

**FRAMLINGHAM nearly obliterated?** During the War very many of us were an inch away from death. Recently, thanks to the tenacity of purpose of a young Suffolk P.C., parts of the plane in which Lieut. Joe Kennedy (his brother later became President of the USA) died have been found in a Blythburgh wood. This courageous youngster and his co-pilot were engaged in an attempt (six such attempts had previously failed) to fly a bomber stuffed with 12 tons of explosive into the steel doors of an underground flying-bomb launching-site near Calais. Over Kent the two were to have climbed out of the aircraft nose to parachute down. On 12.8.44. they started off near Diss flying to our town where they made a scheduled turn towards Beccles also changing over to control by a following 'mother' plane. The plane had diverged a little from course (towards Blythburgh) and the controller in the 'mother' plane corrected this by turning Kennedy's plane slightly to port. At that point the plane and its load blew to smithereens. It is thought that the trigger device for setting off the explosive had been activated by signals from a radar station (an anti-V2 rocket project). Terrible as the loss of these valuable young lives was, that rogue signal might have come when the plane was over our town with the loss of additional lives etc. The plane was being followed by a Mosquito which was to have photo'ed the blowing-up of the target. In that plane was Col. Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, and he witnessed the destruction.

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**1,000 YEARS OLD FIRE** Oaken Hill Hall, Badingham, is shaped like a 'T'. Centrally placed on the top stroke was, sixty years ago, the kitchen chimney. One could look up the five foot square fireplace to see stars in the day-time. Climbing rings went right up and on high a ham would hang, being cured in the wood smoke. The fire would be permanent, just blown into action each morning. Forty years ago a Sunday newspaper had a bout of correspondence as to the oldest living fire. Many were claimed as hundreds of years old, but it was stated that one or more remote farmhouses in France had fires in the region of 1,000 years old. Are there any local 'aged' fires?

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**DOG BUTTER MAKERS** In East Anglia we have not, it is thought, enlisted the help of our dogs as they have in other districts. In Wales, for example, butter-churning was dog's work. A slatted circle acted as a treadmill, set at an angle of about 40 degrees, the axle of which had fixed below it a barrel churn. The dog jumped onto the slats, his chain was fixed to the wall and off he went, padding gently along but getting nowhere except that the churn was revolving. The dogs became so expert that as soon as the butter turned they stopped and sat down. Were there any local examples?

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**MARDLIN'** In our 5th issue we mentioned the ponds called 'mardes', near Beccles, in which women tended the locally grown flax. The buzz of conversation was the basis for the East Anglian word 'mardle', to gossip. An article in the *EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE* states that the pond in the centre of Lound, near Lowestoft, is known as 'Lound Mardle', *mardelle* having been Norman French for 'pond'. Obviously the village pond would have been a centre of village life — and gossip.

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Canon Bulstrode mentioned the old saying that there's always fog on Saxtead Green. This could well have been because it was formerly a marsh. The present road past the Modern School to Saxtead Green is comparatively new (could it have been the 'New Street' after which Danforth's farm was named?) Our 9th issue recorded Mr Jones' comment that the Green has in effect a moat around it. These could have been drainage ditches. The road to Saxtead was probably that beside the Mills Almshouses via Linkhorns Barn, Pepper's Wash and Saxtead Bottoms.

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**THOSE PILLAR-BOXES** We recorded in our last issue that we had pointed out to the *SUNDAY OBSERVER* their error in naming us 'Framlington'. Since then we have had a friendly letter from the Asst. Editor apologising for the misspelling, noting for the future and regretting that there is room for so few of the letters they receive. Our point (and theirs) is taken.

THE PASTON  
LETTERS

On 6th November, our Chairman, Mr Kerr, gave a most interesting talk on the Paston Letters, the correspondence and papers of the Paston family during the reigns from Henry V to VII inclusive which had miraculously survived until today (and are now in the British Museum). At that time there were in this country several languages or dialects of English; Caxton the printer chose the dialect used at Court and the Paston Letters were in this also (in due course it became Standard English). Mr Kerr gave a brief sketch of conditions at that time, of an England of 2½ millions, of an East Anglia with large areas of forest and uncultivated land. The French wars ended in 1450 and there was a scramble for properties especially by those enriched by the wars. The founder of the family fortunes was Sir Wm. Paston whose father 'a peasant with 100 acres' had him trained as a lawyer. As such he successively became steward to the Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, a judge and a knight. His son, also a lawyer, fell out with the Earls of Norfolk and Suffolk and these latter attacked with hundreds of men. Two generations later Margery Paston, against her family's wishes, married Richard Calle, steward of the Duke of Norfolk at Framlingham. A later Paston wife successfully defended a family residence against a determined attack by Lord Molens. The letters are valuable additionally in the light they show on the everyday happenings of those times. For example, they include the first mention, in 1459, of playing cards in English history.

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In the earlier years of this century a popular series of boys' books were *King Solomon's Mines*, *Allen Quartermain*, *She*, etc. by Rider Haggard. This writer lived at Ditchingham just over the Norfolk border from Bungay. Though most of his books had African settings some included scenes of his homeland. The story *The Witch's Head* for example opens at Dunwich almost the nearest coast to us. Another opens in the valley of the Waveney in the Middle Ages when a monastery maintained a vineyard there. A daughter, Liliias, wrote on rural subjects, mainly of that district, recently died.

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FAIRY LOAVES

Most of us must at some time or another have found in our garden soil a fossil sea-urchin (only about 90,000,000 years old). Our ancestors invented various charming explanations for them. They were, they said, fairy loaves - "If there be one in the house you will never want bread". An echo of the hard times of yesteryear. Some housewives used to polish them with black lead and place them on the hob or mantelpiece.

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FRAMLINGHAM SNIPPETS  
in the  
IPSWICH JOURNAL

Having missed my train connection back to London I spent a couple of hours in the Ipswich Library browsing through that delightful old newspaper *THE SUFFOLK MERCURY*, predecessor of *THE EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES*. Fram readers might like to share with me some fascinating items from two centuries or so ago. Here they are . . .

"Ipswich April 17 1736. Last Saturday was executed here George Chandler for horse stealing. All the time he lay under Condemnation he behaved in a very audacious manner (tho' notwithstanding he owned the fact) yet he was resolved to die intrepid. At the place of execution he took no notice of his salvation but requested of several persons to see him buried at the town from whence he came, which was denied him, on which he was buried near the gallows. He was born at Saxtead near Framlingham. Aged near 30 years." (A Suffolk bor to be proud of, say I - J.P).

"Dennington June 30 1764. An oak was lately felled here the body of which was perfectly sound and contained 13 loads and 35 feet of timber. There were of the Wrongs and Pieces (not less than six inches girt) five loads, and of Round-wood five loads; besides Faggot and small wood." (Not many like that left round Dennington now! - J.P).

"Framlingham March 13 1784. At Framlingham are boarded and carefully instructed in useful knowledge and all kinds of needle-work, at Twelve Guineas a year, and one Guinea Entrance, by S.Norris; who returns her most grateful acknowledgements to her friends for the encouragement she has met with - she entreats a continuation of their kindness, and begs leave to assure them and the public, that the strictest attention shall be paid to the morals and education of the young ladies intrusted to her care. N.B. Writing, Arithmetic and Dancing by proper Masters." (Perhaps Miss Norris was a predecessor of the two boarding schools noted by Wm White in 1844 as being in Double Street - J.P)

- BRIG. JOHN PACKARD

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UBBESTON DISCOVERY

Methuen's *LITTLE GUIDE TO SUFFOLK* says of Ubbeston "The Church stands near Ubbeston Wood on a site thought to be a Roman encampment but no evidence so far has been discovered to prove this assumption." In the past month or so that evidence has been found.

**BELL-ROPES** Money is a marvellous device. It is both a store and an accumulator of wealth. A whole paraphernalia of the use of money, currencies, exchanges etc. has been developed almost unconsciously and this is largely responsible for the very high stand of living enjoyed by most of the population in developed countries. Before this development things were more complicated. For example, a generous benefactor years ago wished to provide bell-ropes for the church bells in perpetuity. This he did by giving to the church some 3 acres 36 perches of land. Thus already for nearly 400 years that land has been let to successive tenants and that income has gone to provide, and is today providing, those bell-ropes. Since the time of the bequest three bells have been added but ropes for those have to be charged to general funds. Bell Rope Meadow is on the left past Lampards Brook Farm on the Kettleburgh Road 'abutting on the King's Highway'.

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**MINI-TALKS** On 11.12.72. Tony Martin gave the first of the Mini-Talks, this on Henry Howard (1517-1547) Earl of Surrey whose magnificent alabaster tomb is perhaps the finest in our church. His father, the cruel and unlikeable 3rd Duke of Norfolk, was king in his own country but never gave Surrey any part in ruling those estates. Surrey withdrew into a romantic world of his own based on Sir John Mallory's romanticised view of the Knights of the Round Table. He took up tilting in forms hundreds of years out of date and wrote poems based on romantic Provencal poetry. Court life was constant guerilla warfare and Surrey despised this. In himself he was undisciplined and repeatedly transgressed court rules e.g. by brawling within the precincts of the court. The final issue was his use of the heraldic arms of a royal ancestor, Edward the Confessor, without formal sanction. He was condemned to death for treason and was beheaded only nine days before Henry VIII died.

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"Wool and East Anglia" was the title of the Mini-Talk given by our Badingham member, Mr W.L.Stuart — interesting and well-researched. Wool processing has been a Suffolk industry since Roman times as is evidenced by the term 'carding'. This is derived from the Latin *carduus*, a thistle, grown for use in this process. Over the centuries Suffolk has had more part in the making of cloth than any other county and its zenith was reached in the 14th century. Credit was due to Edward III for inviting to this country the Flemings who were skilled in cloth-making (the word 'webster' now a surname was Flemish for weaver). Success was such that in that century English wool cloth was considered the best in the world. The Industrial Revolution started 200 years before Arkwright (inventor of the spinning frame) by the introduction of fulling mills which required running water. The slow Suffolk rivers were unsuitable and the Suffolk wool industry died about the end of the 16th century though flax and sail-making took its place. The importance of the wool industry is shown by the many terms, words and phrases derived therefrom, such as spinster (originally applied to married as well as to single women) and the surname Walker i.e. one who walks to full or thicken etc. the cloth.

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The third Mini-Talk, by the Secretary, dealt with Nicholas Danforth, the Framlingham churchwarden and farmer who emigrated to New England in 1635. In those days the duties of the churchwardens covered much of what is today done by Government departments and Councils. He and his family with their experience of how things were run — and their basic reliability — were towers of strength in the new community. Members of our society had done important work in fact-finding. John Booth compiled two booklets relating to Danforth, both published by the Framingham, Mass. Historical Society. The second of these had recorded how our Miss Brunger had traced Danforth's farm (New Street Farm, opposite the Modern School). These publications had stimulated research on both sides of the Atlantic. For example, it now appeared that Danforth left in 1635 and not 1634. Thus the surmise that he went on the GRIFFIN seems wrong. He was friendly with the Rev. Shepard (who later went to New England) who had been hailed before, and threatened by, Archbishop Laud for his puritanical views. This must have contributed to Danforth's apprehensions for the future here. Now Brig. Packard puts forward the quite feasible theory that Danforth could be identified with the Dernford family of Sweffling. They had been Lords of that Manor from 1327 onwards but disappeared from the records of that village in 1568 at more or less the time they appeared in Framlingham records.

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**REMEMBER ?** The twenty or so very tall Lombardy Poplars on the Badingham Road just beyond the right turn to Cransford and before Moat Farm (with the pargetting) — sixty years ago it was "Charlie Chambers'". Who planted that spectacular row ... and why? Towards the north-end one tree was missing and beyond had it that it had fallen — as poplars are prone to — and had killed someone.

#### GLAMOROUS FRAM

Life is a mixture of the humdrum and the interesting. Too often the business of just living prevents us from realising what is interesting in our lives. In his sphere the artist selects and portrays the beauty often to be found in everyday, even sordid, surroundings. We ordinary mortals may find this somewhat difficult. For example, what a glamorous place is our town. This soil, these streets were traversed by famous people galore. It is a reasonable assumption that Queen Boadicea visited this part of her dominions. Redwald, King of the East Angles about 600 AD, was here. St. Edmund, last King of East Anglia, was besieged by the Danes here in 870. St. Felix probably visited. King John captured the Castle without a fight in 1216 and he stayed there. Henry III stayed at the Castle in 1235, 1248 and 1256. Edward I (Longshanks) also stayed in 1277. Queen Mary I was there in 1553. Vast numbers of peers of the realm and of the church and many other interesting people have been here.

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Some of our most loyal members are miles from Framlingham. They are with us in spirit and we thank them for their support. There is Mr C. Danforth Saggus, Nicholas Danforth's descendant, who is a professor in the southern USA town of Augusta, Georgia. Mrs J. Hansell of Barnes, London (herself and her husband both doctors of medicine) appreciates our town and district and has had sons at the College for some years. Miss Winifred Friend of Streatham Hill, London, was born in London but loves our town and district; her father, Orlando Friend, was born in our town having lived in the 200-year-old house next Barclays Bank. This was only recently sold by Miss Friend. Her father left the town to be apprenticed in London to a draper; later he founded his own successful drapery business.

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An interesting series of pamphlets has been produced by "The Standing Conference for Local History". These include ...

"Ways and Means in Local History" - 55p (points the way to the study of local history)

"Hedges and Local History" - 50p (how to date and what use may be made)

"Tape Recording of Local Dialect" - 7p (guidance, pitfalls and how to document)

"Medieval Farming Glossary of Latin and English Words" - 38p (based on Essex manorial records 1200-1600)

"Crafts, Trades and Industries - a Book List" - 13p.

"How to read a Coat of Arms" - 20p.

"Directory for Local Historians" - 13p (lists organisations, authorities and record offices)

"Some types of Common Field Parish" - 18p (topographical and economic aspects of the agrarian lay-out of parishes)

"Ordnance Survey Maps - an Historian's Guide" - 50p (maps as a primary source of evidence)

also a quarterly magazine "The Local Historian" - 25p. The CASTLE BOOKSHOP has offered to make up an order for any of the above and should be contacted direct.

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We have had a genial letter from Miss Elisabeth Patch, Member of the Board of Managers of the Framingham, Mass, Historical and Natural History Society, sending good wishes from their society to ours. She mentions that Mrs Bale and her son from Framlingham visited Framingham last year. The Massachusetts society notehead depicts 'The Old Academy, Home of the Society'. We look forward to the time when some public-spirited person presents a headquarters to our society!

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#### UNKNOWN GENIUSES

An article many years ago in the *EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE* drew attention to the series of exquisitely designed and carved tombstones in graveyards on the Norfolk-Suffolk border, the work of an unknown. In his talk last April Mr Arnott surmised that the churches of Framlingham, Dennington and Laxfield showed evidence of having been the work of the same architect. Mr Arnott also mentioned that Wm. Paterson, Diocesan Architect in the early 19th century, was responsible for many local rectories.

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Even today we hear disparaging remarks about "the sheers", the counties to the west of us. They undoubtedly are quite quaint. Don't their horses grow feathers? (The hair above the hocks that Shire horses have but that Suffolk Punches do not)

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#### NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Please invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society. Minimum subscription 50p a year.

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Articles or information for this newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to Mr E.C. SHANKS, 5 Howden Road, London SE25 4AS or Mavpole Green, Dennington, IP13 8AH.