

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRAMLINGHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Visit to  
Pembroke  
College

On 16 July, 25 members took the coach to Cambridge. At Pembroke we were welcomed by Mr. W.S. Hutton, the Bursar, and conducted round the well-preserved buildings. The present Chapel is by Wren and the 15th-century one is now the library. Dr. S. Kinderdine, the Librarian, had set out a selection of old documents relating to Framlingham. They included old records of the many properties owned by Pembroke College in the district. The gardens, lawns and exteriors were a joy to behold. There was even a game of crown green bowls in progress, though not using 'Frams', those low bias bowls formerly made by Messrs. Normans of Church Street. Altogether a happy occasion and our thanks are due to the authorities of Pembroke and also to our own people who organised this very reasonably-priced outing.

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The Tocsin

More vivid memories from Mr. Geo. Cooper: "It seemed that I had not been asleep for very long when I was awakened by the beats of a galloping horse and the faint shouts of a man coming rapidly nearer. ... 'Help! Help! Fire! Fire!' He pulled up outside our house. 'Help! Help! Fire, fire! Where's the Clerk?' My father had the window down and shouted back: 'Mr. Mayhew, Castle Street. Turn left and then right and shout again.' By this time I was dressed and, getting my bicycle out, was up the street to find out where the fire was. I met Mr. Mayhew in his nightshirt with an overcoat over it, running for the church. Then CRASH! CRASH! from all eight bells together as he pulled four ropes of the carillon in each hand. An ear-splitting noise that could be heard for miles. So many crashes, then a pause. One mile! So many more crashes, a pause again. Two miles! So many more crashes and stop. Three miles! (If the fire were in the town, only one set of crashes for a long duration) Soon men were running for Hatchers Meadow to catch the horses. It was a dark night and the horses were black, so you may know that was no joke. Other men were manhandling the heavy engine to the Castle Pond. The horses arrived and were quickly harnessed to the engine. 'Where's Arthur?' 'He's gone, ya fule!' Good! with a crash of the whip, they were away. Where to? Park Farm, Dennington. I was there as soon as the fire-engine. The house was thatched and fully alight. The hose was rushed out and the basket-ended suction pipe dropped into the pond. With eight a side, sixteen strong men were pumping and four spares. These were very handy as it gave the men a rest in turn. Then I knew why they were so concerned as to the whereabouts of Arthur Newson. He had harnessed his dogcart and was off with a barrel of beer. You try pumping a hand engine for a few hours and you will need some beer. After about three hours the last flame died down. Then a shout; 'Hold you hard there, Bill. Let her burn up a bit. We can't see what we're a-doing.' I can see them all now - Joe Peck, Bill Smith, Blucher Reid, John Carr, Frank Mallows and many more whose names I have forgotten. All gone now, but remembered for their willingness to give the right kind of help at the right time. The tocsin has gone, too. More's the pity for it told you in no uncertain voice 'A neighbour is in trouble'!"

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Treasure in  
Your Garden

Mr. and Mrs. Jex-Wright, of the Moat Café in Castle Street, have been developing their garden as an extension to the café - stone flags, gay continental sunshades etc. Being within a bowshot of the Castle they anticipated finding relics of interest ... and they did. Firstly, a spherical stone such as might have been used in a sling. Secondly, a wrought-iron arrow-head which would have fitted into the haft of the arrow. It could be 500 years old. The head is about a foot long and the spear-shaped business end has two spikes or barbs sloped backwards. Mr. Jex-Wright states that it was thus a hunting arrow, though in cases of emergency it might have been used against enemies. Normally war arrows had no barbs because bowmen would retrieve them for re-use. The various districts had their own patterns of arrow-heads. Mr. Jex-Wright gives a tip. Broadly, the top spit of soil, say 12 inches, will have been dug many times. Anything interesting is more likely to be found below this. Ipswich Museum also recommended digging in ponds, often dry in summer.

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Our members, the Misses Brownsord, have written a history of the UNITARIANS in Framlingham which has been well received by the Ipswich authorities of that Church. We hope to have the opportunity of hearing a talk by them on this subject.

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not for No 2

The Hamilton Family at Easton Brigadier Packard again writes interestingly: William Alexander, 12th Duke of Hamilton, was the last Duke to live at Easton as when he died in 1895 without a son and heir the property passed to his daughter Lady Mary Hamilton, the later Marchioness of Graham and Duchess of Montrose. William Alexander, known as the 'Sporting Duke' was a keen boxer and an impassioned racing man. He treated the Easton estate like a stud farm and added to the estate all adjoining farms coming into the market. Tales about him are legion - not all to be repeated, as he was reputedly a man of wide affections. He spent most of his time abroad or in his yacht *THISTLE*. From his mother, Princess Mary of Baden, he had the gift of languages and he spoke perfect French and German. On his visits to Easton he would often buy up all the sweets and biscuits from the village shop and let the village boys and girls scramble for them on the village green.

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'DUCKING' was a development of the mediaeval trial by ordeal. The prisoner's arms and legs were bound together crosswise and he was then thrown into the village pond. If he floated he was considered guilty, taken out and burnt. If he sank, he was allowed to go free (should he be still alive). *The East Anglian Magazine* (October 1952) recorded that a much loved and respected parson of Framlingham was once drowned while under examination. Can anyone identify or amplify?

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89 Years Young Miss Rivers, almost 89, has lived in the same house in Castle Street for over 85 years. Blind owing to an operation which went wrong, Miss Rivers is rather hard of hearing but retains a lively mind and keeps in touch with most modern developments by means of her precious radio. Her father farmed Boundary Farm near Earl Soham and Brandeston, and she remembers the farm-workers being paid with, as she then called it, a gold farthing (10/-) a week. Butter was 6d. or 8d. a lb. Miss Rivers attended Miss Fairweather's school in a private house in Double Street, near Dew's, the bakers. The 20-25 pupils paid 1/- a quarter. Each girl carried a small basket containing her needlework. The mornings were devoted to lessons, but in the afternoons it was sewing, patchwork, lace etc.

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Framlingham Oaks in the 'MAYFLOWER'? Historians, bless their little cotton socks, seem a contrary lot. No sooner does one come out with a statement than another counters with a different one seemingly, to the layman, quite as well based.

In Elizabeth I's time, Aldeburgh was a thriving shipbuilding centre and in 1628 was credited with having 13 ships valued at £6,800. *The Victoria County History of Suffolk* states that one of these was a *MAYFLOWER* and that it was probably the Pilgrim Fathers' ship. An article however, in the *E.A.M.* in 1957 by Ryden Harris entitled 'East Anglia and America' stated that the *MAYFLOWER*, a square-rigged brigantine of about 170 tons, was registered at Harwich and that it was probably built there. It is known that oaks from our district were floated down our river Ore to Aldeburgh for use in shipbuilding. Whichever was the place that that historic vessel was constructed it could be that it was made from Framlingham oaks.

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Two descendants of Nicholas Danforth, the Framlingham churchwarden who emigrated to New England in 1636 and who founded Framlingham, Mass., visited Framlingham recently. Chas. Danforth Saggus of Danburg, Georgia, hopes that a Danforth Society can be formed. The other, Brigadier General Danforth, came from Carolina.

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Easton Field Names Field names, which in some cases date from centuries earlier, often give a clue to facets of history quite unsuspected. Sessions field in Easton, for instance, was originally Procession Field and was where the Beating the Bounds ceremonial procession halted, under Procession Oak, for a sermon by the Rector. Most field names, of course, give a clue to some far-off owner. In Easton, Keebles Pigthle, Cuttings Field, Ralphs Wood, Battle Meadow, Sparkes Piece and Malsters Meadow are examples. Perhaps some readers might like to hazard a guess at the origins of Bottom Jockies, Furze Rowage, Sheet Meadow, Rangers, Cremes Hill, the Skirts, Barnfred Meadow and Watchcroft. (Brigadier Packard)

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A local USAF Base has a club whose members go round making rubbings of church brasses, these being popular in the U.S. Easton Church charges 10/- a rubbing and last year this brought in £500. A happy method of raising funds to maintain for future generations these relics coming to us from the past. (Mr. Geo. Cooper)

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Books of Local Interest ..... *'ASK THE FELLOWS WHO CUT THE HAY'* by Geo Ewart Evans (recommended by Mrs. Cooper). This records social conditions remembered by older inhabitants of the village of Blaxhall, 6 miles SE of us. For example, the economics of stone-picking. Wives and children did this usually to pay for some essential, often the children's boots. 3/- for eighty two-gallon pail-fuls. Ironically, tests had shown that land unpicked of stones had bigger crops than picked land, but stones were wanted to repair roads. In 1901 however, it was stated that "the primary cause of the unsatisfactory condition of the roads is the doing away with the system of picking stones in the fields due to the advance of education." The children were in school. *'SUFFOLK YESTERDAYS'* by Allan Jobson. A somewhat similar book about the village of Middleton, 8 miles east of us. The latest of a series by Mr. Jobson in a very human style.

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Within the triangle of 2 and 3 storey buildings of Market Hill are two detached blocks which look as if they could be squatted property. They could also be the last remaining of several such units. The two-storey one, Dolly's Cafe, has been well and intelligently restored and improved by Mrs. Warne who came to Framlingham six years ago. A tradition attached to the building is that it was originally a mud hut. This could be true. Years ago most buildings were of this material though today we dignify it by the name of clay lump or clunch.

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Window glass used to be made by pouring, when molten, on to a sheet of metal. The outer glass thus made was thin and clear and was sold at a higher price, thus going into the classier houses. The inner glass, including the 'bottle end' effect where the stream hit the metal, went mainly into the cottages, being cheaper. The techniques being as yet undeveloped the surfaces were inconsistent, as can be seen when reflections appear, much of the old glass being still in place. (Mr. Geo. Cooper)

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At Snowhill Manor, a National Trust property in Worcestershire, there are on display two items from Framlingham. A late 17th-century oak spice cupboard and a velocipede formerly used by our postman. Can anyone say which building they came from?

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**SMUGGLING** In the 18th Century smuggling was big business. Two-thirds of the tea used in this country was smuggled. Wm. Goodwin, surgeon, of Street Farm, Earl Soham (1750-1815) recorded that almost daily he saw smugglers' carts passing through from Sizewell. Frequently there had been seen on that beach from 100 to 300 horses and from 40 to 100 carts waiting to receive contraband. On 2.3.1785, a party of Dragoons captured on Sizewell Bay 15 carts, 40 horses and 600 tubs (2,400 gallons) of spirits. High and low were concerned in the trade. In February 1790 nine tubs of spirits were seized from behind the Ten Commandments in Monewden Church; they belonged to the sexton. A spurious romance has grown up about smuggling but Goodwin realised at the time that it was a vicious practice, illegal, immoral and deplorable in its effects on those who followed it as a vocation (E.A.M. July 1953). In *'ASK THE FELLOWS WHO CUT THE HAY'* Geo. Evans wrote: *'Smuggling was to a large extent a protest by the rising middle-class, the tradesmen, who resented the continued domination of and the restrictions imposed by the old squirearchy or landed gentry. This middle-class also formed the spearhead later in the 19th century for legitimate free trade.'*

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**We built Rome etc.** That intelligent young man, the future King Charles III, remarked that any herald worth his salt can track the Royal Family back to anybody. The principle broadly applies to us all. You had two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents and this goes back only 100 years. Going back 1,000 years, you theoretically had over 1,000,000,000 ancestors then. The marriage of cousins, near or distant, would reduce the total but as there were under two million people then in England it is a reasonable assumption that everyone of us is related to practically everyone here in 969 A.D. In other words, our families built Camulodunum (Colchester), Hadrians Wall, Stonehenge - and we supervised them too. We defended Roman Britain - and we, as Angles and Saxons, conquered it. In that chain of ancestors there would have been many of foreign origin. We can consequently be sure that we had ancestors who built Rome, Athens, the Pyramids. The blood of kings, William the Conqueror, Alfred, Charlemagne etc. etc. flows in our veins .... but, wait! So does that of murderers, thieves, serfs and scullions. Obviously our shortcomings are due to the bad influences from our ancestors; obviously, too, our undoubted qualities spring from our own individual noblenesses of character in overcoming those adverse influences!!

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Framlingham Commonwealth of Nations

As mentioned in Newsletter No.3 most local families have contributed to the English-speaking communities around the world. The first Packard to settle overseas was Samuel, born in 1612 to George Packard of Colmans, Whitsun Green - now Red House - Stonham Aspall. George was ancestor of the Framlingham Packards and Samuel was the only one of his three sons and three daughters to emigrate. Samuel, his wife Elizabeth and their baby daughter Elizabeth sailed in the *DILIGENT* from Ipswich in April 1638 and settled at Hingham, Massachusetts. In America Samuel and Elizabeth had eleven more children and their descendants have now spread all over the U.S.A. Another of the direct descendants of George Packard and his wife Mary, née Wither, to emigrate was Joseph Packard born in Framlingham in 1826. With his newly married wife, miller's daughter Eliza Bartrum, he sailed for New Zealand in 1848. They were some of the original settlers of the Nelson area and their three sons founded the large and thriving Packard clan of New Zealand. They keep in close touch with the old country and New Zealand Packards are proud to visit Framlingham when over here. Other members of the family emigrated to Australia, Canada and the U.S.A. in the 19th century, many of whom still keep in touch with their cousins who remained in Suffolk. *(Brigadier Packard)*

(NELSON, New Zealand, is a city of 20,000 in a fruit-growing and tourist area and was known as 'SLEEPY HOLLOW', but its inhabitants are anything but sleepy - Lord Rutherford, 'Father of the Atom Bomb' came from there. - *Ed.*)

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Human occupation of what is now East Anglia dates back 250,000 years or more but there is no indication that the soil is played out. In fact our farmers and scientists have over the years evolved methods which actually put more back into the soil than crops take out. Thus the average yield per acre of wheat in England is 20½ cwt, double that in the U.S.A. The world record was 70½ cwt per acre (8.96 acre field) at Wiggshall St.Mary, Norfolk (figures from *E.A.M.*)

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Local Girl makes good (or bad?)

Margaret Catchpole was a humble person caught up in the vicious circumstances of her time - by no means the only one so to do - but her sad story has passed into the national folklore of Australia and of south-east Suffolk. Nearly every fact however, in her story has more than one version. Margaret was born illegitimate in 1761 at Hoo near Brandeston. When a domestic servant she took her master's horse in order to carry a warning to her smuggler sweetheart. The master reported the loss not knowing that Margaret was responsible. When he learned this he tried to withdraw any charge but the authorities would not, horse-stealing being then a major crime. She was sentenced to death, later revised to seven years' transportation. During the delay of over two years in carrying this into effect she escaped and when trying to leave the country with her sweetheart was recaptured, the latter being killed. Again sentenced to death, again revised, this time to life transportation, she went by prison ship to Australia in 1801. She died there in domestic service in 1819. It seems that she never married but, again, this is disputed. Today, she is one of Australia's national heroines and learned theses, broadcasts etc. are delivered concerning her. To the *East Anglian Magazine* letters have come from the Australian National University, Canberra, and from South Australia one acknowledged that the nearly a dozen letters over the years had established many facts in the face of incorrect information in several books of reference.

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Another Fram. Touring coaches of Toulouse, South-west France, named 'VOYAGES FRAM'.

Local Sayings "If you want something done, ask a busy person, the others have no time." Others ... "He opened his mouth and his brains fell out" (*i.e.* he revealed his shortcomings). "Helpless, hopeless" of a person (meaning that he lacks that minimum initiative and resource necessary for survival in this tough old world).

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One bidy to another: "No, you don't have to tell them your age - you only have to put the date of your birth". (*Contribution by Olive Mary Oakley, Albert Road, to March 1957 E.A.M.*)

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A farmworker was given a pie made by the farmer's wife. "If it had been wuss, I couldn't 'a ate it and if it had been better I shouldn't 'a had it." (*E.A.M.*)

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New Members would be welcomed. Anyone interested in Framlingham or district. Minimum subscription 5/- p.a. or One Dollar, includes copy of this quarterly Newsletter.

Contributions for 'FRAM' are welcomed and should be given or sent to E.C. SHANKS, 64 Waddington Way, London, S.E.19. Write the complete paragraph or note down main points