

FRAM

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

Number 17

**5th
Series**

December 2010

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Framlingham and District
Local History and Preservation Society**

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

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

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FRAM

5th Series Number 17

December 2010

Registered Charity no. 274201

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

In the latest two issues of *Fram* we have read about "Framlingham in the nineteenth century", as recounted by an informed observer sixty-five years later. In the August issue, also, there was an article entitled "Framlingham in the 1930's". These made me think about the 1950's.

That decade has enjoyed a mixed press recently, as one of dullness and austerity, safe streets with plenty of bobbies patrolling, but also rationing and restrictions. As a child then, I remember being ticked off by my mother for just crossing my legs ("it looks so effeminate"); and for me to be found, at age ten, to be short-sighted and therefore in need of spectacles, was a minor family tragedy. At the same time, if I was walking home in the evening (to save money from the bus fare!) a total stranger could stop his car beside me and say "Jump in sonny", and I would have a safe and speedy ride home.

But this note is not intended just to refer to reminiscences. Over the past thirteen years the many papers published in this journal have described and depicted a large range of facts and figures about people and places in Framlingham and the surrounding area. They have, in many ways, described economic and social trends, that guided, or indeed defined, the lives of people in this town. What I hope, however, is that these articles have also evoked what it actually felt like to be alive here in Framlingham in years gone by. Certainly Geoff Taylor's article achieves this, and the series of extracts from *Framlingham Weekly News* are not only replete of facts but also convey Robert Lambert's attitude to and understanding of things happening on his local patch many years before.

Feelings as well as facts.

(And the good news is that Executive Committee member John Bridges has provided us with a whole series of further copy extracts from *Framlingham Weekly News*, which will be published in several more issues of *Fram*.)

I am delighted to include in the December issue of *Fram* an item of correspondence, from Tony Moore. There have been appeals in earlier issues for more feedback from readers of this journal to expand, correct or criticise papers published here. Sadly the response has so far been limited. If there are snippets of information that you have about people, places, trends, feelings here in the recent or more distant past, please let us hear about them.

FRAMLINGHAM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

*This is the third of our series of extracts from the **Framlingham Weekly News** 1893-1894, made available to us by John Bridges. Further parts will be appearing in subsequent issues.*

FRAMLINGHAM SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

No. IV Auctioneers

There appeared to be two of this profession in the town, viz: THOMAS WARDLEY BALDWIN and JOHN LUDBROOK. The former carried on business at Well-Close Square, in the house now occupied by Mrs. Leeks, adjoining the Free Methodist Church. He removed from there to Hermitage Place; and from thence to the house occupied by the Misses Barnes in Fairfield Road, where he resided for many years. He also acted as agent for Pembroke College to the Trust Farms; and it was during his agency the "Little Lodge" was re-built. He used to employ two men Leggatt and Crowfoot as carpenters, constantly on the estate. Theirs was considered to be a very easy life, and it was often remarked in a jocular manner that "one held the nail whilst the other knocked it in with the hammer." There is no one in the town now bearing the name of Baldwin. He died in 1861. The last piece of business he transacted was to value Mrs. Bilney out of the Waggon and Horses Inn, in the winter of 1860.

John Ludbrook, originally was a farmer living at Earl Soham, but becoming reduced in circumstances he came into the town to try to better his future as an auctioneer. He lived in the house now occupied by Mr. Hy. Fairweather, gardener. Ludbrook was quite a character in his way. He would give some wonderful instances of his lack of acquaintance with the profession he had adopted, in preparing his catalogue: for instance, "Three bird cages in four lots." - "An excellent swill tub in the pantry," - and "a capital Dutch oven in the bedroom," or "999 hammers" for 9 hammers, an "8 day corner cupboard." He lived apart from his wife, and had as his housekeeper Maria Copping. On one occasion it was his good fortune to receive an important looking letter, which was handed to him by his housekeeper. Ludbrook said: "A letter! Bless me, where's that from?" He opened it, read it, and exclaimed "God luv my heart, 'Ria, it's from the great Mr. Blumfield, of Billingford. I ha' got to go and meet him for a valuation." 'Ria replied, "A waleration, indeed! you ha' got nothing to go with!" "Ha, yah, 'Ria, there'll be a way made out," replied her master. "But," continued 'Ria "you ha' got no shirt to go in." "We shall manage somehow," said her master. Whereupon he went out and purchased one or two sheets of paper at one of the shops in the town. On his return he and 'Ria between them contrived to make a paper frilled shirt front. The day arrived for meeting Mr. Blumfield, who was a great auctioneer in his time, and a wretchedly saddled horse was led to Ludbrook's door. Out came John with his paper frilled front ready for a mount; but on viewing the animal he insisted upon a better bridle and saddle for his journey, which the man succeeded in obtaining. John mounted and off he journied, with his paper front, feeling his own and the importance of the business of the day. Reaching Earl Soham Falcon Inn, John, who

was a thirsty soul, went in for his "six punna". James Kent, the landlord, knowing John well, supplied him with his grog, and, twiggling John's paper front, he, with a view to tease and on mischief bent, made a snatch at it and tore it from John's bosom.

John, with great warmth, cries out, "James, you are a fule; 'Ria and I ha' been trying hard to make this here front: I ha' to meet the great Mr. Blumfield, of Billingford on a waleration to-day, and now I don't know what to do." After teasing John for a little while, and holding up his front to the gaze of all in the house, the landlord said to his wife, "Hannah, run upstairs and find John one of my frilled shirts." John after donning the landlord's shirt, pursued his journey all the more comfortable, if not the smarter for the change.

ELIZABETH BARKER, milliner, etc. - She carried on business in the shop now occupied by Mr. Geo. Fisk, fancy draper. Being a strict Congregationalist, she expected all her apprentices to attend Chapel on Sundays. They were also led to consider that going for a walk on Sunday was highly improper, if not a sin; and that, too, after they had been kept at work until midnight on Saturday. Those Puritanical ideas are all gone now! She was never married, and lived to nearly 90, and died in the house now owned by Mr. John Martin, County Court office.

SAMUEL KEER BARKER (a brother of the fore-going), followed in the business of a watch and clock maker, established by his father, Thomas Barker, in 1779, to which he succeeded in 1820. Many old 8-day clocks are still ticking away and keeping good time in the neighbourhood, bearing the name of both father and son as makers. Mr. Wm. Barker is the only representative left in the town: and he succeeded his father in 1878. This is the oldest established business in the town, handed down from father to son and carried on under the same roof. Mr. S.K. Barker was a singer of no mean order, a supporter of the Unitarian Chapel, and a staunch Liberal. He married Miss Manning, daughter of Mr. William Manning, chemist, and left several sons and daughters behind them.

SAMUEL BLOOMFIELD, shop keeper, lived in the shop now occupied by Mr. C. Waters, and has left no issue.

ROBERT BLOSS, butcher. It is recorded there were four butchers in the town. In addition to the foregoing there were FRANCIS BILNEY, JOHN DIXON, and JOHN KERRIDGE. ROBERT BLOSS lived in the house now occupied by Mr. G.E. Jeaffreson, and had the shop for his trade purposes now held by Mr. Hy. Coleman, facing the Guildhall. He afterwards sold out his premises and removed to that which is now known as the Farrier's Arms Inn, where Mr. Bloss died. The sons of whom there were several all left the town and the name has died out. JOHN DIXON carried on business at the shop now converted into the Farrier's Arms Inn, and this name is also lost. JOHN KERRIDGE occupied a portion of the house and shop now tenanted by Mr. George Dorling, grocer, in Bridge Street. He as a very tall, powerful and well-built man, standing quite 6ft. 2in. high. His strength was something astonishing! He had been known to carry a waggon on his back! He could also write his name at arm's length with a 4 stone weight hanging on the little finger of his right hand. He had a good voice, and was a great man for "a song," and boasted that he could sit and sing two hundred songs off at a stretch! The following was painted on his butcher's cart:-

My name is JOHN and KERRIDGE too :
I kill beef, veal, and pork, and lamb;
My native place is FRAMLINGHAM.

His widow resides in the town; but he has no son alive to represent him, and the name has died out.

FRANCIS BILNEY we have previously referred to in No.2 paper.

[By a slip of the pen last week we substituted the name of "Edmund" for Frederick in referring to the steam milling businesses, and we beg to correct. We are informed that the reason the mill fell down (on the site of the present Victoria tower mill) was owing to the mill being kept going with two pairs of stones, whilst it stood simply on "screw-jacks," and that there are only 50,000 bricks in the Victoria wind-mill, whilst the round-house of Mr. A. Roe's mill has 52,000 bricks in it - 2,000 more than in the whole Tower mill.]

Published 20 January 1894

FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND BEYOND

By Andrew Lovejoy

Framlingham College has been part of the educational world in Suffolk since 1864. Customers staring out of the window of the main bar of the Crown Hotel, Market Hill, to the north will on a starry night see the lights of Framlingham College and its outline framed in the entrance to Bridge Street. The College has been and is at the centre of Framlingham, socially, educationally and culturally. This paper is an attempt to sketch in rough outline the history of Framlingham College and in particular its development into a modern fully-fledged independent school.

In 1833, the government of the day awarded £20,000 for educational purposes in this country; £2 million in today's money, and in 1870 the Foster Education Act made primary school education available to all. Those two Acts were the faint glimmerings of the fully integrated state system of education we have today, which sees as its aim placing 50% of British youth in higher education. The nineteenth century was a time of the private sector holding sway. The public schools like Eton College (founded 1440) and Winchester College (founded 1382) were well-established, and of course there were the ancient grammar schools founded in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and later. The education then available for most children in the nineteenth century was confined principally to primary school level.

The nineteenth century saw great developments in the educational facilities available. In the 1820's there was considerable debate about the possibilities of further extending the school system in Suffolk. The 1833 Education Act echoed that. Locally such interest manifested itself at nearby Easton, for in 1852 Susan the wife of the 10th Duke of Hamilton, founded a primary school there. Such attempts at furnishing local populations with basic educational facilities in the nineteenth century were increasingly common in England. It was in the sphere of secondary education that the picture was much more patchy.

Of the great public schools, Rugby School, which, under Doctor Arnold who in August 1828 took over the Headmastership, achieved particular fame. A deeply religious man, his aim was to make the school a place of religious education. A Classical education *per se* was increasingly deprecated by the parents of the day; Dr Arnold agreed. What he wanted was to turn out brave, helpful, truth-telling Englishmen and Christians as well. He used the sixth form and praeposters to produce the required results. Dr Arnold's main work was the civilising of school life. He was the first headmaster to make chapel attendance the centre of school life. He also made a study of mathematics and French compulsory subjects. Rugby set the tone for the public (independent) schools of the nineteenth century.

Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837; her reign coincided with that period of British history which saw the influence of the British Isles abroad at its zenith. The country was as rich as it had ever been. There was a crying need to prepare the young of the country for the business of running a modern industrial society and the Empire.

Hence, in an age when the private sector in education held sway, the established order of the ancient public schools provided an example for the creation of a whole list of new public schools; Framlingham College was one of them.

The process which resulted in the creation of Framlingham College was the death of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, on 14th December 1861. That was the beginning of a period of mourning which really lasted till the Queen's Golden Jubilee of 1887. However, not all that was emanating from the royal mind was negative in tone. The Queen resolved that memorials to Prince Albert should be constituted wherever her subjects saw fit.

In Suffolk, as elsewhere, the Queen's subjects resolved upon the creation of some suitable memorial, and within a few weeks of the Prince's death a proposition was made by Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison Bart. At a meeting held in Ipswich the following resolution was made:

that a County Memorial be raised in honour of His Late Royal Highness the Prince Consort and that a school or college for the scientific and practical instruction of the middle classes at a moderate cost would well accord with the views of the illustrious Prince and would be a permanent benefit to the county.

The proposal was put in place in 1861 and Framlingham College opened on 10th April 1865. All said and done events moved quickly. A subscription list was headed by a donation of £2500 (£250,000 in today's money) from Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison. The land on which the college was to be built was granted by Pembroke College, administrators of the Sir Robert Hitcham's Trust. Parliamentary sanction of scheme set up to build the college in Framlingham received the Royal Assent on 21st July 1863. Building had already begun on 27th May 1863. A Charter of Incorporation was granted by Queen Victoria on 30th July 1864; it founded and constituted the Prince Albert Middle Class College in Suffolk.

Frederick Peck (1828-1875) was the architect. The College remains as he planned it, but of course, with many additions added in subsequent years. The building of the College is a testimony to Frederick's professional skills. The statue of Prince Albert, in front of the main block of the College was designed by Joseph Durham ARA (1841-1877), and stands on a pedestal of polished Aberdeen granite. The figure of Prince Albert is eight feet high. It was cast by Elkington & Co., and was the gift of Sir Thomas Lucas. (Strangely the Prince is dressed in doublet and hose).

The College opened on 10th April 1865 with 269 boys and as Headmaster, Rev. A.C. Daymond (1864-1871). He was chosen from upwards of 150 candidates for his high attainment as a scholar, teacher and manager of youth. The Bishop of London, Archibald Campbell Tait, certified to his high regard of the new headmaster and that his religious views were not in any degree extreme. Daymond had been headmaster of St Mark's College, Chelsea, and was appointed to Framlingham on a salary of £300 a year.

The school was adapted to provide separate beds for each boy. It was to have three terms a year with six weeks vacation in the summer, six at Christmas, and ten days at Easter. The fees were to be about £35 a year depending on circumstances.

Framlingham College was looked on as an experiment and created a lot of interest in educational circles. The school became a centre for the Cambridge University Local Education system. At its height in Daymond's time, the school had ten resident masters and four visiting masters. It all augured well for a bright future.

Chapel attendance has always been an important part of school life, though that has been a falling off in recent years. On the 15th June 1867 a collection of sacramental utensils were dedicated in the chapel. They included a set of plate, silver, a flagon, two chalices and two alms dishes. £101 11s 5d was raised from 244 donors to pay for the utensils.

The pupils at Framlingham College were the lucky ones. Lord Arthur Hervey, later Bishop of Bath and Wells, presented the prizes at the Speech Day in September 1869 and stated

In a large school of this kind, a master learns a good deal of life and human nature from his spirited and warm hearted boys. I have a strong opinion of the value of such schools especially when you think of the particular condition of our own agricultural county.

Daymond was a genial and single-minded man who took a sincere interest in the progress and welfare of the boys. He was the possessor of more than ordinary industry and administrative talent.

The school had problems both logistic and administrative, including, for instance, the fact that the well dug for the school proved inadequate, and that parents wanted the Governors of the college to take second place to the Headmaster. Daymond resigned, it seems somewhat under a cloud, in 1871.

Daymond was succeeded by Rev. W.W. Bird (1872-1881) and Mr H. Scott White (1881-1886). Both left their mark, though the latter saw the school roll fall to as little as 65 boys. As a result an emergency meeting of the Governors was called and the Chairman of the Governors, Lord Rendlesham, appointed Dr O.D. Inskip (1887-1913) as almost a last resort. In 1874 Dr Inskip had been an assistant master at Framlingham College, and in 1883 became headmaster of Spalding Grammar School, where he doubled the number of boys attending the school. He came to a task as difficult as any which confronted any English headmaster in the nineteenth century. He directed throughout his 26 years as Headmaster all his strength and thought to the school. On establishing himself at the school, Dr Inskip immediately expanded the curriculum to include English Language and Literature, Latin, French, Mathematics and Drill, which all became compulsory. Every facility was afforded for the encouragement of cricket, football, etc. in which all the boys were expected to join heartily. By 1889 the school roll had risen to 160 boys and kept rising. The very first issue of *The Framlinghamian* (April 1889) recorded the turn of the tide.

Sir Cuthbert Quilter presiding at the Speech Day of 1891 stated

I believe it to be one of the best days work ever done for the course of education in Suffolk when we put Dr Inskip as the head of Framlingham College.

Under Inskip the school prospered in all departments. He resigned in 1913 and took up the livings of Readenhall, Harleston and Wortwell in the diocese of Norwich, leaving the school both educationally and financially in a flourishing state. George Garrett, Chairman of the Governors, on the occasion of Dr Inskip's farewell to the College, stated

Framlingham College was ten-fold fortunate in that it secured the service of a man like that for 26 years. It is a long time in the life of a man. In fact above the average of a man's really first-class useful life. We are assembled to demonstrate our heartfelt thanks for what Dr Inskip has done for the school.

Dr Inskip's successor was F.W. Stocks (1913-1929), he died in harness suddenly on 21st May 1929 at the age of 45 years. It was said of him

that few men have made a more indelible impression on those he came in contact with. He was gifted with those attributes which particularly appeal to boys - a majestic physical appearance, outstanding ability at games and a sense of humour - but those do not completely explain his influence on men. Without a trace of arrogance and never with any sign of blustering, he got his way often, as his record of achievement as Headmaster shows, it was to the lasting benefit of the community.

During Stock's time as Headmaster, the school's House system took on more importance in its life. Green House became Garrett House, Blue became Kerrison House, Maroon became Rendlesham House and Scarlet became Stradbroke House. Also Stocks saw the school change over from playing Association Football to Rugby.

The First World War took a great toll of Old Framlinghamians. 957 saw war service and 136 gave their lives for their country. Perhaps the most celebrated Old Framlinghamian during World War 1 was Lieutenant Gordon Muriel Flowerdew VC, who led the last cavalry charge of that war.

Mention should be made of the memorial to Old Framlinghamians who perished in the First World War. It is situated on the interior wall of the chapel and consists of five alabaster panels inscribed with the names of 136 Old Boys and four masters. The memorial was designed by Sir Thomas Gordon Johnson Bart (1835-1924), one of the great architects of the time.

In 1929 W.H.A. Whitworth was appointed Headmaster. He was an innovator who amongst other qualities gave more scope to the house system. The essence of the life of a public school was found in the house system. The Housemaster was the most important man in the school in the daily life of a boy. In passing, the school at that time became a member of the Headmasters' Conference.

The depression years of the 1930's saw the number of boys attending the school fall, but at that time the town of Framlingham was not forgotten. In 1933 a special carol service was held for the townspeople of Framlingham.

The facilities of the school were gradually improved. Sport remained important. Squash rackets arrived in 1930.

The Society of Old Framlinghamians Dinner at Newmarket in October 1934 was a particularly agreeable occasion for the Headmaster, having completed five years with the College. He spoke of the pleasure Framlingham had given him.

World War Two of course provided real problems in running the College. At the end of Wentworth's tenure as Headmaster, the school was evacuated for five weeks to Repton College in Derbyshire in August 1940. The 100 boys making the move were well received there. On the return from Repton to Framlingham, Mr Wentworth resigned on 28th September 1940. Mr R. Kirkman was immediately appointed as Headmaster. The usual inconveniences of wartime made themselves felt. The blackout was such that squash could only be played in daylight hours. Air raid shelters were installed and paid for by adding £1.00 a year to school fees. Mr Kirkham saw his existence as of construction and preservation of everything that was good. It was noted in 1942 that 42% of the school's income was consumed by masters' salaries. Adjustments were made.

The war took a great toll of Old Boys. Forty nine perished and 26 were taken prisoner. In memory of those who perished a War Memorial was created in the chapel and dedicated in 1949. The war did leave a legacy. The school suffered from various constraints. Books were then in short supply and the radiators were difficult because of the lack of fuel. Nevertheless it felt as though a new age had begun. The war end released a number of masters - young ones who joined the school - some of whom have, until recently, been prominent citizens of Framlingham. All in all the situation and problems arising from the war were of no great consequence for the school.

In 1945 there were 250 boarders and 40 day boys. In October 1945 the school became a direct grant school and thereby a number of boys passing the 11 Plus locally were sponsored by the Local Education Authority to attend the school. It was not popular with the school at large and the benefits of being a fully independent school were continually mooted. At this time all the usual activities of the school in the way of sports, scientific and other societies flourished, and the Junior Training Corps increased its numbers.

It was also at this time that Brandeston Hall became the Preparatory School for Framlingham College. In 1947 Charles Austin, the owner of Brandeston Hall, sold the Hall for £12,000 to the Governors of Framlingham College. The Hall had been owned by the Revett family for 301 years. In 1842 they sold the Hall to the Austins, the Austin of that day being an eminent barrister. In 1847 the Hall was nearly completely destroyed by fire. It was then fully restored to its present state.

On the 2nd July 1949 Brandeston Hall Preparatory School was officially opened by HRH Princess Alice Countess of Athlone. She, on that occasion, addressed the assembled company as follows:

So do, pray, think intelligently and courageously for yourselves. You may not always be right, by any means, but think again until you are, and then be up and doing like the Prince to whom Framlingham is remembered.

At twelve noon on that day Major General The Right Honourable the Earl of Athlone unveiled the World War Two memorial in the chapel of Framlingham College.

In 1952 there were 259 boarders and 29 day boys at the college with 104 pupils at Brandeston Hall. Speech Day in 1955 was Kirkman's last. The school roll stood at 425 pupils. His 15 years as Headmaster were marked by unremitting efforts and achievement. Much building had recently carried out and plans for more buildings were drawn up for an opportunity when the financial situation was more appropriate, as overcrowding in the school was a problem.

Stanley Porter was the next Headmaster. Appointed in September 1955 he was the College's first science-trained head. The school's possible status as a fully independent school was then considered, the school being then still a Direct Grant School. In 1957 a new Speech Hall was proposed. There was a great need for new accommodation, new gym etc.

It was during Porter's tenure of office that the Framlingham College's Centenary Celebrations took place. The following is a short description of what was a momentous occasion.

There was no special significance in the choice of Friday June 26th 1964 as the day to mark the 100th year of the existence of the College, but a happier choice could hardly have been made; a more beautiful day could scarcely be imagined. HRH Princess Alice, a college visitor for 14 years, was no stranger, yet she brought with her the ambience of freshness and grace which had marked all her comings. She and Lord Stradbroke, Lord Lieutenant, were the guests of honour. They arrived at noon, greeted by the Headmaster Stanley Porter, Her Royal Highness inspected a Guard of Honour. After lunch the Corporation Governors, Her Royal Highness and the company assembled in the chapel for a Service of Thanksgiving. It was a service of praise and thanksgiving to God for his blessings to the college and its inhabitants over the past 100 years. The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich took as his text, "Freely ye have received; freely give." The music and prayers met the occasion in every appropriate way. Her Royal Highness performed the opening ceremony of the Centenary Hall - later named the Athlone Hall. She addressed the school and stated amongst other things...

"First and foremost, avoid at all costs the danger of our age of conformity. Preserve your individuality and respect that of others. Are you Framlinghamians going to grow up into rational beings or are you going to be sheep?"

Then the Centenary Hall, with a seating capacity of 450 persons, heard a concert given by the college orchestra and Choral Society; Matthew Arnold's Toy Symphony received an ovation and had to be repeated. A march called Framlingham College by Doreen Carwithen set the tone for the concert. After the concert the Princess took tea with the Prefects on the Headmaster's lawn. One observer, an Old Boy, recorded that the celebrations were such that "rarely can there have been such a day of happiness and goodwill in Framlingham College's hundred years".

Immediately the formal celebrations were over some of the boys celebrated their own impromptu rejoicing. The boys of Moreau House contributed 2p a head for a bottle of wine which was laid down to be opened on June 26th 2014....

The Master and Boys and entire household of Moreau House invite you to uncork and enjoy this bottle of wine laid down on the day of the school's Centenary Celebrations....

In September 1975 Framlingham College became a fully Independent School again, the Direct Grant School system having come to an end, and in 1976 the first girls were enrolled into the Sixth Form of the college.

There were 488 pupils in the total complement of Framlingham College and Brandeston Hall combined in 1984, which in detail consisted of 322 boy boarders, 88 day boys, 56 day girls and 22 girl boarders.

Framlingham College saw its inception in 1864 and has not just survived, it has become one of the leading educational establishments of at least Suffolk. Though originally meant as principally a school for Suffolk people, today pupils in the school come even from international backgrounds. That the school flourishes today is testimony to the enduring hard work and foresight of those who have planned for the school and organised it on a day-to-day basis. It is a proud record. The school will be here for its second centenary celebrations, not least due to the designer of the school's original buildings, Frederick Peck. His choice of material for building the school guarantees that the school will be there in 2064, a school which will remain a distinctive Suffolk landmark for all to admire.

Framlingham Castle and St Michael's Church are not the only places to receive the plaudits when visitors come to the town of Framlingham. The sight of Framlingham College from the battlements of the castle is one of the sights of East Anglia. The College thereby has a reputation which is well deserved. The modern perception of Framlingham College can perhaps be attested by referring to the entry for the college in *The Guide to Independent Schools 2010*. It reads as follows:-

Founded in 1864 in memory of Prince Albert, it has a splendid site on a hill looking across the Mere to the 12th century castle. There are 80 acres of gardens and playing fields. The original Gothic buildings have been much altered and added to, and are now well equipped. The school has a new theatre, state-of-the-art design and technology centre and a well equipped library, as well as an indoor swimming pool, sports and fitness complex, a golf course and floodlit Astro turf pitch. The prep school, Brandeston Hall, is in a neighbouring village in the Deben Valley.

Religious worship in the Anglican tradition is encouraged. The academic expectations are high and exam results consistently good. Founded as a boys school, it has accepted girls for over 20 years. Its commitment to co-education allows for a natural family atmosphere; courtesy, care and trust are encouraged. It is strong in music and drama and there is an extensive range of sports and games.

It is hoped that future generations will fully appreciate the value of a system of education which is dependent on a rich sense of freedom and achievement. Simply put, Framlingham College will echo much of that educational prowess that the people of Suffolk and beyond cherish.

The following publications were referred to in compiling this article:-

1. Framlingham College: The First Sixty Years by John Booth (1925)
2. Framlingham College: The Second Sixty Years by Leslie Gillett (1992)
3. The Oxford History of England - The Age of Reform by Sir Llewellyn Woodward
4. Eminent Victorians by Lytton Strachey
5. Queen Victoria by Lytton Strachey
6. A Guide to Independent Schools 2010
7. The Village of Easton, Suffolk: an appreciation, in *Fram*, Series 3, No.12, April 2001

SUFFOLK WALLED KITCHEN GARDENS, AN INVESTIGATION
c. 1780 - c. 1900 Part 2.
By Jennifer Broster

In other parts of the country different materials were more widely used. Chalk, cob, and mud were used for walls.

Generally, it was not until later in the nineteenth century that brick began to supplant local stone and cob as the preferred building material for garden walls [in the south west of the country].⁽⁵⁰⁾ The disadvantages of cheaper materials include the fact that the fruit tree fixings had to be either inserted as the wall was being built or by some other contrivance.⁽⁵¹⁾ They also required brick or stone to be used as a firm foundation if the wall was to last.⁽⁵²⁾ Where stone was available locally, it was an acceptable alternative to brick.

In 1898 William Robinson ...built the wall [for his new kitchen garden at Gravetye Manor in Sussex.] with dressed stone...he preferred stone to brick both for its colour and endurance and few interstices for harbouring insects.⁽⁵³⁾

By the late nineteenth century, there was an even greater variety of materials available. Relatively inexpensive walls could be made of cement or even glass. Paxton had supervised the construction of "a glass wall at Chatsworth" in the late 1830s.⁽⁵⁴⁾ It may have been that Paxton's glass wall inspired Charles Beard, a manufacturer and horticultural engineer in Bury St Edmunds, to invent his glazing system which is described in the *Gardeners Chronicle* during 1885.⁽⁵⁵⁾ Under his trading name, Beards of Bury St Edmunds, Charles Beard's glass walls were patented and made between 1850 -1870 especially for smaller gardens or for internal vertical supports.

They consisted of thick sheets of rough plate-glass bolted to iron frames which could either be mounted on permanent foundations or simply driven into the ground... ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Despite the variety of materials available, brick was the material of choice for walls because of its strength and its ability to absorb heat during the day, which was only slowly released as the temperature cooled. The latter characteristic meant that Mediterranean fruit ripened with less difficulty than was otherwise encountered.⁽⁵⁷⁾ Nails to support restraining wires and other devices to train fruit could be easily knocked into brick. The only disadvantage to brick was its cost during most of the period under review. The brick tax, introduced by Pitt the Younger in 1784 as an attempt to recoup some of the cost of the American War of

Independence, increased the cost. It is estimated that just before the tax was repealed 15% of the cost of a good quality brick was attributable to the tax.⁽⁵⁸⁾ That said, because the tax was levied per brick,⁽⁵⁹⁾ cost was reduced during the period of the Tax⁽⁶⁰⁾ by increasing the thickness of English bricks so that fewer bricks were needed for a given area of wall.⁽⁶¹⁾ The average thickness of a brick in 1725 was two and a half inches. This increased by half an inch after 1784.⁽⁶²⁾

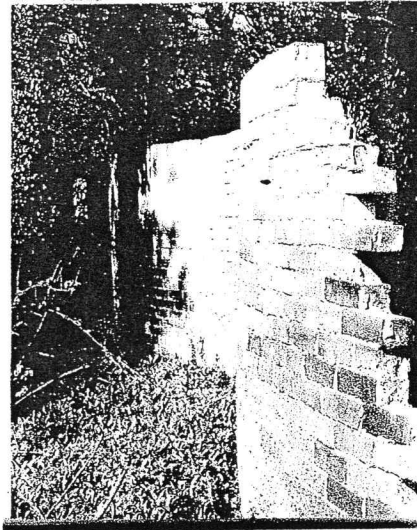
By the time the tax was repealed, in 1850, brick kiln technology had improved, which helped to make bricks more affordable.⁽⁶³⁾ Where there was a brick kiln on site, as at Benhall where an estimated 300,000 red bricks were used, obviously no transport costs were involved, which made such a wall a more economic prospect.^(64:65) Thornham also had its own kiln. It is estimated that the bricks in the walls there date from around 1700.⁽⁶⁶⁾

Serpentine, or crinkle-crankle walls were another way to economise on the number of brick used because they only required one course of bricks⁽⁶⁷⁾ whereas the straight brick walls needed "at least two courses depending on their height."⁽⁶⁸⁾ Figure 9 illustrates this point.

There are more examples of Serpentine walls in Suffolk and Norfolk⁽⁶⁹⁾ than in the rest of the country, which gives credence to the view that their design originated in the Netherlands.⁽⁷⁰⁾ However, there are some examples outside East Anglia, two of which are at Kea, Cornwall and at Knoll, Gloucestershire.⁽⁷¹⁾

In Suffolk, serpentine walls are to be found at Coney Weston, Easton, Heveningham, Melford Hall and Parham [Hall],⁽⁷²⁾ (see figure 7.) A less well-known example in the county is at Rendlesham, where "the undulations/curves are notably less curved than is common", so much so that "from a distance it appears to be a straight wall....It is 6 feet 6 inches high." However part of it has collapsed and another section has been reinforced "with slim buttresses to [the] top [of the] wall centred on each of the undulations."⁽⁷³⁾ That reinforcement was necessary is not surprising on a wall of that height, built of single brick with little curvature to stabilise it. Over time the poorly designed serpentine style proved, here, to be a false economy. Theoretically, a serpentine wall should, in effect, have buttressed itself and given stability over a good length of wall.⁽⁷⁴⁾

Figure 9. Picture of Serpentine Wall at Easton, Suffolk, showing that it is only one brick thick



Source: R.W. Brunskill, *Brick Building in Britain*
(London, 1990) 44

An instance of Serpentine walls on a lower status property are to be found attached to a farm house in Earl Soham, where the house itself provides the eastern boundary. The three walls are intact, but part of the south-west wall has cracked and bowed despite being one of the shorter walls, (see figure 10.) This wall has a good curve on it, but it has still not stood the test of time, so maybe the theory mentioned in the previous paragraph could not be relied upon in practice. Unfortunately, the garden that was once within them is now grassed over.

(75)

Aside from less expense, the very shape of serpentine walls was said to produce sheltered alcoves for fruit "and a greater surface area of wall over an equal distance."⁽⁷⁶⁾ However, there was some debate as to how much of an advantage the alcoves gave fruit grown within them. Certainly, Loudon was of the opinion that the shelter the alcoves provided was "generally denied by practical men"⁽⁷⁷⁾ and Campbell points out that

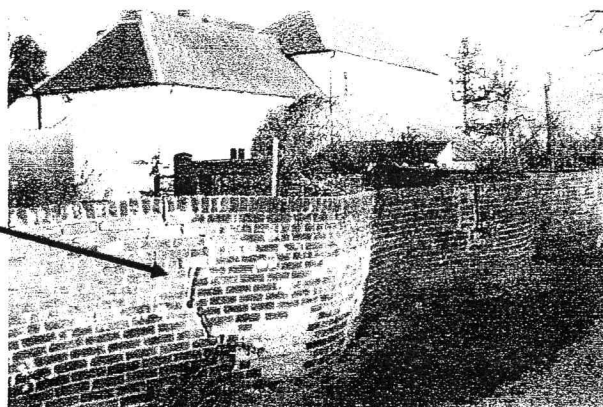
although the curves acted as sun traps for fruit, those same curves were thought to cause the wind to eddy, thus injuring the trees.⁽⁷⁸⁾

Given this argument as to whether the alcoves gave shelter or produced eddies, it is interesting to note that the south facing side of the

serpentine wall at Rendlesham is peppered with old nails, with no discernable pattern of support, but clearly had been used for fruit over a very considerable period of time.(79)

Figure 10. Cretingham Lodge showing crack in serpentine wall.

Note crack and bowing, despite the wall having a pronounced curve



Source : Fieldwork, author's own photograph, (November 2008)

The height of the walls was relative to the size of the garden and usually varied between three metres and six metres. They needed to be of sufficient height and strength to provide the protection and support necessary to grow sturdy plants. The larger the garden, the taller the walls could be to give maximum protection before their height would restrict sun light falling on the garden.(80)

Tall, long walls needed supporting buttresses or piers along their length to prevent collapse.
(81) These would be on the outside of the garden where they would not reduce the area available inside for training fruit.(82) An exception to this theory can be found at Brent Eleigh where twelve internal buttresses support the western wall,(83) but this is due to its sloping site. Benhall walled garden is a more typical example in that it has fourteen stepped buttresses on

the outside of the east wall, ten on the north wall and around twenty-three on the west wall.⁽⁸⁴⁾

There are examples where the walls in a garden vary in height. Brent Eleigh is one such. Here the eastern wall is 15 feet in height and the north wall 10 feet 3 inches and the southernmost wall is 5 feet 1 inch tall. The western wall, which has the internal buttresses, varies in height along its length from 10 feet at the northern end to 8 feet 6 inches at the southern end.⁽⁸⁵⁾ Again, it is the topography, at this site, which necessitates the differing heights of three of the walls, because it slopes "quite steeply from east and west."⁽⁸⁶⁾ However, the low south wall in relation to the north wall is not unusual as this arrangement allowed maximum light to strike the south side of the north wall.⁽⁸⁷⁾ There is a different reason for the change of wall height at Benhall, where the north wall is higher at its eastern end because it once formed the fourth wall of sheds and the boiler house which were once behind it, outside the garden.⁽⁸⁸⁾

Sometimes evidence is seen of wall height being increased over time. This is indicated by a line of chamfered plinth bricks, which is usually only visible on one side leaving a perfectly flat plane on the side to be used productively. The thickness of the bricks above the plinth line would be reduced.⁽⁸⁹⁾ At The Old Rectory, Grundisburgh, there is evidence of a three, two, one wall, i.e. three bricks thick at the base; two bricks thick above first plinth line, and one brick thick above second plinth line. What is unusual here is that the plinth line is visible on both sides of the wall.⁽⁹⁰⁾ When surveying a garden today, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between the use of a plinth line to adjust the thickness of the wall as it rises and a raised, horizontal line of bricks on the lower part of a hot wall. The latter indicates the position of a line of trellis used to support fruit trees grown a few inches out from the wall in order to prevent scorching.⁽⁹¹⁾

With any wall, it is essential that the top edge is protected from the falling rain, which would otherwise seep into the wall causing it to deteriorate. However, since most the garden walls in Suffolk are made of brick, or brick and flint, it is how protection was given to walls made of these materials that will be discussed here. Figure 13 shows the importance of a top edge. Some of the coping has fallen away at the left of the picture, which leaves the wall exposed to rain.

There are three main methods of creating a protective edge along the top of a brick wall, capping bricks, coping bricks and brick on edge coping. The difference between capping bricks and coping bricks is that the coping brick is "made so that the ends project and help to throw rain clear of the wall",⁽⁹²⁾ whereas a capping brick has no such projection and relies entirely on its shape to disperse rain. This difference is shown in figures 11 and 12, which illustrate the common shapes of both types. The walls at Brent Eleigh are an example, in Suffolk, where a common shaped, half-rounded coping, as shown in the centre of figure 12, can be found.

The third method used as a coping is brick on edge, where "bricks [are] laid on edge rather than on bed and displaying upright headers." There is an interesting variation of this arrangement of bricks protecting a wall at Hintlesham Hall where the topmost course of bricks on edge surmount a course of shaped bricks, under which there is a projecting layer of headers and stretchers. These act as a support to the shaped brick.

Figure 11. Common shapes of capping bricks.

Note lack of overlap

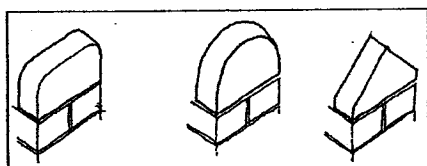
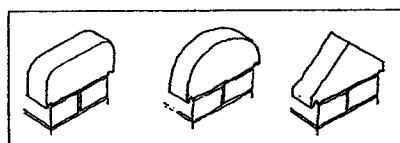


Figure 12. Common shapes of coping bricks.

Note overlap and drip channel beneath

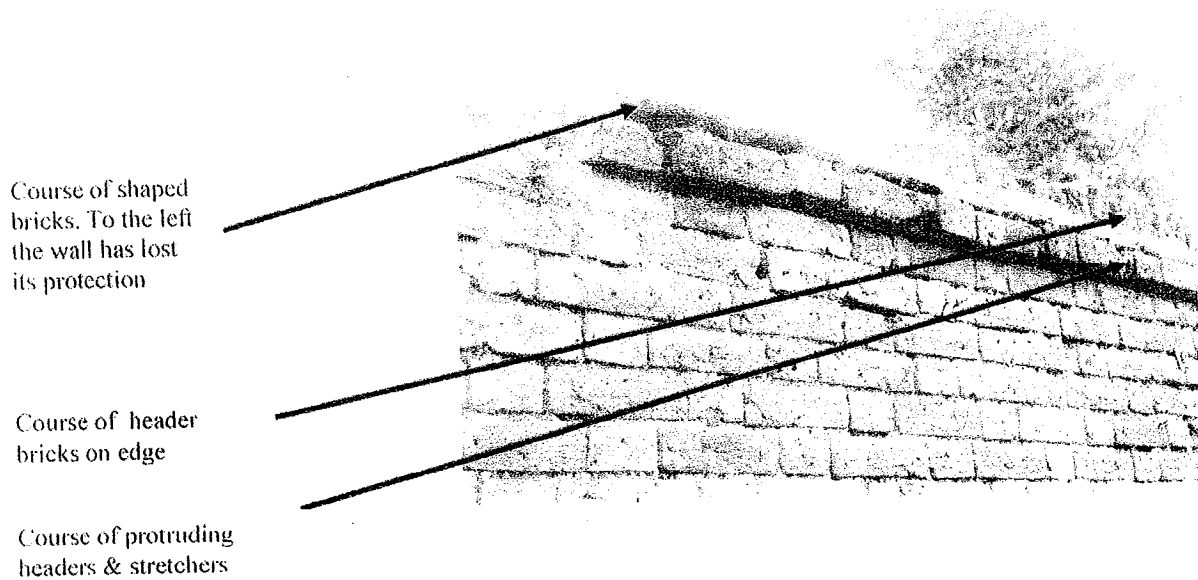


Source : R.W. Brunskill, *Brick Building in Britain* (1997) p. 95

Source: R.W. Brunskill, *Brick Building in Britain* (1997) p.96

Figure 13. shows this arrangement. Figure 14. shows one of the shaped bricks in detail from which it can be seen that two were joined to form a near triangular shape. The bricks on edge, above, would protect this join. A second variation of the brick on edge coping arrangement can be seen at Langham Hall, where there is a drip line of slate below the protruding layer. (See figure 15.)

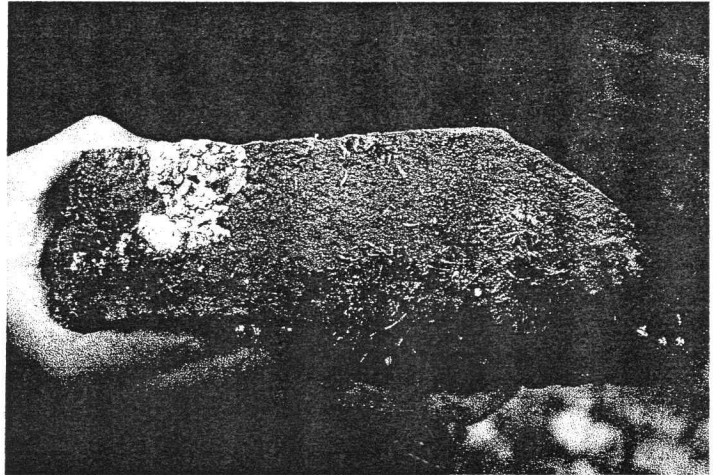
Figure 13. Wall at Hintlesham showing arrangement of top edge.



Source: Fieldwork with Suffolk Gardens Trust,
March 2009. Author's own photograph.

High, long, walls not only provided protection from the weather, but also deterred theft of valuable produce and implements. The larger the garden, then the greater the cost of investment in the new plants, new technology and manpower to achieve the variety and quality of produce required by a big Estate. Broke Hall records show how many keys there were and how they were distributed among the garden's staff, indicating that security was an issue. The gardener had a master key to fit all the glass houses, the conservatory and plant house as well as the kitchen wall and flower garden gates. The Peach, Pine, and Vine houses were to have the same key, but different from the others. The same criteria applied to the keys to the Orchard, Fig and Cucumber houses and the Long range. The Banana house and the Fruit room were to have unique keys. Interestingly, two padlocks to fit the master key were also required for the underground gates.⁽⁹⁵⁾

**Figure 14. Close up of a shaped brick as seen in figure 13.
These were placed in pairs on the top of the wall**



**Source: Fieldwork with Suffolk Gardens Trust,
March 2009. Author's own photograph**

**Figure 15. West wall of Langham Hall walled kitchen
garden, showing slate drip line**



**Source: Fieldwork with Suffolk Gardens Trust,
April 2008. Author's own photograph**

Notes:

- ⁵⁰Gray, *art.cit.* p.121
- ⁵¹R.W. Brunskill, *Brick Building in Britain* (1997) p.96
- ⁵²Campbell, *Walled, op.cit.* p.16
- ⁵³Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* pp.50-51
- ⁵⁴T. Carter, *The Victorian Garden* (1988) p.74
- ⁵⁵J. Woods, "Glasshouse manufacturers in Bury" in *Suffolk Gardens Trust Newsletter*, no.27 (Spring 2008) p.26
- ⁵⁶Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* p.54
- ⁵⁷Gray, *art.cit.* p.121
- ⁵⁸Brunskill, *op.cit.* p.193
- ⁵⁹*Ibid.* p.192
- ⁶⁰http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/making_history/making_history_200511101.shtml
- ⁶¹Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* p.52
- ⁶²D. Iredale and J. Barrett, *Discovering your old house* (1997) p.20
- ⁶³T. Williamson, *Polite Landscapes: Gardens and Society in Eighteenth Century England* (1998) p.107
- ⁶⁴SGT, Benhall
- ⁶⁵D. Dymond and E. Martin (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk* (1999) p. 147. Map indicates that by 1885 there were two brickworks in Benhall
- ⁶⁶J. Fairclough and M. Hardy, *Thornham and the Waveney Valley: an Historic Landscape Explored* (2004) p.196
- ⁶⁷Brunskill, *op.cit.* p.97
- ⁶⁸Campbell, *Walled, op.cit.* p.15
- ⁶⁹Brunskill, *op.cit.* p.97
- ⁷⁰Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* p.52
- ⁷¹Gray, *art.cit.* p.125 and footnote 34
- ⁷²Williamson, *Suffolk's, op.cit.* p.151
- ⁷³SGT, Rendlesham
- ⁷⁴Brunskill, *op.cit.* p.45
- ⁷⁵Field trip to Creetingham Lodge 21 November 2008. The owner, Mary Bloomfield, remembers her mother-in-law growing vegetables in the garden, which is now grassed over and used for grazing bronze turkeys and geese.
- ⁷⁶Campbell, *Walled, op.cit.* p.15
- ⁷⁷Carter, *op.cit.* p.68
- ⁷⁸Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* p.52
- ⁷⁹SGT, Rendlesham
- ⁸⁰Campbell, *Walled, op.cit.* p.15
- ⁸¹Brunskill, *op.cit.* pp. 44-5
- ⁸²Campbell, *Walled, op.cit.* p.15
- ⁸³Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Brent Eleigh Hall, March 2007. Later citations of this source: SGT Brent Eleigh
- ⁸⁴SGT, Benhall
- ⁸⁵SGT, Brent Eleigh
- ⁸⁶*Ibid.*
- ⁸⁷Hobhouse, *op.cit.* p.48
- ⁸⁸SGT, Benhall
- ⁸⁹Brunskill, *op.cit.* p.105
- ⁹⁰Suffolk Gardens Trust survey, Grundisburgh Old Rectory, January 2009
- ⁹¹Campbell, *Charleston, op.cit.* p.60
- ⁹²Bramskill, *op.cit.* pp. 94,96
- ⁹³SGT, Brent Eleigh
- ⁹⁴Bramskill, *op.cit.* p.93
- ⁹⁵Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich (SRO1)HA93/3/252. File of notes and sketch plans re laying out of grounds (c.1818-1826) re Broke Hall

CORRESPONDENCE

26 Mount Pleasant
Framlingham

26 September 2010

Dear Editor,

Yes! Some relics still survive. Reference; to the town's reading room in Brook Lane, and your comments in *Fram* number 16 August 2010. This old building, long since demolished, was once the original and indeed the first Mills School and in the final years of its life was in the ownership of Potters, who used it as tyre repair and storage department.

I do have some photographs of the building taken from the front and the rear, and one photograph has been placed in the *Fram* film on-line archive.

In my possession I have two if not three of the old original hand written library books, from the old reading room/Library. I will do my utmost and try to find them. It has been a few years since I last saw them, possibly in one of the many boxes stored in the attic.

Also, are the enclosed of any interest! Again I came across these when on a search for another long lost item. I think a lot of this material stems back to my grandfather's day who had a shop in Crown and Anchor Lane 1910-1961. I never cease to be amazed at the amount of material he collected over his life time. Most of it I put in boxes, waiting for the time when I could sort it out, I am about four fifths of the way there after all these years. And this includes my father's bits and pieces.

Yours sincerely

Tony Moore

[The papers referred to in the final paragraph of the letter are being placed in the Lanman Museum, Framlingham Castle, *Editor*]

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