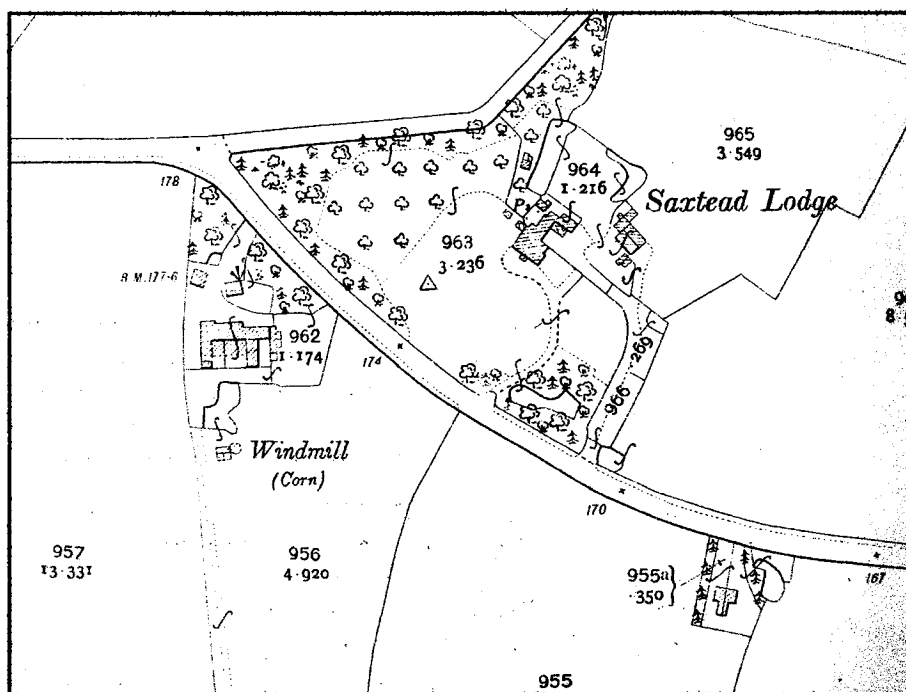
#### Station Road Steam Mill - H. Manby

There was a two-storey mill building on the site in 1913<sup>32</sup> (map reference 285 629). Again, this was for animal feed, but I have no details of the mill's power supply.

#### Saxtead Lodge - Smock Mill

This small windmill was situated to the rear of Saxtead Lodge (map reference 265 642), which is within the Framlingham parish boundary. It was originally a marsh mill before being moved to the farm opposite Ufford Crown. Whitmore and Binyon then moved it to Bridge Farm, Hasketon<sup>33</sup>. However, it did not stay there long. The cap and all the machinery were removed, and it was the lowered onto a drag (A four-wheel wagon normally used for timber haulage), before being taken to Saxtead for Frederick Cook, around 1880. The mill is only shown on the 1904 O.S. map, and not the earlier 1883 edition, but there could be considerable time between when a location is surveyed, and when the map is published.

The mill had four patent sails and an iron fly<sup>34</sup>, which drove one pair of 3ft. 4in. stones and an oat crusher for animal feed. Dates of 1904/5<sup>35</sup> and 1921<sup>36</sup> are given for when the mill was taken down.



Location of Saxtead Lodge smock mill on 1904 map.

(I would like to thank Mark Barnard of The Suffolk Mills Group for his assistance in relation to additional references, and the work of Peter Dolman. Also, my thanks to Peter Greene, Tim Hopes, Dr John Ridgard and Peter Webb.)

**Notes:**

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3. *Ibid.*
4. O. R. Sitwell, *Framlingham Guide*, (1974), p.12.
5. Lecture notes by George Cooper, 26<sup>th</sup> March 1969.
6. *The Chronicles of Jocelyn de Brakelond*, reprinted in *Thomas Carlyle's Past and Present*, (1843).
7. Ridgard, *op. cit.*, Appendix B.
8. Suffolk Record Office (SROI), FDA 104/A1/1-3.
9. SROI, FDA 104/B1/1a.
10. Sitwell, *op. cit.*, p. 12.
11. J. Bridges, *The Commercial life of a Suffolk Town: Framlingham around 1900*, (2007), p.157.
12. Information via Tim Hopes.
13. SROI, *Framlingham Weekly News (FWN)*, on microfilm.
14. *FWN*, 30<sup>th</sup> December 1893.
15. *FWN*, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1894.
16. Peter Dolman, *Windmills in Suffolk: a contemporary survey*, (1978), p.42.
17. Cooper, *op. cit.*
18. *FWN*, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1894.
19. B. Flint, *Suffolk Windmills*, (1979), p.133.
20. *FWN*, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1894.
21. Census return of 1851.
22. SROI, FK1/14/12.
23. SROI, HB84/2/4/2/1/39.
24. *FWN*, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1894.
25. Information via Peter Webb.
26. SROI, HB26:412/1386.
27. James Breese Collection via John Bridges.
28. Cooper, *op. cit.*
29. J. McEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)*, (2000), pp.374-377.
30. McEwan, *op. cit.* p.163.
31. National Archives, Kew, IR 127/5/624, Field Book IR 58/5611.
32. *Ibid.*
33. Flint, *op. cit.* p.80
34. Peter Dolman notes via Mark Barnard
35. Cooper, *op. cit.*
36. Peter Dolman notes via Mark Barnard.

# THE CROWN AND ANCHOR INN

By M. V. Roberts

*(Part one of an occasional series exploring the modern history of individual licensed premises in Framlingham)*

A distinguished member of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society, the late P. J. Stannard, delivered a lecture at the Society's meeting on 30 November 1959, on "The Inns of Framlingham, past and present", which was subsequently published in this journal.<sup>1</sup> The series of which this paper forms the first part will seek to flesh out factual details of some of the hostelrys that still survive as public licensed premises, as at Spring 2009.

The phrase "modern history" in the note at the head of this article is used advisedly. Four out of the six surviving inns/hotels in Framlingham were built prior to 1800 (one of the four was not initially an inn but rather a row of three small cottages).<sup>2</sup> Printed sources pre-dating the early nineteenth century relating to properties in this part of Suffolk are comparatively limited, and the information that they contain often at best fragmentary. Manuscript records, notably property documents, could greatly augment our knowledge of local pre-1800 inns and taverns, but the freeholds of most of those that survive are held by companies based far from this town, and I have not sought access to any property records that may (or may not) survive in the custody of absentee landlords. For this reason, such little information given here of the Crown and Anchor's earlier history is derived from secondary sources.

The very name Crown and Anchor has changed over time. Stannard in his lecture notes:<sup>3</sup>

... the Crown and Anchor Hotel, which was formerly known as the White Hart Inn, and the lane at the side leading into Fore Street which we call Crown and Anchor Lane, was then known as White Hart Lane ... This was another Inn belonging to G. B. Keer's estate ...

The late O. R. Sitwell assigns a date to the change of name:<sup>4</sup>

Before 1832 this was the White Hart ... At the great sale of 1832 [of properties owned by the newly-bankrupt G. B. Keer], it was bought by Messrs. Cobbold who changed its name ...

In corroboration of this, the earliest directory reference traced for the inn (1823) lists "White Hart, M. Thompson",<sup>5</sup> whereas an 1839 directory records:<sup>6</sup>

Crown and Anchor (commercial and posting, and excise office), Saml. Bloss.

This was not the last change of name for the Crown and Anchor, as noted by Oswald Sitwell:<sup>7</sup>

"In 1972 the owners dropped the Crown part [of the name] to avoid confusion with the Crown in the market Place. [Later interpolation] Renewed [*sic. i.e. re-instated*] by the present licensee (Feb 1980) Mr. Carter".

The word "posting" in the 1839 listing above would refer to the hire of horse-drawn conveyances for travellers. It appears again in the 1844 directory,<sup>8</sup> and *Lambert's Almanack* refers to it from 1871 to 1875. However, Lambert in 1893 suggests that the Crown and Anchor once had a "posting" function in the modern sense of the term.<sup>9</sup>

Between forty and fifty years ago Framlingham Post Office was held at the Crown and Anchor inn, when the business was so limited that it was transacted in a little box about 6 feet square just inside the front entrance door.

There is currently a small wooden enclosure just inside the main entrance door of the inn, but it is even smaller than that described by Lambert, and could be of more modern construction. The ceiling beams in this area of the ground floor of the inn have been exposed, but a visual inspection by the writer revealed no obvious trace of partition walls having been attached to their undersides corresponding to Lambert's "box". It could, therefore, have been only a flimsy and perhaps short-lived construction, or perhaps Lambert overstated its original size (he quotes no primary sources for the statement).

Samuel Bloss is again listed as landlord of the Crown and Anchor in 1844,<sup>10</sup> but by 1855 Charlotte Bloss (his wife) is the licensee.<sup>11</sup> From 1871 to 1875, Mr. J. W. King is listed by Lambert as the licensee.<sup>12</sup> The 1879 directory continues with James Woodley King,<sup>13</sup> but by 1892 we have a "family and commercial hotel" with William Hawes the landlord.<sup>14</sup> William remained there until 1916,<sup>15</sup> leaving following the death of his wife Sarah in November 1915 (He died at the ripe old age for that time of 83, in May 1934).<sup>16</sup> His immediate successor was Joseph Hardy,<sup>17</sup> but by 1929 Robert James Hawes was the proprietor,<sup>18</sup> but not for long – Sidney Keeble had taken over by 1933,<sup>19</sup> and in 1937 William E. Broadley is recorded.<sup>20</sup>

With the advent of the Second World War, the publishers, Kelly's, ceased producing Suffolk directories and, indeed, we come within the ambit of living memories as to licensees of the premises.

Turning to the inn's wider social functions in the local community, the Crown and Anchor had a major role, particularly in the nineteenth century, as a venue for formal events, dinners, etc. At that time, there were few large secular social spaces in the town: St. Michael's Rooms was only built at the end of the nineteenth century, and the Assembly Hall extension to the Framlingham Conservative Club came into use just before the First World War. The Crown and Anchor had a large meeting room on its first floor, where Lambert noted, in 1871:<sup>21</sup>

The Oddfellows have a very prosperous Lodge, under the able management of Mr. R. B. Middleton ...

Two years later Lambert notes that the "Annual market tea [was held] at Crown and Anchor Hotel".<sup>22</sup> This may have been a regular event at the inn, as it is reported again in 1879.<sup>23</sup> In 1876,<sup>24</sup> the

First anniversary of "Framlingham Castle" Court of Foresters [was] held at the Crown and Anchor Hotel.

and in 1896, the "Annual rent-charge dinner" was held there.<sup>25</sup>

Coming forward a century, the function room on the first floor of the pub was still in use (at least for private functions) in the late 1990s,<sup>26</sup> prior to the space being re-modeled to create additional letting bedrooms.

This last point may serve as a reminder that the Crown and Anchor has been for centuries an "inn", in the strict sense of that word, providing overnight accommodation for visitors to the town. Within living memory it is said to have had sixteen bedrooms,<sup>27</sup> which may seem a surprisingly large number today, for a demise of its present limited size. However, Sitwell notes that the inn was extended with the acquisition of the adjacent house in Crown and Anchor Lane in 1980,<sup>28</sup> another substantial three-storey property, and the present writer recalls the later being separated again from the inn and sold off as a private residence as recently as the mid-1990s.

While the Crown and Anchor's wider community function could be seen as having ceased with conversion of its first floor meeting room to other uses, its role as an "inn", providing overnight accommodation, continues, and, in its daytime commercial activities, it has now become the last remaining "wet pub"<sup>29</sup> in the town.

#### Notes:

1. *Fram: the Journal of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 1 (August 1997) pp. 4-6; 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 2 (December 1997) pp. 9-11.
2. The Railway and The Station are associated with the advent of the railway in the mid-nineteenth century, and White Horse was originally three seventeenth century cottages.
3. *Fram*, op. cit. 3<sup>rd</sup> series, no. 2 (December 1997) p. 10.
4. O. R. Sitwell, *Framlingham: a short history and guide* ... Rev. edit. (1982) p. 23.
5. *Pigot and Co's London & Provincial new commercial directory, for 1823-4* (1823) p. 465.
6. *Pigot and Co's Royal national and commercial directory ... 1839* (1839) p. 549.
7. O. R. Sitwell, "Sitwell papers on Framlingham houses" (MS). (Held at Lanman Museum, Framlingham Castle).
8. W. White, *History, gazetteer and directory of Suffolk* ... (1844) p. 196.
9. J. MacEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916)* (2000) pp. 225-6 [transcribed from *Lambert's Almanack 1893*].
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.* (1855) p. 367.
12. MacEwan, op. cit., pp. 321-5.
13. *The Post Office directory of ... Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk ... 1879* (1879) p. 853.
14. *Kelly's directory of Suffolk ... 1892* (1892) p. 1059.
15. MacEwan, op. cit. p. 174.
16. "Record of Monumental Inscriptions in Framlingham Cemetery up to 1992; compiled by members and friends of the Framlingham ... Women's Institute". (Unpublished, n.d.) E957. (Copy held at Lanman Museum, Framlingham Castle).
17. Kelly's op. cit. (1922) p. 151; *ibid.* (1925) p. 160.
18. *Ibid.* (1929) p. 160.
19. *Ibid.* (1933) p. 158.
20. *Ibid.* (1937) p. 158.
21. MacEwan, op. cit. p. 63.
22. *Ibid.* p. 228.
23. *Ibid.* p. 234.
24. *Ibid.* p. 231.
25. *Ibid.* p. 251.
26. Information from current licensee.
27. Information from relation of licensee at that time, received through a third party.
28. "Sitwell papers", op. cit.
29. A colloquial phrase used in the licensed trade, applied to licensed premises deriving no income from the sale of prepared food.



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