

No.11
SEPTEMBER
1971

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Price: 2½p

YOUR HELP, please! Methuens publish an excellent series of county guides entitled '*THE LITTLE GUIDES*'. That for Suffolk has been reprinted many times. In the paragraphs dealing with our town it says: '*Haynings is a good example of Regency architecture but has been converted into a shop.*' This seems to mean that 'Haynings' is the building now occupied by Howards Stores, but many take the view that the Doctor's house on the opposite corner is 'The Haynings'. Green's '*HISTORY OF FRAMLINGHAM*' states '*Of old, this was a reputed borough, having its Borough-house...*' Mr Geo. O. Edwards wrote in his copy of Green's '*The Borough House was the house now known as the Haynings. So named by the family of Jeaffreson who at one time lived there.*' Can anyone bring more evidence, either way?

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FLEET STREET, the street of ink, is - in spirit - a thousand miles from us but, there, among a Victoriana window display (for a Liverpool newspaper centenary) was a railway map of Suffolk stated to be '*for Parliamentary session 1874-75.*' It was apparently to promote the 'Mid-Suffolk Railway', the proposed line shown as running from a point well south of Haughley on the Ipswich-Norwich line to Saxmundham on the Ipswich-Yarmouth line. It was to pass through Earl Soham and Framlingham. For some reason the line was not built but, in 1902, the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway was commenced. This was intended to run from Haughley to Halesworth but it never got beyond Laxfield. It opened in 1905 and closed in 1952. There were stations at Kenton, Worlingworth and Stradbroke.

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TRUNCHEON ACQUIRED Recently a letter arrived addressed to the 'Framlingham Museum' from a bric-and-brac shop near Sidcup, Kent. The proprietress, a Mrs. O'Connor, had come into possession of a Framlingham constable's truncheon bearing William IV's arms, and very kindly took steps to repatriate it to its town of origin, of which she had, regrettably, never heard (how 'iggerant' are the Irish). Our Curator, Mr Lanman, had been looking for one of these truncheons for the Museum. Your Committee accordingly was able to agree a price agreeable to both parties and this relic from the 1830's may now be seen in our Museum.

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GAZE or GAYS? In our ninth issue Mrs Jones related how our unlettered neighbours used sometimes to borrow the '*Marcury*' to read the '*gaze*' (pictures). Confirmation of the word is in Allan Jobson's book '*IN SUFFOLK BORDERS*' but he spells it 'gays'.

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More visitors to Suffolk seem to come well-prepared for their journeyings about our quiet but lovely countryside. If one happens to look through the windows of any of the cars parked outside the Crown Inn at Framlingham on the Market Hill at lunch-time in summer one is pretty sure to see either Pevsner's *SUFFOLK BUILDINGS*, Norman Scarffe's *SHELL GUIDE TO SUFFOLK*, or Arthur Mee's *SUFFOLK* lying on the back seat. More rarely does one see Munro Cautley's *SUFFOLK CHURCHES* lying there. Perhaps three guineas, shortly to be increased to five, is too much for a visitor to pay for what may be only a short stay, but this book really is itself one of Suffolk's treasures and we, in this county, are lucky to have it. Munro Cautley, for most of his life Surveyor to the Diocese of Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich, was a passionate student of matters ecclesiological and a very talented photographer as the remarkable illustrations in his wonderful guide show. The photographs of, among many others, our Framlingham organ, the Tudor Arms in the back board of Dallinghoo pulpit and the poppyhead bench-ends in Tannington and Dennington churches are masterpieces of the difficult art of church photography. (BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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SMUGGLING MEMORIES "The Preventive Men were armed and would use their cutlasses in any hand-to-hand encounters. But if armed they didn't always come off victorious because the daring of the smugglers was usually edged with country cunning. The Suffolk smugglers usual practice was, if they got the better of their enemies, to ram the captive's head into a rabbit-hole and drive a stake in between his legs. He could breathe but he couldn't get out: at least for some time."

BLACK SHUCK SEEN

We drifted into conversation with a young townsman at our table and when he mentioned that he had just come through Blythburgh Common, the writer enquired drily whether he saw Black Shuck there. He was quiet a moment and then surprised us by saying that a few months earlier he had had there a queer experience. He and two men friends were travelling in a car at twilight when he noticed a dark shape lolloping along just ahead of them. It continued until it turned off the road across fields. None of the three had spoken but after the shape had gone, one asked if the others had seen it, and all confirmed, adding that there seemed to be a chill at the time. They felt shaken from the experience and it took a fortnight for one of them to recover.

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In Issue 9 we gave appreciation to the contributions the two contemporaneous surgeons - Sir Henry Thompson and Dr. Jeaffreson - made to the town mentioning that the latter gave the well and shelter at The Haynings. Miss E. Brownsord has kindly, and aptly, put the record right by sending a copy of the inscription in the shelter: *'The funds for this water supply were promised by Anne Jeaffreson on September 29, 1896. The day week preceding her sudden death she gave the supply to Framlingham in tender remembrance of her dear Father and Mother William Jeaffreson (FRCS) 1844 and Caroline his wife. "To everyone that thirsteth come ye to the waters and he that hath no money, come ye".'*

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SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

There are a bewildering number of organisations dealing with the local history and related subjects of our county. Some very useful work is being carried out for co-ordination and cross-reference and one example has come to hand. Entitled '*SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY - A BIBLIOGRAPHY*' it is available at the reasonable price of 15p from its sponsors, Suffolk Rural Community Council, County Hall, Ipswich. The publications are listed under types and subjects and range from Directories and Tax Lists to Newspapers and from Archaeology to Dialect, Nonconformity and Industry. In many cases the place where they can be referred to are stated. There is a list of the principal repositories of record material and of publications giving assistance in reading documents both as to calligraphy and interpretation. The section 'General Works' names several books by which one might start tracing a family tree. The bibliography is a 'must' for all interested in local history.

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COMMON MARKET - AD 1300 Mrs Faith Packard sends the following extract from '*ENGLISH WAYFARING LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES*' by J.J. Jusserand.

"The maintenance of this intercourse (merchant trade) with the Continent which fortunately the variations in the laws of the land (14th Century) were unable to check, gave prominence in the Community (time of King Edward III) to the English merchant. He is already in the 14th Century, and has been ever since, one of the main supports of the State ... the advice & goodwill of the whole class of merchants could not safely be ignored ... some families among them rose to eminence. Like the De la Poles of Hull, who became Earls of Suffolk with descendants destined to die at Agincourt, to be checked by Joan of Arc at Orleans, to be made Dukes, and to be impeached for high Treason."

Mrs Packard adds: Some of these De la Poles lie in magnificent tombs in the chancel of Wingfield Church in Suffolk and a close connection is still maintained with the City of Hull. A beautiful stained-glass window in Wingfield Church was donated by that city some years ago. It is reassuring to think that a Common Market was so beneficial to English trade in the 14th Century as it may well be for us 500 years later.

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On 29th March Mr J.G. Coad, Asst. Inspector of Ancient Monuments, gave members some details of the excavations on which he had been engaged at the Castle. The objects were (1) to find the floor-level on which the Norman Castle was built; (2) to see if anything could be learned of the 1175 AD Castle, and (3) to see if anything of later buildings could be found. They had gone down 22 ft. to below the foundations of the curtain wall, which was, in fact, on made-up ground. In the soil they came across oak leaves and moss buried in the course of building in about 1200. No evidence was found of a Saxon castle, but this was not evidence that there was not one. Roger Bigod died in 1107 and his son probably built Framlingham Castle, which was of the motte (mound) and bailey (low embankment) type, like the castles at Eye, Norwich and Thetford. When the first (timber) castle was replaced by one of stone, the levelling of the motte led to an amount of built-up land. Our district having no stone the castle had unfortunately been a source of stone for local buildings. In 1808 alone several thousand cartloads of stone were taken. The excavators found several sherds and other objects and these were being studied.

THE GOLDEN CRADLE

Mary I in 1554 - at the age of 38 - married King Philip II of Spain. An heir, or heiress, would have ensured the Catholic Counter-Reformation and that faction received the news of her pregnancy with joy. The King of France sent her a cradle of gold which duly arrived at Framlingham where she was then staying. Unfortunately it had, in the meantime, been found that the symptoms were not of pregnancy but of an incurable disease. To save the Queen distress the authorities decided not to acquaint her of the gift and the cradle was whipped out of the castle at night and buried in a field near Earl Soham. The location of the field is known, but probably not of the gold cradle!

(Information from Mrs SPRINGFIELD and Mr TURNER)

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MR LANMAN REMEMBERS... Our genial Curator has a wealth of local knowledge and memories and it is one of the treats of life to hear him in his well-ordered studio quietly reminiscing, recalling one story after another and darting to produce some object, usually of considerable interest, to illustrate his tale. On the subject of elections he remembered the visit of Mr Stevenson, the Liberal MP for Eye Division. Outside the railway station the town band would be waiting and 18 or so men, each with a 9ft. pole, tar-soaked sacking at the end. The latter were in a circle, tar ends to the centre. The whistle of the engine at Lampardsbrook gate-house set all agog and a lighted match is thrown at the tar ends with a race to get all alight. By this time Mr Stevenson will have been welcomed officially, the band in full blast; he was then lifted into a four-wheeled waggonette. The procession - band, torches and all, plus innumerable excited kids, plus vociferous supporters - thus made its way to the meeting in the hall within the Castle. Pre-1914 elections were merry affairs - a Tory of Double Street woke to find his front door painted yellow, the Liberal colour. Later, a Liberal found his blue, the Tory tint. Eye was mainly a Liberal seat and the nearest the Tories attained was when the Marquis of Graham (of Easton) came within 200 votes of the Liberal. The jingles seem today somewhat insipid. 'Love one another and vote for the Marquis and we do so' while the Liberals sang 'Mary had a little lamb, his fleece was very blue, and every where that Mary went, that lamb would sure go,' - Mary being the Marchioness.

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ALDEBURGH VISIT

On 4th May about 20 members joined the coach and at the Moot Hall Mr Marsden, Councillor, gave a talk on its features. Built in the time of Edward I (actual year not known) the building has all the time been used as intended, viz. as a council chamber. Two streets seawards from the Moot Hall had been eroded by the sea, but today the threat from the sea is to the south of the town. The Vicar, Canon Oram, conducted us round the church, the tower and foundations of which date from 1390. The pulpit and also the reading desk date from 1632 though the font is 14th Century. A feature was the memorial - hammered copper on marble - to the seven men lost in the 1899 lifeboat disaster. The widow - for 70 years- of one of the drowned men had recently died.

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HOUSELEEKs

Many of us will have been treated with the ointment made from the houseleek that 'ice plant' (*sempervivum tectorum*) which grows on roofs like a giant green pin-cushion. Few are seen today but a good specimen can be seen in our town - on an outbuilding in Castle Street alongside the Hare & Hounds.

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SURVEY OF THE PARISH
OF BRANDESTON

Through the kindness of Brigadier Packard and of Mr R.P. Broad we have received a copy of this interesting publication. It represents considerable work by 32 boys, aged 8-13, of Brandeston Hall (Framlingham College Junior School) History Society mostly interviewing householders etc. The booklet is well organised with an introductory six pages (plus map and eight photographs) on the village including details from Domesday Book and White's 1844 Survey. In the other 40-odd pages each house (and the Churches and the Hall) is dealt with under eleven headings - name, reason for name, architectural features etc. This is excellent for reference. The publication is well in today's idiom of searching for, recording and co-ordinating local information and it will be a source of information long after the boys whose work it is have become grandfathers.

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Charlie - a successful dealer and farmer, enjoyed the product of the hop. When the pub closed, Charlie just about clambered into his old governess-cart and the horse did the rest. One night someone untied the horse which then assumed Charlie was aboard and made his way home. When Charlie came out later and found his conveyance gone they said his forceful comments could be heard in Saxtead three miles away.

A DAY TO REMEMBER ... Wednesday, 16th June, nine brave souls with mackintoshes over their arms and foreboding looks at the stormy sky boarded the bus at Easton for the outing to Ickworth House. Mrs Cooper led another twelve at Framlingham and the Saxtead contingent made the party up to twenty-eight. A very comfortable bus with large wide windows enabled us to enjoy the Suffolk countryside at its most beautiful. Showers along the way but the sun shone for our arrival on the open space of Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds, for centuries the site of Bury Fair. Here we dispersed with plenty of time to eat our packed lunches and enjoy a stroll round the town. Some enjoyed the beautifully-kept Abbey gardens, others the Museum in Moyses Hall, still standing where it was erected c.1180, and most of us paid another visit to the Cathedral in the former St. James' Church where the display of kneelers organised by our own Commander Sitwell is such a feature. Back in the bus in time to escape another shower and on to Ickworth where we were met by Curator Mr Joy. Most of us had been here at least once before and knew the 1,800-acre park and the astonishing great house. But a tour round the array of Bristol family portraits, ornaments and silver with skilled and intimate commentary by the greatest expert on the subject was something else. Afterwards some of us took photographs of the house and its Victorian formal gardens, at their lovely best, and then on to tea at the excellently run tear-house on the village. Home again, we felt we had gained new appreciation of the wealth of our Suffolk history in one of its most famous houses. (BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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OUR SEA SERPENT (after all, our title is 'AND DISTRICT')

In June 1931, Mrs Sybil Armstrong of Penn, Bucks, was eating 8 o'clock supper in the sitting-room of her rented bungalow on the edge of a low cliff at Thorpeness. With her were her governess and cook, and through the french-windows they suddenly saw in the sea a head, much larger than a man's, coming at great speed. Astonished, they rushed out and ran along the cliff trying to keep up with it. A great length of snake-like body was behind the head. Reaching a sandbank at Aldeburgh the serpent drew itself up on the sand and when its front end attained the other side, i.e. the open sea, it beat the water with its enormous oyster-coloured fins. It was estimated as five fishing-boat lengths, about seven feet thick and very agile. Mrs Armstrong's letter to the author stated that an account appeared in an October 1938 *TIMES* by the Vicar of Southwell (Southwold?) of an exactly similar creature seen by him together with twelve fishermen and two ladies. (From '*THE LEVIATHANS*' by Tim Dinsdale - very readable!) Those who have an open mind on these matters should read '*THE GREAT ORM OF LOCH NESS*' by F.W. Holiday; he deduces that 'Nessie' is a colony of giant molluscs, survivals of fossil times. Both books list many sightings with the ring of truth including one by a couple in a car who had to brake while a Nessie - 40ft. long - crossed the road to the loch. Our zoologist establishment is like the old lady seeing her first camel who exclaimed "I don't believe it!"

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It was with extreme regret that we learned that Brigadier and Mrs Packard would be leaving the district. Both have been towers of strength to the Society and Mrs Packard has been Vice-Chairman for the past two years and a committee member for the previous three. We thank them for their considerable help and wish them every happiness in their new life - in an exciting new development, the Barbican in the City of London itself. We are particularly glad that they will maintain their contact with the Society by continuing their membership.

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STOCK EXCHANGE DRAMA Perhaps our town's largest industrial group, Clarks the maltsters and Fram Eggs, were taken over some years ago by Bibby's (feeding-stuffs and a dozen other activities). From making a profit of nearly £2 million on Ordinary Capital of £8m they fell on harder times, followed by a board-room row. At the beginning of this year Bibby's shares were about 40p; board-room rows are intended to, and usually do, improve the management, and in a few months the shares rose to about 100p. Think! £1,000 invested in these shares at 40p would, in a few months, have become £2,500 ... IF (a big if) we had chosen the right times to buy and to sell! However, if we had bought at 100p our thousand would have shrunk to £800 because their earlier promise does not seem to have been maintained and their price has slid to about 80p.

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NEW MEMBERS WANTED ! Invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society.
Minimum Subscription ... 50p per annum.

Articles or information for this Newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to E.C. Shanks, 5 Howden Rd, London SE25 or Maypole Green, Dennington, IP13 8AH.