

Four-day Monk The first Norman lord of Framlingham was Ralph Guader who commanded the Bretons at Hastings. He was the Seigneur of Gael, a castle in Brittany. He received grants of land at Framlingham etc. and was created Earl of Norfolk and Consul of the East Angles. A few years later he rebelled against the King, was defeated and fled. The Conqueror then gave Framlingham to Hugh of Avranches, his nephew, who had been created Earl of Chester. 'Big Hugh', 'Hugh the Wolf' was chiefly notorious for his gluttony, prodigality and profligacy. He became a monk in 1101 and died four days later (intriguing implications).

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As Others See Us "There are five churches in Suffolk that move me deeply by their very vastness - Stoke-by-Nayland, Long Melford, Lavenham, Blythburgh and Dennington last of all comes Dennington. If Blythburgh is sublime and dramatic in its loneliness, then Dennington is splendid in its desolation. It has no grand position; it is hidden by trees in a little inland village in the heart of Suffolk's wildest and least known country. It has no grace, no delicacy, no outstanding beauty of line or form; beside Melford and Blythburgh it is like a bulldog to a borzoi. Its masonry is a haphazard mixture of flint and plaster and brick and it is splashed untidily with patches of ivy. It is so sadly crumbled and decayed that you feel it must inevitably collapse into shapeless powdery heaps; and yet at the next glance it is so squat and thick and strong and solid that it seems clamped down upon the earth for all time." JULIAN TENNYSON in '*SUFFOLK SCENE*' (1939)

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Tactless Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, had preached a sermon at St. Paul's Cross, London, in which he denounced Mary I's religious opinions and declared both Mary and Elizabeth illegitimate. He was arrested at our Castle and sent away under guard. In 1555 he was burnt at the stake.

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3d. a Gallon - The records of a typical household of Tudor times include the purchase of 32 gallons of ale weekly. It was a small family with Those were the Days : nurse, cook, two maids and a gardener. It would have been 'small beer' costing 3d. a gallon. Cobbett recorded in 1830 his recommended diet for a family of five. It included 1½ gallons of beer or cider a day but no milk.

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Framlingham's links with National History

In an endeavour to secure the succession for his only son William, aged 18, Henry I, the third Norman king, sent him to Normandy for the barons there to swear allegiance to him. When returning, the White Ship foundered as a result of the drunkenness of the crew, only one of its complement being saved. The legend says that King Henry never smiled again. Also drowned with William was a Framlingham man, also a William, and also a son and heir (of Roger Bigod, first Duke of Norfolk of that line).

The death of Henry I's heir in the White Ship had serious consequences. Henry persuaded the barons to swear allegiance to his remaining child, Matilda, as their future sovereign. When Henry died however, they went back on this and chose Stephen, son of the Conqueror's daughter Adela, as king. Matilda never gave in and there ensued nineteen years of civil war and almost anarchy. The incompetent Stephen alienated Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, and through this the Pope though the country broadly supported Stephen. At one time Theobald endeavoured to smooth things over and it was said that he acted 'on the advice of able men including Hugh Bigod' (of Framlingham). In returning from the Continent Theobald did not dare land in Kent (Stephen territory) but came to Suffolk where Bigod was supreme. In '*The Troubled Reign of King Stephen*' J.T. Appleby wrote: 'Hugh met him with the greatest reverence and honour and conducted him to Framlingham. Theobald took up residence in the castle and from there "he carried out all the duties of his office". Emissaries were no doubt going between him and the king all this time in an effort to bring the anomalous situation to an end. At last Bishops Robert of London, Hilary of Chichester and

William of Norwich and a number of prominent laymen came to Framlingham and succeeded in making peace between the king and the archbishop. Theobald lifted the interdict, and Stephen for his part offered compensation for the seizure of Theobald's estates. The archbishop then returned to Canterbury, and the incident was closed.

(Mrs FAITH PACKARD)

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Help us in this Search Our town is not unimportant today; in earlier times it was relatively of greater importance and this newsletter has mentioned events of more than local significance which have taken place at Framlingham or national figures who have come here. Members are invited to cooperate in the search for mentions of Framlingham. There are often incidental references in books on historical subjects. An example is the one in the previous paragraph brought to light by Mrs Faith Packard. If members will let us know of these mentions, inclusion in this newsletter will both bring these to wider notice and will also assemble these for future researchers. The historical shelves of public libraries are a fruitful source.

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The Suffolk Regiment was raised in 1685 by Henry Howard, 7th Duke of Norfolk - he was appointed Colonel of the regiment which was then known as the XIIth Foot. It was the custom for the Colonel of a regiment to bring a flag upon which was embroidered his crest, this being known as the Colonel's Colour. The Duke of Norfolk's was a representation of a helm like the Flodden helm in our church and like this had the Howard crest. He was Colonel for only a year.

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Our committeeman, Mr R. Jones, entered two keys - 9 and 10 inches long - copies of mediaeval ones, in the Ipswich 'Over Sixties' Club competition. They were nearly disqualified because opinion was that they were very old and that they had been cleaned up ('the iron was pitted and uneven'). Mr Jones was most gratified because he had made them only just in time for the competition: one from an old pigsty bolt and the other from gas-piping. In the event however, he received third prize.

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A man who bought wrecked cars to rebuild them answered an advertisement 'Jaguar fl.' The woman took him to a garage where stood a 1970 model in excellent condition. Surprised, he asked if he had read the price correctly. The woman replied "Yes, I'm selling it for my husband. He left me and told me to sell the car and send him the proceeds."

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None Such The speaker at our March meeting, Mr Barraud, answered a member's query as to Nonesuch Palace by saying that the main information we have about that astounding edifice was from the Nonesuch chests. Chests were the first pieces of furniture in our homes and Henry VIII's wonder of the age, Nonesuch Palace, led to a fashion of chests with representations of that building round the vertical sides. These fetch a high price today. Mr Lanman, our curator, has spent most of his life in antiques and has come across only five or six but once came to a village and saw one such chest being broken up for burning. He rescued and reconstructed it.

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Jerries at a premium Up to recently that humble article of domestic hardware, affectionately known as 'the Jerry', was kept physically and mentally out of sight. Today it is on the one hand the ultimate joke and on the other it has quite some value. Our jerries are in demand in the USA either as a decoration or in which to make punch. Strange? But forty years ago a native of Hertfordshire assured us that it was a local custom to mix the Christmas pudding in the household jerry.

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Too much for Fram? In 'Akenfield' by Ronald Blythe, the story of a 61-year-old gravedigger includes '... there was an old man near Framlingham, old Micah Hibble. He was laid out for dead three times. The last time he was actually in his coffin and waiting for the funeral to begin when I asked "Any more for a last look before he's screwed down?" There was the usual nuisance pushing his way through the mourners and saying "Yes, I do". Trust somebody to get you fiddling about and making the funeral late. The bell was going, - so you know how late it was. Anyway, when this man looked in the coffin he saw that Micah had moved. Well, do you know, he recovered! And what's more, he is supposed to have written a book about what he saw although I've never set eyes on it. He reckoned he saw Heaven and Hell but he wouldn't say what he saw in Hell; he thought it would be too much for Framlingham. He lived for years after this."

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Aggro at Easton 'The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon who lived in the big house at Easton surrounded by the biggest crinkle-crankle wall in East Anglia and probably in the world was the Zeus of the neighbourhood. The villagers maintain that it was in the cockpit in his garden that the Jameson Raid was planned.'

From 'Akenfield', the story of Chris Falconer, gardener.

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Badingham Tragedy In April of one of the first years of this Century, the Rector of Badingham, the Rev. Foster Stable Barry, looked in at a ladies' working party at the White House. His groom accompanied him in the trap but on leaving the Rector took the reins. Coming down the hill the horse bolted and at Rooks Bridge the trap overturned. The Rev. Barry was killed but the groom survived. The Rector had been Rector of Gosbeck and before that head of Mercers School, London.

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Memoirs of an Easton Family The Girdler Tuthills were for nearly two centuries one of Easton's prominent artisan families. The first Girdler in the Parish Registers is George born in 1769, though family tradition has it that they came over from Holland with the first Earl of Rochford, William III's cousin and close friend, in 1689. George became coachman to the fifth Earl in 1790 and stayed with him until the latter's death in 1830. In 1798 he married an Easton girl, Jane Hall, and though economic conditions drove his eldest three sons to emigrate to America his only daughter, Eliza, married in Easton, in 1842, Samuel Tuthill, later master shoemaker and postmaster, of Wenhaston, who came to the village in 1828 as apprentice to Samuel Clover. Their eldest son, George Girdler Tuthill, was victim of an unfortunate accident on Easton Green on Guy Fawkes' Day 1857. With other village boys he had made a metal cannon to salute the great evening. In trying to make the loudest bang he must have inserted too large a charge of gunpowder for the first shot caused the cannon to explode, breaking windows in all the houses round the green and mortally wounding George himself. Samuel's third son, Charles Girdler Tuthill, followed his father as Easton shoemaker and sub-postmaster; when he died in 1906 his wife, the former Phoebe Read of Bishop's Stortford, took over as sub-postmistress. Their daughter Althea Eliza succeeded her mother as sub-postmistress and their youngest son Wilfred became the village newspaper roundsman. Arthur Girdler Tuthill, their second son, was a great cricketer and athlete and was Suffolk 440 yds. champion in the early 1900's. Family heirlooms include a watch presented to George by the 5th Earl of Rochford after they had had a quarrel in the successful effort to prevent him leaving his service and a letter written to George by his brother James from New York in 1845, describing the country round about and the tense political situation at the time.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

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Fram the Reward of Skulduggery? During the minority of King Richard II his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, opposed the regency council and among other things forced them to accept a commission to regulate the royal household. This Richard disliked but he bided his time for eleven years and then, eight years after having come-of-age, led the Duke of Gloucester into an ambush. The Duke was whipped away to Calais where Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, was captain. According to the confession of the latter's servant, Mowbray caused Gloucester to be smothered under a feather-bed on September 9, 1397. Twenty days later Mowbray was created Duke of Norfolk. He did not enjoy the honour long because the king took the opportunity the next year of banishing him and he died in Venice in 1399, the year in which Richard II was deposed and later murdered.

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Carley & Webb in high esteem Artists are able to pick out the beauty in everyday things. Artists, too, are in the forefront of the campaign to have mass-produced articles based on good and beautiful designs rather than, as is so often, on the bad or the banal. Among the books published on these subjects was one in 1962 called 'Printed Ephemera' *at the not inconsiderable price of £5.5s.0. *The London Observer* reviewed the work favourably and the one illustration reprinted by *The Observer* from the book was the paper-bag of Carley & Co, our long-established grocers on Market Hill. A superb piece of Victorian copperplate with a sketch of the castle occupying the top third. Many appreciated the excellent taste of the design and have preserved bags as examples of how pleasing even a paper-bag can be. It was in use over 80 years (not so ephemeral).. The firm is now Carley & Webb, the principals being Mr and Mrs R.A.C. Webb, Mrs Bulstrode and Mrs Webb (née Carley). (*by John Lewis)

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NEW MEMBERS WANTED ... Invite your friends and neighbours to join the Society.
Minimum Subscription 50p (10/-) or two dollars p.annum.

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On 25 June a coach-load of members journeyed to Castle Acre Priory where they were met by Mr J.G. Coad, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Works, who conducted them round the well-cared for ruins. Mr Coad's talk brought the grey stones to life and we could well imagine the busy community that formerly lived there. From the spoils of victory William the Conqueror granted among other things 135 manors in Suffolk to William de Warenne and created him Earl of Surrey. He and his wife Gundrada introduced the Cluniac order (reformed Benedictine) into this country and in about 1090 the second earl founded the Cluniac monastery at Castle Acre in the outer bailey of his castle. It was a daughter house of the first English Cluniac foundation at Lewes. The Cluniacs were not responsible to any bishop or authority in England but only to the Abbot of Cluny in Burgundy, and the latter owned no ecclesiastical superior but the Pope. Soon the monastery outgrew its site and was moved to the present one, the second earl increasing the endowments. He also handed over a serf, Ulmar the stonemason, in Acre 'along with his garden'. In 1537 the last prior surrendered the monastery to Henry VIII who granted it to Framlinghamian Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk, but he did not hold it long. Eventually it came into the possession of the Earls of Leicester until in 1929 the current earl put the remains of the priory into the capable hands of the Commissioners of H.M. Works.

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Under-employment of Norman Assets In the time of Edward the Confessor, Dennington was held as a manor by Edric of Laxfield, falconer to the king. By the time Domesday Book was compiled the Norman Robert Malet had the manor and the changes are recorded in the manor's stock between the two ownerships, say fifty years. Villans (feudal tenants of the lowest class) increased from 12 to 16 but bordars (another type of near-serf) decreased from 16 to 15. Men's plough teams went down from 12 to 9, and rouncies (riding horses) from 2 to 1. Hogs decreased from 40 to 30, and a cry from the heart comes in a note that the woodland sufficed for 12 score. Goats reduced from 40 to 30, hives of bees stayed at 5 and sheep at 30. The Malets were not however to enjoy their acquisitions very long because in 1110 their lands were forfeited because they joined in a rebellion. A measure of our progress in under a thousand years can be gained by comparing today's stocking of that area - thousands fold increase? The land thus supports a much increased population at an immeasurably higher standard of living.

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Help, please Mrs Lampard of Helsby, Cheshire, recently wrote to the Rector to enquire why Lampardbrook on the southern outskirts of the parish of Framlingham was so named. So far we have not been able to trace the derivation. Can anyone help? Mrs Lampard's father-in-law, the Rev. Geo. Lampard, started in the Methodist ministry at Framlingham.

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Thomas Mills - Wheelwright of Framlingham Our town has been fortunate with her benefactors and Thos. Mills, circa 1623/4 - 1703, was not only very generous to his adopted township but an outstanding man of business and a very devout Baptist. Perhaps the best sketch so far of his life and doings was given at the Aldeburgh Festival of 1953 when he was featured in an exhibition there as one of six outstanding Suffolk characters. Much about him however, still remains obscure, notably his origins. Members of the Society are delving into the numerous documents he left behind, now housed in the Record Office in Ipswich. It is hoped that, in due course, it may be possible to publish a detailed biography of this fascinating character to whom Framlingham owes so much.

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(BRIGADIER PACKARD)

Mr. Geo. Cooper has joined the Fuchsia Society. That flower is assuredly among the most exquisite and Mr. Cooper's are no exception. One however is sick and the fuchsia doctor is coming to diagnose and determine treatment. Some of us have childhood memories of hearing that the horse doctor was coming and expecting to see a horse arrive with little black bag. How would we have imagined a fuchsia doctor?

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Framlingham Wills Wills, as all genealogists and local historians know, are one of the main sources of colourful and contemporary material. Happily the wills of many of our Framlingham forbears are still extant, most of them in excellent condition, filed in the archives of the Record Offices of Bury St. Edmunds, Ipswich and Norwich. They make vivid reading and no doubt one day all of them will be copied and brought together for ready reference in Framlingham itself. Richard Woode of Framlingham, who died at Parham in 1489, made Richard Coppyng of Marlesford and Richard Barker of Glemham his executors and Dame Margery Willoughby his supervisor. The will was witnessed by Thomas Wellar, Gentleman, Robert Colvyle of Parham and William Mekilfield, Esquire. It was proved in the chapel at Hoxne Manor (why there?) on 4th of February 1490.

(BRIGADIER PACKARD)