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At the Society's Annual General Meeting (October 29) it was a matter of mutual regret that Mr. Frere Kerr, who had been Chairman since 1966, intimated that he was unable to continue as Chairman owing to pressure of business. A sincere vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kerr. Fortunately, we will continue to have the benefit of his advice and co-operation in that he has agreed to continue as a member of the committee. Mr. Fiske was invited to serve as Chairman and his acceptance was warmly acclaimed. Mrs. Packard was popularly elected Vice-Chairman. The business of the AGM having been dealt with expeditiously, Commander Sitwell gave a talk, full of interest, on Framlingham 100 years ago. This was based mainly on the *FRAMLINGHAM WEEKLY NEWS* (published 1859-1907) and on *LAMBERTS' ALMANACK* (1870-1917). Lamberts were the successors to Mr. Green's printing business which incidentally published in 1835 a history of our town. Lamberts were succeeded by Mauldens who only recently ceased operations. In 1893 the *F&W* carried a series of articles "Framlingham 65 years ago" and Commander Sitwell in his pleasantly discursive manner drew on this to deal with facets of life in our town about 100 years ago. For instance, that the public clock was given to the town by Sir Henry Thompson in memory of his father; that Double Street was so named because it had houses on both sides.

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The meeting of November 26 was well attended to hear Mr. J.G.L. Spence, editor of the *EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE*, give a talk on East Anglia in the 18th Century. To the question "Well, what did happen?" Mr. Spence whimsically answered "Nothing." The moneyed classes were quietly coping with considerable economic and social changes. The working classes had their work cut out simply to survive. Nevertheless Mr. Spence ranged widely over human activities from music to social organisation to give examples of how our ancestors were thinking about and coping with the problems of their day. 'Turnip Townshend' and Coke of Holkham had perhaps been over-credited but they and others had done much to popularise and to spread newer ideas in agriculture. Even that curmudgeon Cobbett praised Coke for his reorganisation of the estate to which he succeeded, this included giving his 2,000 tenants security of tenure and in so doing making their fortunes. Another example of coping was that the first workhouse for the rural poor in England was built in Suffolk in 1756. The rest of England, too, adopted the Norfolk four-course rotation of crops and the practice of marling. Perhaps the most flourishing industry in East Anglia was, however, smuggling. Customs men, brave as many were, had an invidious task because most of the population would assist the smugglers. The spread of information was surprising. One way of warning that preventive men were on the war-path was to set the sails of windmills (and windpumps) in a vertical position, *i.e.* as the Christian cross.

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Our new Chairman, Mr. Herbert Fiske, a Chartered Architect, born in Framlingham, completed his education at Manchester University and saw military service for the whole period of the war, for some time as a Staff Major in S.E.Asia. He held a senior position in the Corporation of London Department of Architecture and Planning until he commenced private practice in 1963. He is a member of Framlingham Parish Council. Our new Vice-Chairman, Mrs. J. Packard, has been a member of the committee for three years. Always an active worker for the Society, Mrs. Packard further excelled herself by providing tea and biscuits at each meeting this session - a popular innovation.

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The inquisitive reader is often gratified by the local newspaper printing details of 'some recent wills' but some not so recent are also interesting: "Proved at Norwich on 19 January 1388 the Will of Riquier Frere, Priest, of Framlingham at the Castle ...." He left his soul to the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints, and his body to be buried in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Framlingham. He leaves two shillings to the High Altar in the same church, two shillings to the priests and twelve pence to Richard Clerk of the same town. The residue to Ade Kyng, Priest, and Thomas Crane to be distributed in charitable works." There are Clerks and Kings in Framlingham now and I work not thirty yards from the church where, no doubt, old Riquier Frere still lies far below more recent graves.

(Photocopy from Norfolk & Norwich Record Office)

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(JOHN FRERE KERR)

Descendant of Danforth joins We welcome Charles Danforth Saggus, Professor of History at Augusta College, Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Saggus, a tenth generation descendant of the Nicholas Danforth who went from our town in 1636 to New England, sent four pages of most interesting information. Mr. Saggus has seen a 'Danforth Genealogy', published in the 1890's. One descendant, now dead, was a multi-millionaire of St. Louis but, as happens in many families, means vary from the modest to the quite substantial but, as Mr. Saggus says, they seem to be a family that has always prized education and in whom an appreciation of art and music seems to run fairly strongly.

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Saxtead Pioneer of the 1640's That charming 'Miss Framlingham', Miss Constance Brunger, does excellent work in maintaining contacts with folk on the other side of the herring pond. We are indebted to her for the introduction to Mr. Saggus. Another contact was Mr. Marion Sims Wyeth from whom we have had very much interesting information. A leading U.S. architect, Mr. Wyeth had a family legend that (a) they were descended from a Nicholas Wyth or Wyeth who settled in Cambridge, Mass., in about 1644, and (b) Geo. Wythe of Virginia was descended from a brother of that Nicholas. This Geo. Wythe was first Chancellor of Virginia and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, by which the U.S.A. was founded as an independent state. With a pertinacity, derived no doubt from his East Anglian forbears, Mr. Wyeth pursued lead after lead until eventually he wrote to the Rector of Saxtead. Canon Bulstrode replied with extracts from the parish registers of 1560-1640. These included records of the baptisms of Nicholas (1600) and of his daughter Sarah (1632). These and other details tallied with those from New England. Incidentally Nicholas' first wife's mother's name was Kerridge, while Sarah later married a Fiske in New England, both East Anglian surnames of Danish origin. The Wythe and Danforth families were close friends both before they emigrated and after. Unfortunately proof has not yet been found as to Geo. Wythe's relationship with Mr. M.S. Wyeth's family but family legends have often been found correct. If anyone can contribute information it would be appreciated but it seems that the most likely source would be in the U.S. The contemporary Rev. Golty stated that Nicholas lived at 'The Street', Saxtead, but today there are apparently no houses there which could be the homestead. Named after Geo. Wythe are Wythe County, Virginia, and its county town, Wytheville.

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Easton squire George Nassau - The Honourable George Richard Savage Nassau - born in 1756 to the third Earl of Rochford and his wife Elizabeth nee Spencer of Rendlesham, widow of James 3rd Duke of Hamilton - was one of Suffolk's most noted book collectors. He never married, devoting his considerable wealth - inherited from Sir John Fitch Barker, Bart. of Grimston Hall, Trimley St. Martin - to the compilation of his library of early English poetry, drama, Suffolk topography and history. He died in 1823 and the sale of his library by Evans of London, the best known book auctioneer of the period, took 24 days and realised £8,500, a very considerable sum in those days. Sad to think that all those books of Suffolk history were dispersed, most now beyond recall. However Ogilby's beautiful map of Ipswich now adorns the staircase entrance to Ipswich Reference Library; George Nassau's lovely copy of Kirby's 'Suffolk Traveller' inlaid in two quarto volumes and splendidly bound, together with his copy of Isaac Johnson's book of water-colour paintings of Suffolk churches are in the library itself. His copy of Hawes 'History of Framlingham & Loes Hundred' is now in the British Museum. Mr. Trevor H. Hall, well-known Leeds bibliophile, is preparing a monograph on Geo. Nassau's library. Perhaps a copy may find its way into our own museum library.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

\* \* \*

Framlingham  
Australia

When our member, Miss E. Brownsord, was Headmistress of the Sir Robert Hitcham School (now the Primary School) she had arranged contacts, including pen friends, between her pupils and those of a school in Framlingham, Victoria, Australia. Over the years Canon Bulstrode has tenaciously pursued an enquiry as to why the Australian location was so named. Eventually the *FRAMLINGHAM WEEKLY NEWS* of 1870 was found to contain what seems to be the solution, and we quote, with permission, from the 1966 Parish Magazine.

In 1805 the Rector of Dennington was the Reverend and Honourable Frederick Hotham who used incidentally to drive into Framlingham with coachman and footman both dressed in blue livery with silver buttons, the carriage being painted yellow and black and hung on broad leather straps attached to springs with a flat standing place behind for the footman. His son subsequently became Governor-General of Australia. There is a parish named Hotham and another named Dennington near Melbourne, no doubt owing their names to the Governor-General's early associations. It seems reasonable to assume that the nearby Framlingham derived its name from the same source. Framlingham, Australia, is however a very insignificant place, now nothing more than a settlement for

aboriginal natives. These are in abject poverty though the Aborigines Welfare Board is trying to help. The Framlingham settlement was however, at the time of the report the only enlightened one in Australia. There has recently been a recrudescence of interest in the 'abos' and conditions are improving. ✓

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Sept 2021 *Journal*

Grinketyl, Osketyl and Ailinar

They sound as if they could be a firm of solicitors, but they were Saxons recorded in Domesday Book as having been dispossessed in area now known as 'The Saints' - the

two groups of villages about 12 miles north of us and given the names of saints prefixed by Elmhall or Ilketshall.

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Framlingham the Second

In 1954 the Ministry of Works initiated excavations at the Castle and the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology report

thereon recorded that there was in the 7th century an Anglian settlement surrounded by a wooden stockade on the site of the present bowling green and fair meadow. There is evidence that there was a church on the east side of the present path to the castle entrance; the bowling green is over a burial ground. When the Norman Roger Bigod took over, he replaced the stockade of the castle (to the north of the settlement) with a stone curtain wall. To facilitate defence - and possibly as a precaution against the disaffected Anglo-Saxons - he razed the old town, building a new church where St. Michael's now stands. New dwellings were probably built on what are now Castle Street, Church Street and Market Hill. ✓

(Information provided by CANON BULSTRODE)

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Our Anglian Ancestors

The burial ground of the Anglian Framlingham (*see previous paragraph*) was used from about 600 to 1100 AD. The scientific report on the 40 skeletons exhumed shows that the adults died at about 40 - now regarded as almost young. Not a single burial was that of a really aged person. Child mortality was high probably owing to lack of treatment of children's diseases. Caries (tooth decay) was rife; the women must have suffered a long time from severe rheumatism. Nevertheless the skeletons showed a well-built and sturdy people, men averaging 5'8½" high and women 5'4", the latter having slender and well-shaped limb bones. A peculiar circumstance was that the teeth of both sexes showed very considerable wear, the molars being worn flat, exposing large areas of dentine.

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'ellishness in Framingham

How it happened, we don't know. But it did. Somewhere in the infernal regions where this newsletter is gestated, an errant 'L' got, quite illegitimately, into the name of our daughter town in our last issue. Apologies, it should, of course, be 'Framingham, Mass.' - no 'L'. Tell it not in Gath, however but Framlingham, Suffolk, was not, in the past, always spelt with an 'L'.

\* \* \*

Mayflower 70

The City of Plymouth, Devon, is organising a program to celebrate the 350th anniversary in 1970 of the sailing of the MAYFLOWER. The possibilities - recorded in our last issue - that that ship was built either at Aldeburgh or Harwich (and perhaps from Framlingham oaks) was communicated to 'Mayflower 70' as they term their campaign. The City Librarian replied:

'... The place where the MAYFLOWER of 1620 was built has still not been firmly established. The few facts known indicate that she was most probably a whaler alternating the Greenland fishery with the wine trade to France according to the seasons. Her tonnage was c.180 tons. Unfortunately "Mayflower" was a common name for ships of this period and the difficulty is to reconstruct the passages of all likely ships of this period to find if the dates could tie in with the known data of the MAYFLOWER voyage. It really needs a search of all port records in East Anglia ... In his book *The Finding of the Mayflower* Rendel Harris suggests that Harwich might have been her home port but that Aldeburgh was the home of the second MAYFLOWER of 1629 built to replace the earlier one. The ship could well have originated in the Yarmouth-Aldeburgh area but we need a lot more information yet ....' What a study for someone to embark upon!

\* \* \*

Up to the last century, hemp was grown near Beccles, 20 miles NNE of us. It had to be soaked in ponds before the fibre could be beaten out. These ponds were called 'mardes' and women carried out the work, no doubt with a buzz of conversation. This was the origin of the East Anglian verb 'to mardle' *i.e.* chatter idly.

\* \* \*

In East Anglia 'The Norfolk Hero' requires no explanation. It was Lord Nelson of Burnham St.Overy, whose genius materially helped this country to defeat the mass murderer of the day, Napoleon. We have a close contact with the Admiral - Nelson's

Beating the Bounds

In the days before Ordnance Maps it was important to know the exact line of the parish boundaries. Disputes often arose as to the extent to which outlying hamlets and the occupants of the houses therein were liable for the repair of the parish church, whether they had the right of burial in the parish churchyard etc. The traditional manner of maintaining the ancient boundaries of a parish was by the rogationtide perambulations - 'Beating the Bounds'. The Rector, Churchwarden, principal inhabitants, church choir, numerous children bearing flags, cross, withies etc. walked round the boundaries during Rogation Week. Prominent trees and other landmarks were marked, a service was held under Procession Oak and boys were whipped at certain points to ensure remembrance. Their cries were stopped with halfpence. Such perambulations are still lawful and Parish Officers have the right to enter private property in so doing. Expenses may still be paid from the parish rates - including refreshments en route! In Easton there are records of eleven perambulations carried out between 1671 and 1805 which enumerate all markings made and the names of those taking part. No perambulations seem to have been made since then, though other local parishes still beat their bounds in the traditional way - albeit carried on tractors rather than on shanks's pony.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

(NOTE: In view of rising costs, a small charge will in future be made for the loan of the Editor's pony; will those phoning on New Year's Eve and other festive occasions please leave names so that suitable responses may be made.)

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When a house in Double Street was recently redecorated an inscription was discovered '*JOSIAH MIDDLETON - licensed to sell tea and tobacco*'. Miss Rivers, 85 years in Castle Street, remembers the premises having been those of a corn-chandler. How old would that notice have been? When did a retailer have to be licensed to sell tea?

(Mrs. JECKS-WRIGHT)

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In Ayrshire they record a local notability who dealt with his eight wives by pushing them, in turn, over a cliff. The ninth, his widow, got her push in first. This dastardly interference with male rights and privileges reminds us of the old horse-doctor who administered pills by means of a child's pea-shooter. Quite satisfactory unless the horse got his puff in first.

\* \* \*

How many now remember the loathing with which local farmers regarded Joseph Arch the founder of the agricultural workers' union. In the inelegant parlance of the day they would gladly have skinned him alive, an expression dating from a time when it was no joke. Yet Arch was working to ameliorate the poor conditions of the agricultural population. His doggerel illustrated current conditions: '*O Heavenly Father, bless us and keep us alive: there are ten of us to dinner and food for only five*'. Arch was a champion hedgecutter, a Methodist lay preacher and four times M.P. for N.W. Norfolk. With his support an Act was passed in 1873 making it illegal to employ a child under eight in the fields.

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Our national success has been due very largely to a great number of people in comparatively modest jobs doing these well and conscientiously. Often unrecorded or without full credit for their solid work. All of us know under-credited heroes. One such came from Grundisburgh, nine miles south of us, Captain Bartholomew Gosnold who, in 1602, set sail in 'a cockle-shell of a ship' to discover a new and shorter route to Virginia. This he did in the then remarkably short time of 7 weeks. He incidentally charted Cape Cod where the Pilgrim Fathers were to land nearly 20 years later. Gosnold returned to England and enthusiastically promoted the Virginia settlement, infecting Capt. John Smith with his enthusiasm. In 1606 he led three ships (he was master of one of them, the GODSPEED) in what proved to be the first permanent settlement of the English upon the continent of America. Gosnold was appointed one of the seven members of the Council of Virginia. He was a tower of strength to the new colony and was one of the few practical level-headed members of the company. Unfortunately he died in 1607 as a result of the arduous conditions. It is generally conceded that had he lived he would have played an even greater part in the settlement.

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In Newsletter No.2 we gave some details of the local Roman occupation. The British Archaeological Association Journal records that '*A Roman vault was found in Rose's Pit at Easton (now belonging to Mr. P. Webster) by men digging for gravel. It was four feet below the surface and measured some 2 ft. wide and 1½ ft. deep. In it were five urns containing bones and a horn. In March 1851 a smaller urn was found and in 1853 seven more and a bronze fibula of common type.*' During the same period Roman coins were turned up in Easton brickfield.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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