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Fram

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Price: 2½p

"£4,600,000 Offer for Fram" said the headlines. Visions of our town being 'developed', perhaps a skyscraper next the Castle ... but a second look showed that it was only a take-over bid for the Fram Group of civil engineers. But there was a time when Fram was handed over lock, stock and barrel (plus the Dukedom of Norfolk) ... as a reward for a slickly executed murder (see Issue 8).

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The House at Hamblestead Twenty or so years ago BBC steam radio had a series of talks under this title. It described the search for a site and, step by step, the various negotiations undertaken with officialdom and otherwise with a view to building an ideal home. As the series proceeded there were clues as to the whereabouts of 'Hamblestead'. It was in Suffolk, on sandy soil etc. The Editor combed the map but there was no Hamblestead shown. So the matter rested until a passing mention of the series to Mr Percy Stannard solved the problem. "That's our Blyth RDC Surveyor., Mr Lovell, and the house, named 'Hamblestead' is just below the church at Hacheston."

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Local Amazon Emotions ran high in 1914, especially in favour of the tiny countries, Belgium, Luxemburg and Serbia, so callously invaded by giant powers. A number of stalwart British women applied to join our army in fighting regiments. Turned down, several went to Serbia and joined the Serbian army. One was Capt. Flora Sandes, a name famous in 1914-18, who lived and died at Hacheston. A photograph in the July 1963 issue of the *EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE* shows Capt. Sandes in Serbian uniform with the seven medals she won in the campaigns and refers to the biography *'The Lovely Sergeant'* by Alan Burgess.

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Did he not trust Alice completely? Although we cannot take it all with us when we go we can still, as did Richard Owlys of Framlingham, dispose of and make comments as to the disposition of our worldly goods after our passing. Richard's will, proved on 25 September 1504, was to the point. After the usual obligatory preliminary and Godly statements it was in essence this: "I wish to be buried in the churchyard of St.Michael's; To the High Altar there in recompensing of my tythes forgotten, eightpence; To Robert Rosell my murry gown; To William Norman, if he is still with my wife, a pair of shears which I bought of Blynd and a gown; To my Godson at the Balys and to his sister, fourpence each; To my wife Alice my house and lands and goods, she to pay my debts and bring me to the earth, she to take no lewd fellow wherefor she should cast away such goods as we have gotten; To my Executors the residue of my goods."

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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Cornersare intriguing What will you find when you go round? It was not exactly a corner that Mr Jones turned but it was a misty daybreak on Stuston Common (14 miles NW of us). Suddenly out of the mist loomed three elephants in single file. The dusky custodian quickly tapped the leading one with his stick. The animal however, misunderstood and immediately went into his circus routine. Balancing on two legs, back and then front, dancing - there was no stopping. Mr Jones just had to brake and wait. Every moment was however appreciated - to his eight-year-old daughter it was entirely heaven-sent.

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Where did that 'L' come from? Canon Bulstrode was saying that our town used to be known as Framingham, without the 'L', and that our sister towns, Framingham Earl and Framingham Bigot in Norfolk omit the 'L'. The Canon reminded us that those place names showed that they were Bigod estates. It seems that our Massachusetts cousins are quite justified in omitting the 'L' in the name of our daughter town. Another unnecessary letter that has crept into our language is the 'U' in words like labour, colour etc. A hundred or so years ago we were spelling these labor, color, i.e. as spelt in the original Latin. We are, too, inconsistent because most words, e.g. victor, mirror, do not have the 'U'. *Walker's RHYMING DICTIONARY* (which lists words by their terminations) has twelve columns of words ending 'or' against 1½ of 'our'.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED ! Please invite your friends and neighbours to join the

Only 80 Years ago — In the 1890's Fred Harsent who used to farm Hill Farm, Dennington, was engaged as a farm labourer to be paid £16 a year plus board. Even that sum he did not get until later. One man had to scythe two acres of barley working 5 am. to 7 pm. The men worked in a line of six, staggered one behind the other, and the sing of the cutting reached a whistle with ripe barley. The senior man, first in line, set the pace, but one morning the youngster, last in line, showed his impatience by 'clipping' the one ahead of him. The leader saw this but said nothing, but when at 7 pm. the youngster was nearly flat with fatigue the leader, an exponent of the 'Suffolk slow stroke' observed that they would finish the job by carrying on for a few hours more.

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From EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES (17.1.72) — "Does anyone fancy being a lord of the manor? Well, someone can be for £775. That is the price being asked for the Lordship of the Manor of Okenhill Hall or Saxhams in Badingham. And quite a history it has, too. It goes back to Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book - but not by name. In early days it was known as Saxhams and was part of the great Malet holding. In the reign of Henry II it was held by Roger Gulafre. In 1311 Richard de Amoundeville was lord and it passed from that family to the Falstolfs, one of whom married Anne, daughter of Reginald Rous of Dennington. During Edward IV's (VI ?) it formed part of the Norfolk possessions held by the Crown and was given to the Princess Mary. In 1554 Thomas, (4th) Duke of Norfolk had the manor restored to him but lost it fifteen years later. It later passed to the Cornwallis family and eventually to William Folkes. When he died the manor was offered for sale when the rents were said to be £10.10.3., and with it a farm called Okenhill Hall, of about 177 acres let at £132 a year. In 1781 the manor belonged to John Baldry of Woodbridge who left it to the Rev. Christopher Jeaffreson. He sold it to James Gower in 1853. In 1871 the farm was sold to James Collins but not the manor which went to Harriet Crow. In 1906 it was conveyed to Henry Peacock and from him to the present lord who has asked me not to disclose his name. Apart from the title the purchaser will receive court books and deeds relating to the manor going back to 1568."

(Mr TONY MARTIN)

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Members' Treasures — On 26 January, Mr Kerr chaired a panel consisting of Mrs Webster, Messrs G.Cooper and Seeley and Comdr. Sitwell, to introduce 'Members' Treasures', of which the principal were: a gravy tureen of 19th Staffordshire ware (Mrs G.Fulcher); foot-high brass letter 'G' from a Garrett traction engine smoke-box and a Burrell eight-point star (Mr G.Cooper); in passing, Mr Cooper mentioned that in the 1939-45 war Garrett's of Leiston made the fastest 6-inch shell lathes in the world. Turkish officer's stirrup from Salonika (1914-18)(Mrs. Cooper); a Victorian doll of 1870-5, fully-clothed, unmentionables and all (Mrs. Webster); two paintings of our castle and town by F.G.Cotman(1850-1920) nephew of the famous Cotman. Painted about 1899 they were considered good contemporary views of accomplished technicality (Mr A.L.Martin); a Dutch child's clog, a meteorite found at Badingham, and a Lankester stone beer bottle of about 1810 (the writer); Comdr.Sitwell showed a magnificent model ship of 1795, a full working model which had taken him two years to make. A piece of 19th Century Parian ware, simulating marble, now much sought after (Mrs Watts); an Indian spoon and fork, Chinese salad spoon and fork and an Egyptian ivory paper knife (Miss Merrill). Canon Bulstrode displayed a grand pair of silver flagons belonging to the Church but now going to the Christchurch Mansion Museum, Ipswich, on permanent loan - the inscription recorded that they were given in 1742 by John Coggeshall, a townsman buried here. A porcelain jug, a 19th Century copy (Miss Roberts); a pair of framed pictures which were in fact ceramic tiles of Staffordshire make (Mr A.Pond); one of a set of 24 dessert plates, each a different colour of an unusual type (Miss Cutler); a pair of Elizabeth I rushlight holders made by a local blacksmith. Simplicity itself, one merely banged the spike into the oak beams (Mr Jones); a silver half-hunter bob watch of verge type dated 1850-60 and made by Baker, Woodbridge (Mr Hazelwood); a silver goblet inscribed 'Bramber Agricultural Show' and awarded 1810 for the best bull (Miss Cutler); miniature china dolls, termed 'Charlots', which were put in Christmas puddings in Victorian times; a Dutch silver spoon, 1890 (Mr Kerr); porcelain teapot of Queen Anne shape (Miss Mole); an engraving, after Holbein, of Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, and also the Great Seals of George III and Edward II (Mr A.L.Martin). Mr Turner exhibited a real collector's piece, a map of Suffolk by Saxton (1642); from Mr Jack Abbott came two pictures on glass, termed treacle pictures, by Jas Bateman of London, these having been in his family for over 150 years.

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The Framlingham Ghost — About sixty years ago, it was seen, a vague white form, behind the hedge on the path by the Castle. Hair-raising, but someone a little more suspicious investigated and found it to be a youth masquerading in a white sheet !

More evidence that, as G.B.Shaw thought, this planet is the lunatic asylum for the rest of the Universe. One-half of the human race has thought up the idea that the other half is inferior, mentally or otherwise. The fight for the emancipation of women took place mainly in the cities but our district provided one of the msot effective arguments viz. the first English-woman doctor of medicine. Her married name was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and she was the daughter of Newson Garrett, corn merchant. She must have occasionally accompanied her father when he attended the Framlingham Corn Exchange and visited local farmers. After qualifying she became a respected public figure and eventally Mayor of her hometown, Aldeburgh. She was the first woman mayor elected in England. Her sister Millicent ably supported the cause in a slightly different sphere, that of education and social reform. She married Henry Fawcett who, in 1880, became Postmaster-General even though blind (he introduced the parcels post, postal orders and the sixpenny telegram).

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It had been hoped that on March 27 Mr Kerr would have given a talk on the 'Paston Letters' of which he has made a study. Owing to illness this had to be postponed and the Editor filled the breach by giving a talk on his Russian holiday. It did not take long to find common ground. It was the Vikings (who called their homeland 'Russ') who first opened up the land now known as Russia; just as the Vikings (or Danes) were one of the two founding folk of East Anglia and of much of the rest of these islands. The founder of Moscow, Yuri Dolgoruki, was half-English — his mother was Gytha daughter of King Harold who died at Hastings. Then, there was the quaint circumstance that railway stations in Russia are called 'Vauxhalls' (Russianised to Vokzal) because a Czar when in London asked what an indicated building was called. The reply was 'Vauxhall' — it was Vauxhall railway station. The Speaker described the utter drabness of much of Russia but also the magnificence of the older buildings and museums and also of many modern buildings — all excellently maintained and free of vandalism. Tribute was paid to the kindliness experienced from ordinary people and to the fact that not a single tip was given or solicited. USSR-made slides gave glimpses of the wonders but did not do full justice to their subjects.

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The poverty of the displaced (by the enclosures) farmworkers and the general poverty in the countryside caused by the farming depressions during the first-half of last century aroused national concern. Enlightened landowners sank capital in building model cottages each surrounded by a piece of land which the tenant could cultivate more or less in his own way. John Tollemache laid out his estate in this way and the village of Helmingham remains almost exactly as he planned it, and the school he built in 1853 at a cost of £1,200 is still open. Each pair of semi-detached cottages is built on an acre of ground and thus each tenant had nearly a half-acre to farm. This they did, using the old hand tools which had been superseded on the farms themselves even using in 1964 a flail to thresh beans. The half-acre was divided by a central path and the cottage-dweller planted vegetables on one side and corn on the other, reversing this each later year. He got straw-bedding for his pigs free from the farm and in return let the farmer cart away any manure he did not want. A small seed drill had been made and the owner, one of the Helmingham tenants, hired it to his neighbours at 1/- a time — it has been in use for over 100 years. One man got 2½ coombs of wheat from his ¼-acre and gleaning from farm fields brought another 2½ coombs. In other words, this was almost the last of the old farming — subsistence farming, when the prime work of farmers and other countrymen was to produce food for their families from one harvest to another. This was changed by the 'money' economy under which farmers etc. sold their crops for cash and normally they would spend only a small proportion of that.

(from 'THE FARM AND THE VILLAGE' by G.E. Evans)

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Links with New Zealand Sometimes known as the founder of New Zealand, Edward Gibbon Wakefield (his grandmother was a relative of Gibbon the historian) was a cousin of Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker saint who did so much to alleviate the appalling conditions in the prisons of her day. Elizabeth probably knew our town because her father, John Gurney, had a branch of his bank here (later amalgamated with Barclays). Human nature can be a quaint mixture and Wakefield (who had lived at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds and may have known our town) certainly was. And resourceful too; aged 20, he eloped with a wealthy young girl, a ward in Chancery, and arranged for two carriages to leave her home. In one were Eliza and he, in the other a couple similarly dressed. The irate uncles followed the wrong carriage and our pair got to Ipswich. Wakefield even persuaded the Lord Chancellor as to the propriety of the marriage but three or so years later the wife died. In 1826 he abducted the schoolgirl daughter of a wealthy manufacturer, 'married' her at Gretna Green, was apprehended and eventually sent to prison for three years. There he started to develop his

More Old Place Names — Those seeking to relate the names of fields, houses etc. in old documents to those still in use oftener find the solutions in the wills of the better-off yeomen than anywhere else. They are, of course, impossible to trace when all of the names have completely disappeared or changed. The following extracts from the will of Richard Chambre of Framlingham, proved at Helmingham 5th July 1524, is full of the loveliest old names, e.g. To Katherine myu wife: the pightles called Peryes Pightle, Gylles Pightle, Gild Pightle, Hulver Pightle and Tonys Pightle; the tenements called Cranys, Langstrodys, Peryes and Stegyes; the parcels of land called Kings Croft, Alberts, Hallefeld, Hard Cattys, Whete Close, Moriellys, Harfrayes, Heryngs, Daffts in Saxtead, Grenys Land and Arnolds.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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Kilted East Anglians — 'The Douglas Cause', until recently at the Duke of York Theatre in London, by that well-known dramatist and national figure, William Douglas Home, with a cast including Andrew Cruickshank and Duncan Lamont, might sound an exclusively Scottish affair with little appeal to the East Anglian public. It deals very amusingly and well with an 18th Century scandal when the then Duke of Hamilton, the next heir to the Douglas estates, started proceedings against his cousin Jane Stewart who he alleged could not have been the mother of twin sons she said were born to her at the age of fifty. However, even in the 18th Century, the Hamilton family was well-known in East Anglia, though it was not until the death of his uncle, the 5th Earl of Rochford, in 1830, that Alexander, 10th Duke of Hamilton inherited the Suffolk estates. The 5th Duke had married as his third wife Anne Spencer, heiress of Rendlesham and Butley; on his death she married Richard Savage Nassau and their son was the 5th Earl of Rochford who died unmarried.

(*EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES* 17.1.72 per Mr A.L.MARTIN)

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Booth's *HISTORY OF FRAMLINGHAM* says that bowls have been played on the Castle bowling green for about 600 years. Our member, Mr Jack Hazelwood, reckons that play went back at least to the 1600's though in 1642 hemp was grown on the green, the game having been banned because it interfered with archery. Mr Hazelwood spoke of the origin of the bias on bowls as dating from the time when, to replace a broken bowl, a new bowl was contrived out of a piece of banister. The bias arose from the inability to balance the wood. The Castle green used to be saucer-shaped. Mr Hazelwood is President of the Framlingham Bowling Club.

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28.2.72. Meeting — Mr J. Salmon, BA, FSA, gave a talk on our East Anglian Heritage. The slides, in natural colour, of the buildings he discussed were of quite outstanding quality. Mr Salmon reminded us of the legacies from our forebears to be seen so near. At Badingham, Dennington (the only rood loft in the country), Wenhaston (the Doom picture), Lavenham (one big museum - at one point no house under 300 years old is to be seen). The Speaker mentioned that there are 170 round towers in East Anglia but only five in the rest of England. He thought this was because of the lack of building stone this being normally used to strengthen corners. Thus 'no corner' construction was the order of the day. It is currently thought that the art of brick-making died out after the Romans left until it was reintroduced well after the Norman Conquest. Mr Salmon considers that there is evidence that the art did survive during the intervening period.

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Suffolk Long Dawg — The owners and drivers of the old steam engines had considerable affection for their machines and their brass and copper-work was polished 'to see your face in'. They would beg, borrow or steal trophies to fix on their machines. One of the most favoured of these was the'Suffolk Long Dawg'. The one Mr Geo.Cooper has came off a Garrett traction engine but it must have been originally on a Garrett steam wagon on which it was the maker's distinguishing mark just as today's Jaguars have the jaguar head. It was not a dog but a somewhat elongated leaping lioness with the words 'Strength : Silence : Stability' superimposed.

(Mr GEO. COOPER)

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Smuggling Days — Betsy Backhouse used to tell how when she was a child her face had been washed in beetroot water and she had been put to bed on a mattress stuffed with 'all mander of things'. When the house was searched the Customs men were invited by her old high-pitched falsetto-voiced mother to see the 'poor dear'. But on opening the door and noticing her face they made off, fearful of that everlasting scourge — smallpox. (*from 'A WINDOW IN SUFFOLK' by Jobson*)

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Articles or information for this Newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to