

Membership of the Society has been steadily increasing and is now over 170. About half of our members live in Framlingham, eleven in Easton, ten in Saxtead, six each in Badingham, Dennington and Sweffling; Brandeston, Earl Soham and Kettleburgh each send five; from Cretingham come four and from Parham three. Two each from Brundish and Hacheston; one each from Bruisyard, Monk Soham, Otley, Peasenhall and Sibton. From Ipswich come two; four from East Anglia north of Laxfield and six from outside East Anglia. This splendid increase of members has been due to the excellent teamwork of all our members. Thank you.

* * *

SOME LOCAL DRAPERS Perhaps there was something about the trade of the draper, the ability to account for innumerable small items of stock; the supple brain for calculating 5½ yards at 1/3¼d. a yard; the smooth address for calming irate lady customers, which accounts for the number of very distinguished local families the drapery trade has produced. As those present heard at Mr Serjeant's fascinating talk to members on 27 February, Mr John Cotton bought Earl Soham Lodge in 1617 from the Corderoy family. His mother and father were both from drapers' families. His father, Sir Allen Cotton, Lord Mayor of London in 1625, Draper and Master of the Drapers' Company, is the ancestor of the Hambling family of Yoxford and the Cotton families in Framlingham and district. The Kilderbee family of Framlingham, who lived originally in Commander Sitwell's Ancient House and later in the Guildhall, came to Suffolk from London to start their drapery business here. The family prospered and among its sons were Samuel Kilderbee, Town Clerk of Ipswich, his son Samuel, Rector inter al. of Campsea Ash, Dallinghoo, Trimley St. Mary and Easton, his grandson Spencer Kilderbee, M.P. for Aldeburgh, Orford and Newcastle-under-Lyme, who married the daughter of the Earl of Stradbroke and later changed his name to the aristocratic sounding Horsey de Horsey. Then there was James Clarke, draper of Easton (1798-1861), noted antiquarian, lover of art, bibliophile, numismatist etc. not to mention the doggerel poet-author of those locally well-known lines: *'Easton that delightful village, placed in district fine for tillage, Where Wingfields dwelt in times of yore, and Nassaus since the Prince came o'er.'* He contributed several interesting items to the British Archaeological Association. He was a friend of the more learned though self-taught historian and genealogist of Dennington, Edward Dunthorne. Unlike James Clarke, Edward fails to rate a mention in the *DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY*. The Milligen family, drapers of Harleston on the Norfolk border, which produced Field-Marshal Sir Richard Dacres, Admiral Sir Sidney Colpoys Dacres and Surveyor of the Navy Sir Robert Seppings, is perhaps a little far away to be included properly in Framlingham and district. However, it may deserve a mention as my wife is a direct descendant of both Sir Robert Seppings and his grandfather John Milligen, the original Glaswegian born linen-draper of Harleston. He made himself a fortune and lies buried under the aisle of Shouldham Church in Norfolk since 1762. (BRIGADIER PACKARD)

* * *

BROADWATER HOUSE lies on the outskirts of our town on the Parham Road. Here lived Mr Pierson who brought the railway to Framlingham (need he have bothered); Mr Tetley, founder of the firm now famous for tea and tea bags also used to live there.

* * *

BRICK FOUNDATIONS At the turn of the century Peter Smith had a brickworks off Station Road on the Kettleburgh Road. His two sons volunteered for the Boer War. In the course of their service they travelled miles across South Africa and they spotted brickearth to the south of Johannesburg. Opting to be demobbed in South Africa they set up a straw hut and set to making bricks. It was just the right time and place and they supplied bricks for the considerable expansion of Jo'burg. They climbed to affluence and at least twice their children did the Grand Tour of Europe in style, this including our town, the source of their family's character and resource.

* * *

BACK NUMBERS, PLEASE We shudder to think of the pearls of wisdom in these pages ever being consigned to the fire. In fact, if anyone does have copies they do not want we would be happy to give them a home. Quite a number of back issues have been called for, and one (No.2) is now out of print. Stocks of some others are quite low.

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

A CENTURY AGO

May 1876 reports of cases at Framlingham Court House before Capt. Round Turner, Rev. Pooley, Rev. Porter and Lt-Col. Long: local farmers, Mr M.Girling and Mr J.Thurlow, complained of the bad state of the road from Badingham Road to Countess Wells. The road had been repaired by the surveyors until Mr Cupper became surveyor. The New Road from Well Close Square to the Great Lodge had caused more traffic to be thrown on the road and it seemed hard for them to repair the road for other people. Mr Girling, replying to the Bench, said the new road was a private one made by the adjoining estate. Mr Goodwin, one of the surveyors, said the road did not belong to the parish and had not been repaired by them for about nine years. The tenant could put a lock on the gate across the road if he chose to do so. The magistrate stated that as the question of right was raised they could not help unless a summons was taken out. (Mr JOHN BRIDGES, whose family has had an ironmongery/blacksmiths business in our town for nearly 200 years).

* * *

DAY OF WEEK

Thank you for your replies to our enquiries as to your preferred day of the week/month for our meetings. 12% replied and this suggests that the greater majority broadly accepted Monday as our day of meeting. Of those who replied 50% opted for Monday and a further 33% for alternative days which included Mondays. One member wished for Tuesday, one for Thursday, one for Friday (balanced by one who said 'not Friday'). Of those opting for Monday, only one half-expressed any wish as to the 1st, 2nd etc. in the month, and all these for the first Monday in the month, one member making the excellent point that 'the first Monday' is easiest to remember. The information will be borne in mind by the Program Sub-committee which is now dealing with next session's meetings. It will be appreciated that other factors, eg. availability of speakers, the hall, etc. have also to be considered.

* * *

800-YEAR COPSE

Oaken Hill, Badingham (after which Oaken Hill Hall was named) has a gentle slope to the White House. On the right or east side there was until about twenty years ago a long wedge-shaped copse of trees. That tiny wood must have been there upwards of 800 years because it is shown in the Domesday (1086) map of the area. Domesday Book, William the Conqueror's detailed assessment of his conquest, is on view to all in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. The attendant will, on request, turn the pages to show any specified district.

* * *

The Bigod surname features in a book by Maureen Peters (*STRUGGLE FOR A CROWN*). A central character is Roger Bigod of about 1277, a particularly brutal and unpleasant Norman knight. No mention is, however, made of our town nor of the Norfolk earldom though the background history is basically correct as to Llewellyn's (and his brother David's) endeavour to maintain a degree of Welsh independence.

* * *

MEMBERS' TREASURES

On January 22 'Members' Treasures' were reviewed with the help of a panel consisting of Mrs Webster, Messrs Kerr, Lanman and Martin. Among the objects on view were: a Delft ware plate (English, 18th c.), a delightful chatelaine, including a tiny book with ivory leaves for notes, a satinwood knife-box with tulipwood inlays (of exceptionally high quality); steel engravings, hand-coloured of the 'antiquities of Framlingham and Saxtead'; oak bird-scarer (the boy received 1/- per week!); 1920 crystal set; opaque painted glass pictures; glass scent bottle (continental, late 19th c.); scent bottle of Bohemian or Venetian glass (made by dipping in molten red glass and grinding off to pattern); Lowestoft cream jug in form of a bird; set of Bedfordshire lace bobbins; steel rushlight snuffer; Stone Age axe-head; musical box (birdsong); Lord of Manor (Framlingham) book of 1711; police truncheon (abt.1802); 1689 engraved silver box; a metal and ivory card case. Mr Kerr invited members to identify a mystery object; it proved to be the lower end of a roof timber and the successful namer received a prize from Mr Kerr.

* * *

Miss Bertha L.Cook attended our meetings regularly until about a year ago and often would mention her memories of happenings in our district over her long life. She will be remembered by our members with affection. Miss Cook passed away last year. She left to the Society a picture, about 3' x 2', believed to have been by Geo. Morland (though not now thought to be). It depicts what could be a Suffolk evening scene of an inn (The Bell) with farm-workers.

* * *

SIZZUMS

Do you remember this old word? - meaning 'nonsense' like the reply to a child's "Mother, I've an ache in my big toe." "Sizzums, don't think so much about yourself." Miss Ella Brownsord said she had heard it used to mean 'a fraud' e.g. "He was a sizzum". The sense is similar.

DENNINGTON, AUSTRALIA In our issue No.15 we told how these Aussie districts got their names, ascribing this to Sir Chas.Hotham who had boyhood memories of our Dennington (of which his father was Rector) and Framlingham. We are indebted to Mr Wm.Stuart for pointing out that we anticipated history in that the office of Governor-General of Australia was not created until Federation in 1901. Sir Charles was in fact Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria. Mr Stuart, who lived in Melbourne for fourteen years details for us the background to the happenings. On 1 July 1851 the 'Port Phillip District of New South Wales' became the separate and independent State of Victoria. The first Lieutenant-Governor was Charles Joseph La Trobe until May 1854 when Sir Chas.Hotham became Lieutenant-Governor. Gold was discovered in Victoria in 1851 and this led to a gold-rush. Trouble eventually arose in the gold-field at Ballarat due to the increase to £2 of the miners' monthly licence. The miners refused to pay. When the miners were threatened with military action they armed themselves and built the 'Eureka Stockade' as a rallying point. The miners' leader was Peter Lalor (pronounced Lawlor) a Trinity College graduate. A military force was sent from Melbourne to Ballarat including several companies of the 12th (later the Suffolk Regiment) and 40th Regiments with 2 field pieces and 2 howitzers and a company of marines. Before dawn on Sunday, 3 December 1854, a force of 270 men including cavalry attacked the stockade. Twentyone miners and six soldiers were killed or died of wounds. A number of miners were taken to Melbourne and tried, but all were acquitted. Afterwards the licence system was abolished and 'Miners' Rights' substituted(at an annual fee of £1, later 2/6d). IN 1855 Hotham ceased to be Lieutenant-Governor and Lalor became a member of the Victorian Parliament, later a Minister and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

* * *

FRAMLINGHAM The seventy volumes of the *FWW* in our Museum, covering about WEEKLY NEWS 70 years to 1924, were on loan only but the opportunity came for the Society to buy these. Your Committee has now effected this. The East Suffolk & Ipswich Archivist supports the preservation of this almost unique survival and has complimented the Society on this acquisition.

* * *

On 26 February Mr W.R.Serjeant, Archivist to both Ipswich Council and to the East Suffolk County Council, gave a talk to members on Earl Soham Lodge. Mr Serjeant said that it is not known when the first house on the site was built but Domesday Book mentions one (1087). Its annual value was £18.13.4d. on which a tax of 8½d was payable. A little later the house came into the possession of Hugh Bigod, first Earl of Norfolk, and for some time shared the fortunes of the Norfolk estates. In the List of Historic Buildings the house is described as 16th century with 18th c.additions. Mr Serjeant mentioned the interesting documents his office had accumulated and showed several slides of them. There was the 1347 Court Roll of the Manor, a 1439 Inventory, Surveys at 1449 and 1632, the 1657 Document of Sale by John Cotton to the Earl of Hereford (whose family held the house for 100 years). John Cotton — the London draper — had established and recorded the duties of each member of the staff. Mr Serjeant demonstrated slides of doors in the present house which could have come from earlier structures. Canon Bulstrode expressed the thanks of members for this excellent talk.

* * *

AS OTHERS SEE US Te Horeta Taniwha, a Maori boy who watched Capt.Cook land in New Zealand, later in life related that '... when our old men saw the ship they said it was a TUPUA, a god, a demon, an object of terror and the people on board were strange beings. The ship came to anchor and the boats pulled to shore. As our old men looked at the manner in which they came in shore, the rowers pulling with their backs to the bows of the boat, the old people said "Yes, it is so; these people are goblins; their eyes are at the back of their heads; they pull on shore with their backs to where they are going".'

* * *

SEX etc. INVENTED The young of the species really believe they invented sex, the 1973 ? permissive society etc.etc., but they are mistaken — it's been going on for millions of years. Take this business of living in communes, this has been going on for years and seventy or so years ago we had a local example. At Purleigh, near Chelmsford, a group of people pooled their resources and bought an estate to live communally in accord with the ideas of — Tolstoi. The age-old battle between the talkers and the doers ensued and very soon the colony broke up. Some of them tried again and formed another colony at Whiteway in the Cotswolds (without the benefit of the golden circle) and this was rather more successful. Not entirely so, but descendants of the originals live there today.

* * *

BUG EMIGRANT

A Victorian writer pointed out the close relationship between many words in the New England usage and those of East Anglia. This he attributed to the fact that so many of the settlers were of East Anglian origin. He instanced the word 'bug' which was East Anglian for beetle, and he recalled how Chas. Dickens was so shocked when he heard it thus used by a lady in America. Now, of course, it is a generally accepted word not only for insects in general but also for any germ of unknown character that attacks the human system. Presumably it came back to us from its adopted home. Americans also use the old Suffolk name for a ladybird, viz. golden bug.

* * *

ROYAL BUGS

Today cinemas, factories etc. have contracts with firms that eradicate specified (and only those specified) body and other vermin. One such firm dates back to the 1600's and actually had such a contract with King Charles' Queen. Tactfully however, they do not publicise this.

* * *

LOCAL SAINT

Sixty years ago the only mill at Badingham was Tuck's on the Roman Road between the Mustard Pot, that square flint-faced house above the gentle Alde valley, and the Bowling Green pub. Later, the bearings overheated in a storm and the mill was burned down. In a thatched house (still there) at right angles to the road lived the miller and his wife. Mrs Tuck was a friendly, characterful soul, always helping others. In particular, she was the main support of the tiny Chapel halfway to the Bowling Green. Times were however difficult and money came in oh! so slowly for her organ fund. She wrote to the Carnegie Trust and back came £5 (say, £50 in today's currency). The ways of Providence are, however, strange because after a lifetime of service this saint had for many years to look after a trying husband, bedridden because it was said he had slept in a damp bed in an hotel.

* * *

We have received a cheery letter from Miss Marjorie Sankey in Lincolnshire who was, unfortunately, taken ill just before Christmas. Miss Sankey is hoping to move to a nursing home in Grantham where her cousin had a medical practice. Miss Sankey used to pen-letter and distribute our posters advertising our meetings and one of her first thoughts after being taken ill was to send us a postcard warning us to make other arrangements. Her latest letter indicates her wish to continue with the posters - valiant soul that she is!

* * *

MASS PRODUCTION
BC 3000

Some misguided folk speak of mass (or quantity) production as if it were a diabolical crime. It is nearly as old as humanity and it has been the means of raising to a high standard of living an increasing proportion of the human race. In fact it is almost only those who have not developed agricultural and industrial mass production techniques who are the backward nations of today. Almost the first mass production was the keeping of cattle in herds, the cultivation of corn in monoculture fields - an interference with Nature if ever there was one. All those glorious fields of warm brown corn are a reminder that this first gave humanity time to develop a civilisation. We have near us 34 miles away at Grimes Graves a factory or mass production site of about 3000 BC. At that early time there were men mining flint full-time, others knapping axes, spearheads, axeheads, arrowheads etc. This implies that there were wholesalers buying from the mass producers and possibly retailers in the distant areas to which the flint axes etc. were taken.

* * *

HE BIT IT

In 1845 just before sailing to explore the north-west passage via the north of Canada to the Pacific, Sir John Franklin's ships 'EREBUS' and 'TERROR' were anchored in Aldeburgh Bay. In discussing the difficulties to be faced in that vast ^{ice} region Sir John said to a visiting Suffolker, "If I can't cut through it, I'll bite it." Not only he but every man-jack in the expedition perished. In this century the final stages of their story has been traced. Furthermore Stefansson, the Norwegian-Canadian expert on the frozen lands, showed that the inflexibility of the official mind had prevented them from copying the Eskimos who live their lives out on what is available in that country.

* * *

Around 1914 Mr Mattin, licensee of the White Horse, Badingham, had a claim to fame in that he (with some wifely help) had had 21 children twice. The Mattin's brood had only just reached 21 when one died. The birth of an additional child brought the score once again to 21.