

FRAM

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

Number 6

6th
Series

October 2014

**The Journal of the
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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6TH Series Number 6

October 2014

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Introduction by John Lilley

As Chairman of the Framlingham and District Local History and Preservation Society I am delighted to have been asked by the Editor of our Journal, M. V. Roberts, to introduce this issue to mark the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914.

As a soldier, albeit a part-time Reservist, for over thirty years, I have long had an interest in military history. And it is right and proper for us to remember in this Anniversary year those who fought and gave their lives in the First World War. The History Society, through the good offices of its President, John Bridges, is marking the occasion by arranging a tribute in St Michael's Church, Framlingham to these men covering the anniversary of the full four years to 1918 when the War ended. We are grateful to the Church for their permission to mount this tribute.

It is pleasing to see that recognition of the debt we owe these men for our freedoms today is being observed in so many places up and down the country. The emphasis in these tributes tends to be for the fallen and for those who suffered terrible, life-changing injuries. Much is written about the appalling conditions in the trenches which men had to endure. The War Poets, in their eloquence, bring home to us in vivid terms how the men suffered and gave their lives. The tragic loss of life is often recalled in the Battle of the Somme and also in the appalling conditions at Passchendaele.

The mental anguish of those men who returned home suffering shell-shock is often described in some detail and leads some commentators even to question the need for the War. The futility of war is sometimes described but I utterly reject this notion. If our freedoms as a nation are challenged by some despotic regime of a foreign country, then surely we need to defend ourselves. And this is what the vast majority of our men who went to war in 1914 believed they were doing - protecting our way of life and our people.

But I like to remember also the men who fought to the end and gave us victory. And I have to say that I regret the emphasis that is often placed on the calamities of the Somme and Passchendaele and other battles which went wrong, and very little is remembered of what went right and the ultimate victory achieved by our men. Even talk of the Armistice, so-called when the Germans sued for peace in 1918, is an injustice in a way. It makes it sound as if the protagonists agreed to stop fighting as if the war ended in stalemate of some kind. The British Army achieved a magnificent victory and paid heavily for it. We should remember to salute the soldiers who achieved it for us.

The Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, Field Marshall Haig, wrote in December 1918, of the men he commanded,

The strain of those years was never ceasing. The demands they made upon the best of the Empire's manhood are now known. Yet throughout all those years, and amid the hopes and disappointments they brought with them, the confidence of our troops in final victory never wavered. Their courage and resolution rose superior

to every test, their cheerfulness never failing, however terrible the conditions in which they lived and fought. By the long road they trod with so much faith and with such devoted and self-sacrificing bravery, we have arrived at victory.

It is right that we should remember at this time the men who gave their lives and those who suffered terrible injuries and anguish, but it is also right to remember the men who fought on to the end and gave us that victory.

Some of you will know my views on Field Marshall Haig and what a great Commander he was. It is timely to remind ourselves that it is Governments and Politicians who take nations to war, but it is the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who have to fight it. Haig had long predicted that the war would be a long war and that the middle stages of that war would entail a long process of attrition. He forecast that Great Britain and Germany would be fighting for their existence. Not for him, "We will be home by Christmas". When armies of millions are engaged, with resources of great Empires behind them, it is inevitable that the war will be long and a heavy price in terms of loss of life and injury. It was to this attritional process that the great engagements of 1916 and 1917 belong and which wore down the German Army and forced their surrender in 1918.

On Armistice Day, 11th November 1918, Haig's Army amounted to nearly two million men of the British Empire - the largest land force in the Empire's history. And they reached the end of a 'Hundred Days Campaign' as glorious and decisive as that of 1815 which concluded the Battle of Waterloo - but it is infinitely less well known. It was an unparalleled achievement in the history of the British Army brought about by nine successive victories in those hundred days and led to the German surrender.

In our tributes to the Fallen, we say on Remembrance Sunday every year and on other occasions:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

I think it is also appropriate to remind ourselves of the first verse of this exhortation as perhaps these words include the brave men who fought on to the end and gave us victory:

They went with songs to the battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow
They were staunch to the end against odds encountered
They fell with their faces to the foe



August 6th, 1914. The Framlingham Company of the 4th (Territorial) Battalion leaves the Assembly Hall led by the Territorial band and marches to the station, accompanied by hundreds of people from the town. They were under the command of Captain E.P. Clarke.



There was much flag waving and raising of hats when they departed for Felixstowe, where they built earth works to be used in the event of an invasion. After further training, they left from Southampton, arriving in France on the 9th November 1914.

THE IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY ESTATES IN FRAMLINGHAM

By John F. Bridges

When growing up in Framlingham in the 1950s, I would sometimes hear reference to a person who lived 'up the Freehold'. I knew this was Albert Road, but did not give a thought to why it was called the Freehold. Fast forward to an exhibition in 2009, at the Suffolk Record Office, when I came across a booklet called *One Hundred and Fifty Years On, A century and a half of Ipswich Building Society*, by Ivan Howlett, 1999. This was of great interest as it included four estates in Framlingham! One of those was the 'Cottage Hill Estate', 1873, and there was a plan of that estate in the exhibition.

The obvious question arose as to where was Cottage Hill Estate? It did not take long to realise there was a typo in the modern booklet, and it should have read 'College Hill Estate'. The twenty - three plots could be clearly identified along the whole north side of what is now called Pembroke Road.

The booklet indicated that there were four estates in Framlingham, i.e.:

- 1862 Framlingham Estate No 1
- 1872 Framlingham Estate No 2
- 1873 Framlingham Cottage Hill Estate
- 1879 Framlingham Estate No 3

Clearly this needed to be investigated, as I doubted there were any housing estates that had been hidden from view all these years. It eventually turned out that the above synopsis is not a complete picture of the developments in Framlingham. However, before looking into that, it is useful to outline the background to such Freehold Land Societies.

In the early nineteenth century there was a political aspect to their activities, as the 'vote' was vested in the ownership of property. The 1832 Reform Act allowed men to vote, who owned property worth at least £10, or received forty shillings a year from rent. This did not change until the Act was reformed in 1867, when every male householder living in a borough constituency could vote. Agricultural workers would have to wait until 1884.

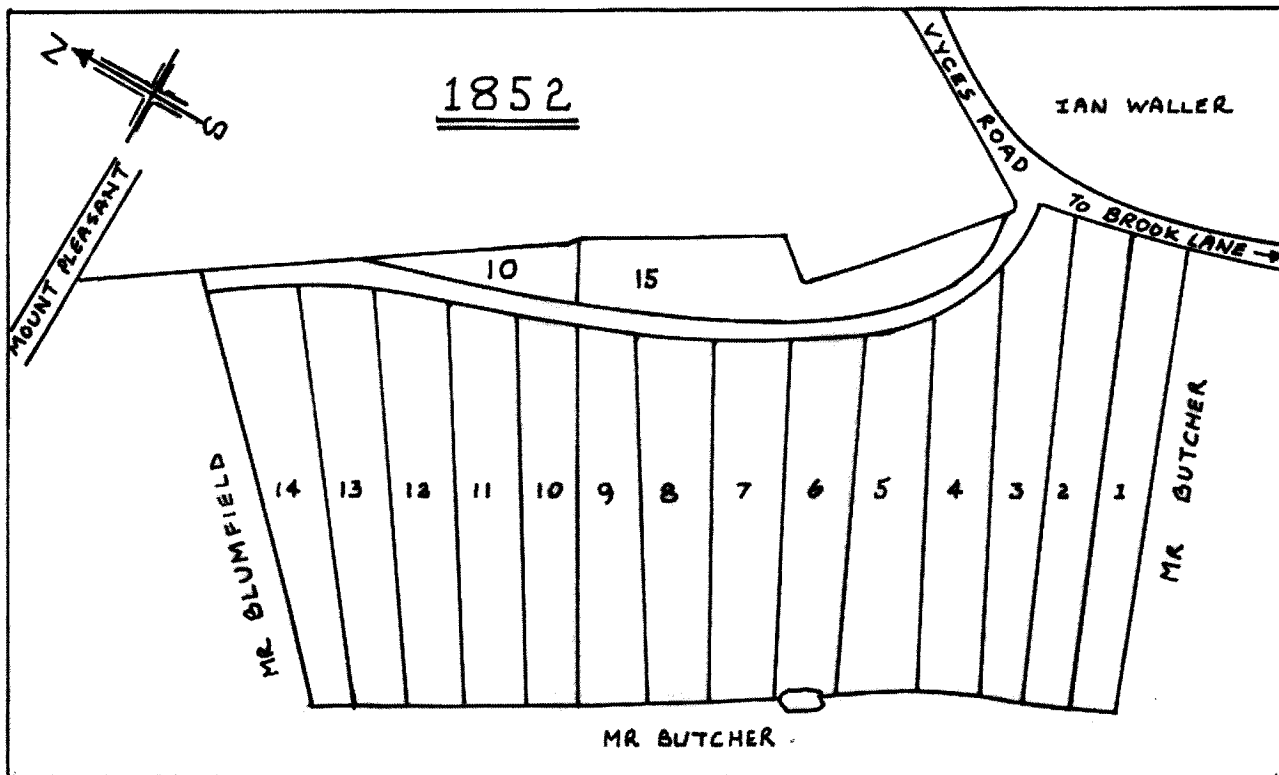
The 'Ipswich and Suffolk Freehold Land Society' was formed in 1849. The first President was Richard Dykes Alexander, a member of the Alexander banking family and a prominent figure in Ipswich society. The Society's declared aim was 'to improve the social position and provide the moral elevation of the unenfranchised population of this county'. The inference being that your investment with the Society would be used to buy freehold land. This would be divided into plots of suitable size to confer its owner the right to vote.

The capital cost to purchase the land was raised through shares of no more than £25 each, with a limit of six shares per person. There was a joining fee of one shilling (five pence), and a fortnightly subscription of three shillings (fifteen pence). The Society needed a mix of members in order to raise the necessary funds to purchase the land. Skilled workers would be able to subscribe to a small number of shares, while shopkeepers, tradesmen and professionals might subscribe up to the limit.

Let us now try to piece together the activities of the Society in Framlingham from the records ¹ now deposited in the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich.

Vyces Road, 1852

The following plans have been derived from the originals and annotated to show current details to aid location. The records do show that there was an earlier development as shown on the Freehold Land Society Estate plan² of September 1852, which does not appear in the earlier list. From the 1883 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, this area of land can be located in Vyces Road, approximately 100 yards north of the junction with Brook Lane.



Plot No.	Name	Occupation	Area - rods
1	Charles Goodwin	Cabinet maker	90
2	William Collins	Millwright	90
3	John ???? jnr		91
4	John ???? jnr		91
5	Thomas Dale	Carpenter	91
6	Thomas Dale	Carpenter	94
7	Henry Clutten	Stone and marble mason	92
8	J N Oford?		92
9	J N Oford?		92
10	Edward Lankester	Wine merchant	93
11	Edward Lankester	Wine merchant	94
12	George Friend		94
13	Arth. Howard		96
14	Robert Baker		98
15	Robert Baker		97

Their occupations were not provided, and have been inferred where possible from census information. The plots were allocated by seniority at this time, with five people each having two shares, gaining two plots each. The area is shown in rods as per the original documents. A rod is a unit of length being 16 ft 6 inches (5.03 metres). The area is therefore in square rods.

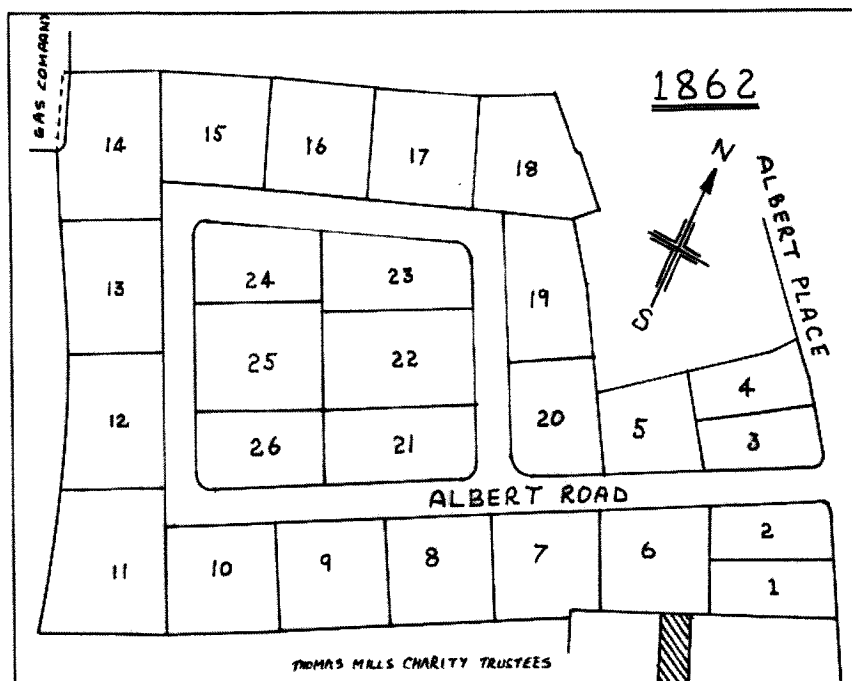
The first OS map of 1883 (refers to Vices Road) shows three buildings on the site. The first is a detached property on plot 1, now called Brook House. The second is a pair of semi detached houses, now called The Cottages. A third building is next to the entrance off Vices Road, but no longer exists. These houses were built of timber frame construction, and weather boarded, but are mainly brick skinned now, although the original fabric can still be seen in parts ³. This area was originally called The Brooks, rather than Vices Road. Brook House was significantly increased in size around 1900, with a full brick extension.

The remaining plots on the 1904 OS map are not individually set out as per the original layout, but shown as a single area of allotments. The Vices Road site is the first Freehold Land purchase in Framlingham, only three years after the Society was formed. Some of the names are well known from that period, and probably already had the vote. The plots that were mainly accessed from a small track did not readily lend themselves to residential use. In 1933, Leonard Walne purchased plots 7,8 and 9 at auction from Francis and Jonathan Read, the latter being a fellmonger (dealer in skins) in Framlingham, on the site of the present Tanyard Court. It is interesting to note that the owner of these plots was liable for three fifteenths of the cost of maintaining the track leading to the road. There was a brick, timber and tiled barn on the land which Walne wanted to use for storage of cars in connection with his garage business in Riverside ⁴. Read still owned land to the north of plot 9, while Pendle owned land to the south.

Albert Road, 1862

The next and most well known development came from the sale of property and land following the death of John Peirson, a prominent man in Framlingham life and instrumental in bringing the railway to the town. His Broadwater and Easton estates along with properties in the town were all put up for auction in June 1862. William Green was the successful bidder acting on behalf of the Society for Lot 10.

The Sale Document ⁵ shows Lot 10 consisting of two parts, which are described as Alms House Meadow and Pasture Piece, amounting to 2 acres, 3 roods (4 roods = 1 acre) and 27 poles (same as square rod). This is the land on which the current properties on Albert Road are located and was to be divided into twenty six plots as per the original drawing ⁶.



Plot No.	Name	Occupation	Cost £-s	1883 map
1	Robert Lambert	Printer	20	Y
2	John Dorling	Carpenter	22-10	Y
3	Robert Drake	Bricklayer	22-10	Y
4	John Mann	Coal merchant	20	Y
5	William Noy	Carpenter	15	Y
6	John Wrightman	Butcher	19-10	Y
7	George Brook Keer	Gentleman	21	Y
8	Joseph Barker	Ironmonger	22	N
9	Henry Johnson	Shoemaker	23	N
10	Thomas Dowsing	Tailor	23	Y
11	Henry Mallows	Bricklayer	27	N
12	Stephen Mallows the younger	Bricklayer	25	Y
13	Charles Moore	Carpenter	25	Y
14	John Newson	Tailor	25	N
15	Henry Fiske	Plumber	20	N
16	John Waller	Shoemaker	17-10	Store ?
17	Charles Dorling	Grocer	16-10	N
18	George Dorling	Grocer	16-10	N
19	John Alexander Garlett	Bootmaker	15-10	N
20	Henry Wells	Grocer	19-10	Y
21	Thomas Dowsing	Tailor	22	Y
22	Wesley Miller	Tailor	22	Y
23	Wesley Miller	Tailor	22	Y
24	George Ingate	Draper	18	N
25	Thomas Dale	Builder	24	N
26	John Alexander Garlett	Bootmaker	21	Y

The Agreement between the Society and the purchaser authorised the treasurer and trustees to pay the purchaser the sums he had already paid into the Society in relation to his shares, as part payment of the land purchase price. It is interesting to see that plot 1 was bought by Robert Lambert, who was only about twenty - seven years of age at the time, but already building up his printing business, having produced the first copy of the *Framlingham Weekly News* in 1859⁷. In future developments Lambert was the agent for the Society, but the Minute books do not exist before 1869 to establish if he was agent for Albert Road.



Henry Damant's Post Office (Plot 2) on the corner of Albert Road c.1900

The names in the table are predominantly those of established tradesmen in the town, and their occupations were shown in the original schedule. In 1858 the method of allocating plots had changed to that of a ballot, being a fairer system than the previous one where several plots could be obtained if you had multiple shares. Unlike the Vyces Road site, this one is in a very central location in the town, and building works began soon after. The 1883 OS map column in the above table shows a Y when a building is on the plot, and N if undeveloped. The land on plot 20 has been divided, and the Plymouth Brethren chapel built there in 1879. The only real change on the 1904 OS map is that a substantial house has been built on the other part of plot 20. This was destroyed on the 25th June 1942⁸ when incendiary bombs fell. Mrs Maria Stannard and her two sons Leslie age fourteen and Neville age five were killed.

The largest property is Albert House (plot 21). In 1872, Thomas Dowsing sells this plot to neighbour John Garlett for £47 10 shillings, but within four years, John's son George sells plots 21 and 26 to John Cuthbert Shafto, Gentleman, for £55. The house changed hands twice more before Framlingham College bought it in 1947 for £2,400. There have been further sales since then.

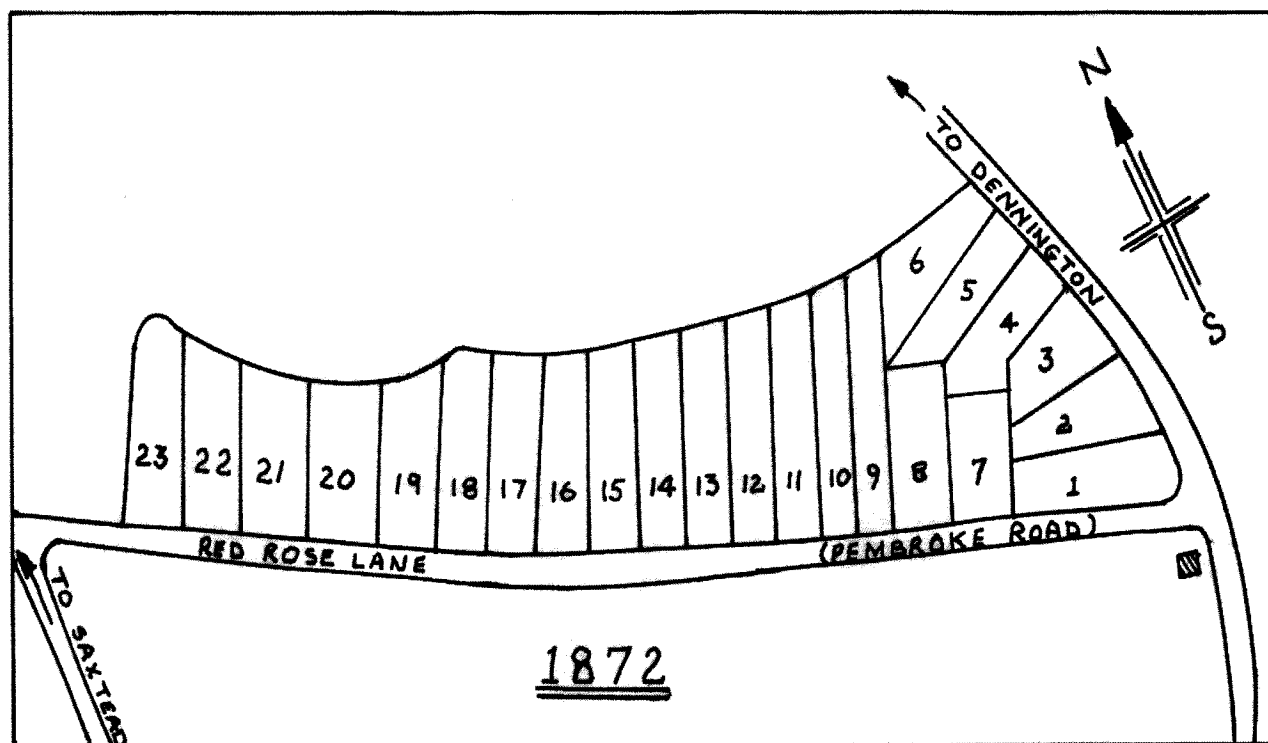
Within twenty years of the land being sold into 26 plots, around 58% of them had dwellings constructed on them. Many of these were pairs of semi-detached houses. By 1904, ten of the plots were still undeveloped.

Pembroke Road, 1872

The next phase of development for the Freehold Land Society came in 1872. The land which borders the length of the north side of Pembroke Road and into Dennington Road was sold under the will of Henry Thompson⁹, father of Sir Henry Thompson. At the time, the land was called Red Rose Meadow, and bordered by Red Rose Lane.

Society representatives from Ipswich attended the sale, and were empowered to bid up to £600 for the land, but were able to secure it for £570¹⁰. The Society then wrote to Robert Lambert saying they were ready for him to take steps to procure allottees. The Ballot took place in the People's Hall (United Free Church in Riverside) on 21st November 1872.

At the meeting various resolutions were carried, e.g.; dwelling houses and shops only shall be erected on the front, building line to be twenty feet back from the road and no public houses. The plan shows the land distributed into twenty three plots. Mr Alston, a solicitor in Framlingham bought the corner plot on Dennington road for £64-15 shillings (£64.75). The eight plots at that end all had the highest cost per area as it was stipulated that houses on the Dennington Road had to be of higher value than the others. Some familiar names such as Lambert, Barker, Wells, and Dale are evident. The Share value was now limited to not exceed £30, and five shillings (25 pence) had to be contributed each month. John Martin (solicitor's clerk) for example needed one and a third shares to be entitled to receive £40. By December 1889, his repayments had covered that sum.



Plot	Name	Occupation	Cost £-s	Area- rods
1	E H F Alston	Solicitor	64-15	37
2	T Reed	Fishmonger	44-11	27
3	Edward Wells	Tailor	42-18	26
4	E H F Alston	Solicitor	41-12	26
5	Reuben Whitehead	Miller	41-12	26
6	Thomas Gravelling	Baker	39	26
7	John Martin	Solicitor's clerk	40-10	27
8	J W King	Victualler	42	30
9	Robert Lambert	Printer	34-10	30
10	Henry Mallows	Builder	38-13	31
11	John Thompson	Tailor	30-12	32
12	Thomas Cracknell	Farmer	33-12	32
13	Henry Fairweather	Seedsman	33-12	32
14	Charles Turner	Builder	33-12	32
15	George Harper		33-12	32
16	Isaac Packard	Builder	33-12	32
17	Samuel Newson	Shoemaker	32	32
18	Henry Cooper		33-12	32
19	Thomas Dale	Carpenter	37-8	34
20	Charles Goodwin	Builder	42	35
21	Wyard Gooch		42	35
22	William Barker	Ironmonger	42	35
23	George Larnier	Tailor	42	35



Pembroke Lodge, built around 1887

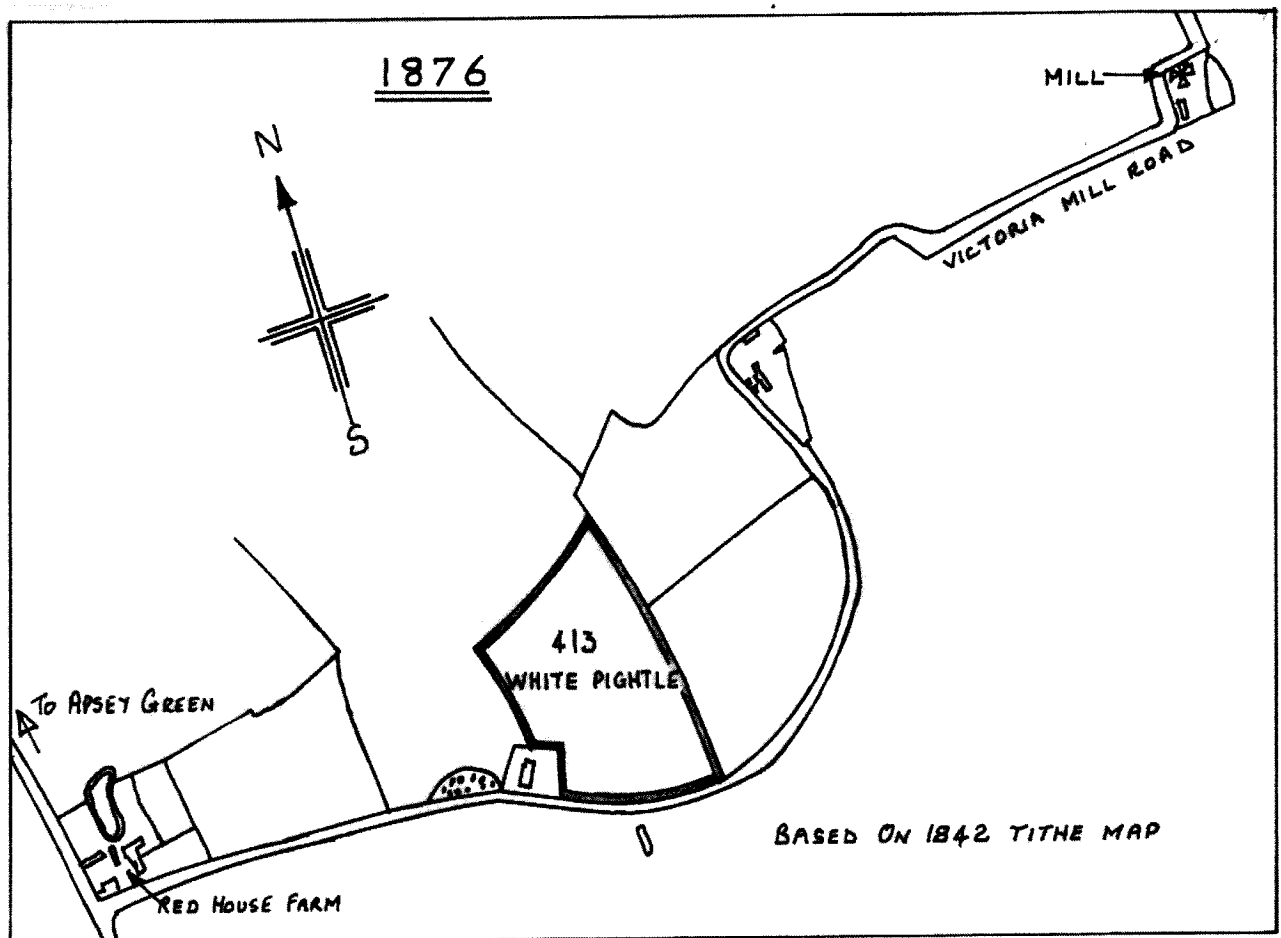
Lambert's Almanac for 1873 quotes:

Early in the year, the Ipswich and Suffolk Freehold Land Society allocated by ballot 'College Hill Estate' into 23 building plots; but not one of the allottees have speculated in bricks and mortar.

It was common for such sites to remain undeveloped for many years. The 1883 OS map shows no houses on the site. Pembroke Lodge was built around 1887¹¹. Lambert's Almanac for 1903 states '2 semi-detached villas in course of erection on College Hill estate by Mr G Dorling' These are the houses currently numbered 18/20 and 24/26. The 1904 OS map only shows these properties. Further in-filling was slow, and most were not built until the second half of the twentieth century.

Victoria Mill Road, White Pightle, 1876

The final development was intended to be on land at the far end of Victoria Mill Road, about a quarter of a mile from the T junction at Red House farm. It is referred to as 'The White Pightle' and that name is still shown on the current OS map. It is the land referenced No 143 on the 1843 Tithe map¹². This location would turn out to be a regrettable decision for the Society, as agriculture was depressed, and there was little money for people to invest in such ventures. The course of events is covered in the Society Minute Book¹³.



Robert Lambert the agent was asked by the Society if he considered it desirable to purchase that land. The response must have been affirmative as Mr Noble was sent to the auction with instruction to bid up to £255, with a margin of £10 if necessary. He needed the £265 to secure the land.

The Committee decided that the land would be divided into sixteen plots, with a price of fifteen shillings per rod generally, except those nearest the road which would command seventeen shillings and six pence per rod. It was estimated that the costs, e.g. legal, surveying, charges, gates and fences etc., along with the purchase costs would amount to approximately £386. Income from the plots would generate £504, giving a profit of £118.

At the meeting for interested parties, there were only six applications. The Society deemed that a minimum of ten were needed to make it viable, but they were not forthcoming. By April 1877, there was little option but to try and let the land, when the previous tenants took it up for a short period. Mr Lambert was pushing his luck a bit in June when he drew the attention of the Committee to a forthcoming land sale in Framlingham. He was told quite firmly that until White Pightle is sold, the Committee will not entertain any more purchases in Framlingham.

Later that year Mr Buckmaster (prominent local business man, and owner of Victoria tower mill)¹⁴ proposed to hire the land, but the committee wanted an offer from 'some other person'. Had he upset them? Lambert was having no success in selling or renting the land, and Buckmaster returned with an offer of £8 p.a., excluding rates. The Society was not going to accept that and told him so, at which point Buckmaster withdrew his offer. With no other takers, they begrudgingly accepted his offer and had to pay the rates themselves. From the Society's point of view, 'White Pightle' would have been an episode best forgotten. Even today, this location is still farmland and remote from the main housing in the town, and would have felt even more so nearly 140 years ago.

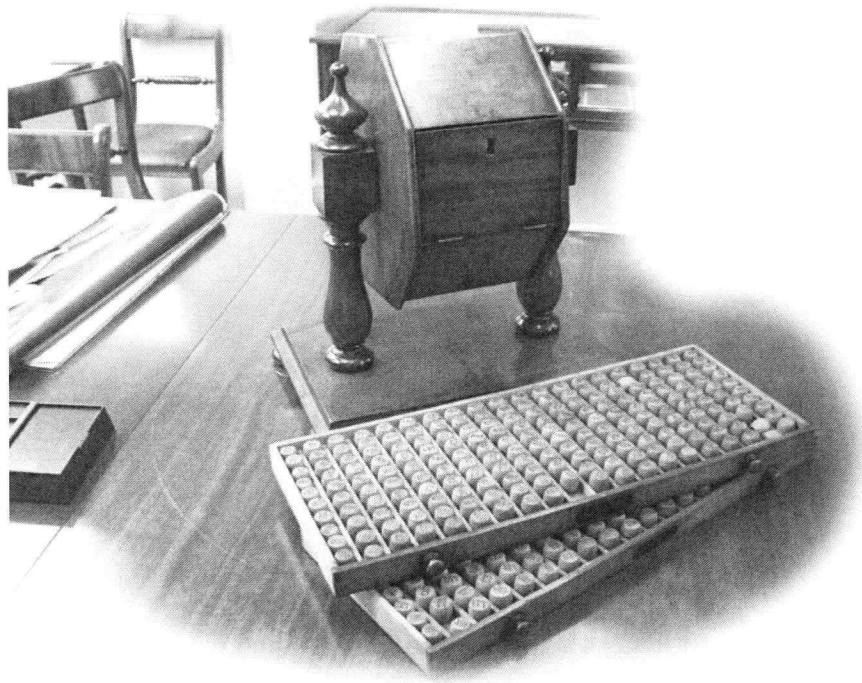
In conclusion, the impact of the Freehold Land Society in Framlingham seems to have been mixed. The philanthropic basis of the Society diminished with time, and many of the local names associated with the plots were business men and therefore already eligible to vote. In acquiring a plot, they were then at will to either build on it, or retain as a garden or similar.

The Vyces Road site attracted limited development on the road frontage, with the remainder becoming allotments.

Albert Road was being developed from the outset, and was a desirable central location. The phrase, Location, Location, Location was as relevant then as it is today.

The Pembroke Road plots were all taken up, but no buildings were constructed for a long time, although this was not unusual. The location, although close to the College, was also remote from the town centre where all business and life was conducted.

White Pightle was not a success probably due to the worsening agricultural economy, and lack of funds from potential purchasers.



The original ballot box of 1853

Courtesy of Ipswich Building Society

Notes

- 1 Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich (SROI), GF419/FLS 1849
- 2 SROI GF/FLS /1849/3/1/1/2
- 3 Discussion with John Breese and Mr and Mrs Sammels, 2014
- 4 Discussion with Beryl Martin and Lynda Last, 2014
- 5 SROI GF419/FLS/1849/3/2/8/1
- 6 SROI GF419/FLS/1849/3/2/192/11
- 7 J.McEwan, *Lambert's Framlingham (1871-1916) (2000)*, p. xviii
- 8 Simon Last, *Framlingham War Memorial, The Men Behind The Names 1939-1945*, (2012), pp 88,89
- 9 SROI, GF419/FLS/1849/3/2/194/1
- 10 SROI GF419/FLS/1849/1/1/1/1 *Minutes Book 1869 to 1874*
- 11 Discussion with Mrs Hindle, 2014
- 12 SROI FDA 104/A1/1-3 Tithe Map
- 13 SROI GF419/FLS/1849/1/1/1/2 *Minutes Book 1874 to 1879*
- 14 *Fram, The Journal of the Framlingham & District Local History & Preservation Society*, 5th series, Number 10 August 2008, pp. 20-22

The Guildhall/Mansion House/London House
Market Hill, Framlingham
By Sue Pike



The Mansion House, Market Hill, 200 years ago.

Much has been written about Framlingham since it was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. There are differing opinions as to how it got its name, some deriving it from FREMDLINGHAM, Saxon for 'the habitation of strangers'. Others affirming that the river Ore was once called FROMAS ¹.

The castle has been recorded too, including Queen Boadicea fighting off the Roman hordes to Kings and Queens who sought refuge there and later as a residence of Earls and Dukes. The Church and the Guildhall have also featured in many history books ².

The presence of St Michael's Church has afforded a sheltered area to the south and west of the castle since Norman times. It is known that a building known as the Guild of St Mary was standing in 1363 on the site of the present building ³

Framlingham Guild was a remarkable organisation led by an Alderman, effectively a mayor. Unfortunately no records of its annual accounts of expenditure survive. It clearly had regular meetings with a group of 'elders' to fix fines and tithes and to organise the annual feast of venison provided by the Duke of Norfolk ⁴.

Extremely deft footwork by leading parishioners appears to have kept this Guild and lands from being taken over by the State when it was compulsorily wound up by Henry VIII. A parish document of 1608 listed the ways the Guild had employed its profits for the use of the community 'to the keeping and releife of certain lunaticke persons and other pore people inhabytinge within saide towne and to the setting forth of souldiers and other charges within the saide towne' (it is thought that the other charges could be the upkeep of the church) ⁵.

Some examples of fines are listed in a record of a 'Court General held in Framlingham on Monday 1st Oct 1520' which noted a John Pulham (junior) absent, was vouched for by John Pulham senior a fine of 12d. 'John Alfeld deposited his excrement in the Guyldehalle yarde and caused damage to the same'⁶. He was ordered to put things right before the next court under penalty of 12d. Over five

hundred years later, in 2007 and 2008 excrement was also deposited in the drive but unfortunately was not known by whom!

The building as it exists today was built in the 1500s. The old Guildhall being pulled down and the new house erected by either Simon Pulham in 1564 (as all recent histories state) or by his father Francys who in his will of 1583 states 'to Symon Pulham, my house in borough by me newly builded'⁷. Dr John Rigard also found an extract from the will of Robert Smith 1532 'to the finishing of the gild house of our Lady 6s 8d'⁸. Originally built as a timber frame building with plasterwork walls it has been radically altered over the years.

It is a two storey building with attics. Comparison of the photo in the April edition of The Journal with the earlier illustration above shows the figure on the central cupola missing. Also the portico over the door was supported by huge turned columns no longer there. All the ground floor sash windows to the east of the door have been replaced by shop fronts. The 'little house' to the west of the Guildhall is also visible and this was part of the landholding⁹.

The house stands on a terrace to the north of the Market Hill. There are steps leading up to the original door on the west side of the building (now the entrance to Turner and Ellerby). It is thought that the Pulhams were possibly under pressure to incorporate some place where official meetings could continue to be held. On the north side of this part of the building, overlooking the church, is a special chamber. It is finely panelled and fitted with a remarkable revolving cupboard.

Shutters to the windows have two secret drawers to their base. It is the detail in some of these cupboards and alcoves which make the house outstanding (most in Turner and Ellerby - the 'official' part). A cupboard in the ground floor front room has an impression of a shell in the three dimensional Trompe-l'oeil paint work. Two other similar cupboards have heavenly themes in the figure painting. One in a subdued grey in the main first floor reception room has marbling beneath. Marbling was popular in the seventeenth century. The nineteenth century poet George Crabbe, who lived nearby, commented on a revolving cupboard in his writing, this could well be the one.

There was a fashion around the seventeenth century to paint landscapes directly onto wooden panels above fire places and sometimes above doors. All the craftsmanship in the back first floor reception room, the room used for meetings etc., is of exceptional quality. The panelling here is of oak (the rest of the house is painted pine which was normal) and is exposed to view. The landscape scene painted here is of higher than usual artistic merit. Obviously this room was more costly but the dates fit in with the Kilderbees, who could afford the funding, as they were in residence from 1674-1813.

In the 1700s the building was faced with mathematical tiles, which give the impression of brickwork. I had to have a few replaced when rain water leaked into the interior. I contacted Peter Minter at the Bulmer Brickworks¹⁰. He made new tiles. In this case they are a Z shape and slot onto the wooded batons on the roof. The Framlingham Local History and Preservation Society had a guided tour at a later date. He is of the opinion that the Mansion House tiles were probably added in 1740-60 as they are Z shaped tiles which were used in the mid eighteenth century and are the same size as those used at that time. Helmingham Hall owned by the 4th Earl of Dysart in 1745-60 was then faced with similar tiles and there is a receipt of 1757 for mathematical tiles.

Peter Minter has now identified twelve properties in East Anglia; Helmingham Hall, the Mansion House/Guildhall along with numbers 33 and 33A Market Hill, Framlingham, Culford, Livermere, Holkham Hall, Felsham, Brandeston and Hemingston. The earliest mathematical tiles were used in 1720 in Sussex by Robert Adam, Sloane and Wyatt on high status buildings. By 1780 larger, flat back tiles were used.

On the ground floor are three large shop windows which project from the face of two thirds of the building. Stephen Starling, a draper, who took over the house in 1885 added these ¹¹. He also renamed it London House. He erected a canopy over the terrace to protect his goods which he displayed outside at sale times. He later replaced this with a glass canopy with cast iron posts which survived until 1969.

At the attic level there is a parapet wall constructed of brick with open sections of balustrading which appears to date from the seventeenth century, a timber detail which rarely survives today. The purpose of the open sections is to give a view down to the Market Place from the large sash window dormers in the roof slope. Especially noticeable are the heavy pedimented heads of the two flanking dormers and the similar semi-circular head of the central one.

At the back of the house up a few stone steps there is a walled garden, which is now paved. On 20th Dec 1698 there was a proclamation between Kilderbee and the Rev. Mark Antony to build a wall between the churchyard and garden. For this permission Francis Kilderbee, his heirs and assigns were to pay 'yearly and every year to the said Mark Antony and his successors Rectors of Framlingham aforesaid the old and accustomed rent of five pence at the feast of St Michael' ¹². The garden wall has a very fine gate in it and there is an eight foot wide avenue between the gravestones leading to the south porch of St Michael's Church. This would have been used by the 'Guilds' and other official groups for procession from the house to the church. Hidden by a rambling rose is a stone head, of what looks like a king, ever watchful of the house (see photo).



Notes

1. J. Ridgard, *Great Framlingham in Suffolk and the Howard Dukes of Norfolk* (2009)
2. R. Green, *The History, topography, and antiquities of Framlingham and Saxsted...* (1834)
3. *White's Directory of Suffolk 1874*
4. Ridgard, *op. cit.*
5. *Ibid*
6. O.R. Sitwell, *A Short history of the Guildhall or Mansion House, Framlingham* (1974)
7. Francis Pulham's will 1583 (Suffolk Record Office Ipswich, JMR Black Book 4)
8. Robert Smith's will 1532 (SROI J421/7, JMR Black Book 3)
9. Green, *op. cit.*, Sitwell, *op. cit.*
10. Author's conversations with Peter Minter of Bulmer Brickworks
11. Indenture of sale 3rd June 1885, held by Mr. and Mrs. Chapman Purchas (1971), copy held by the author
12. M.L. Kilvert, *A History of Framingham* (1995)

AFTERWORD

At the Centenary of Declaration of War in 1914, it is appropriate that this issue of *Fram* should begin and end with items addressing that conflict. Our Chairman John Lilley in his Introduction provides a generic approach for us. In contrast, I am claiming editorial privilege to describe my own family's connection with both the first and second World Wars.

My grandfather George William Roberts was a textile broker in the City of London, based at Bradbury Greatorex in Aldermanbury, where I had an office when I was Deputy Director of Libraries and Art Galleries for the City Corporation. He volunteered for active service quite early on in the Great War, too early as it happened, as it was several months before he had a complete uniform and kit, and had been fully trained for his duty as a soldier in the front line. When he had been in the trenches for just six weeks he was detailed to join an assault on the Hohenzollen Redoubt, on 13th October 1915. An officer, one NCO, and six privates were there, in a very minor attack. Only one returned, and my grandfather is now buried in Loos Cemetery. (Robert Graves in *Goodbye to all that* (1929) refers to the whole attack as "Another dud show").

My father Ernest Alfred Roberts was conscripted in September 1941. Graded C3 (Unfit for frontline service) due to poor sight, fluid on knees, displaced spine, and a 'bleeder', he was eventually assigned to a supply depot in Slough. By this time he had been made a Corporal; as such he was second-in-charge to Sergeant Flint for the day-to-day operation of the depot, which was entirely staffed by women. Unlike *his* father, my dad had a Good War.

Bob Roberts

“History is five minutes ago”

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