

FRAMLINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

EDITOR: Mr. G. Willett Cooper, Old Tithe Barn, Framlingham;
who would welcome contributions from Members.

When one looks back at the doings of Framlingham people around the middle of the 19th. century, one realises what a forward looking lot they were.

Framlingham had a Gas Works in 1850 founded by Charles Garrard.

Framlingham also had a Sewage Works in 1850 and the Town sewers were laid around the same time by Mr. S. Mallows, father of Mr. Frank Mallows who had all the plans which he used to loan out to other builders for the small fee of 5/- when they were doing any connections to the sewers.

Another very important Service was the Voluntary Fire Service; the hand pumping engine was purchased new from Merryweathers in 1834. The Castle Pond was connected to a pit with a manhole cover between the Pond and the Rectory entrance (it is still there) and a pipe was laid from the pit down the Rectory side of the Gulls, through the Rectory garden, between the Tithe Barn and the Walled Garden, through the Unitarian garden into Mill Yard. Then it crossed the river at Bridge Street (the pipe is still there) and disgorged into one of two pits in the bed of the river in Riverside. Two of the white posts on Riverside used to be marked F.F.B. When a fire occurred at the bottom of the Town, the manhole was raised and the sluice opened whilst the fire engine was dashing down the hill. There was also a metal pipe from the Castle Pond to the Market Hill with a hydrant at the Church gates; these hydrants had caps to match the fire engine connection. Back Lane or Fore Street was supplied with water from the moat in Mr. Myal's garden (by Mr. Douglas's house).

The Castle Pond was always kept clean and pure and it was used by many for culinary purposes. Dr. Jeaffreson at that time stated that Framlingham was asking for trouble by having a sewage works before piped water. There was no trouble, however, until the College was built in 1863 and this did overload the sewage works very badly indeed.

The main building of Framlingham College, which included the Headmaster's House, cost £25,000. This was such a low price that it amazed everybody. But the firm which put in this price against other tenderers actually made a profit because they found brick earth in what is now known as the Kell Field (called so because they built a kiln there and made all the bricks on the spot - good red bricks as you can see to this day).

Mention of the Kell Field (between the College and the Drill Hall) reminds me that Mr. Charles Nesling, MRCVS, who owned it in the 1920's, found a silver groat there; quite an unusual piece as it had four sets of pellets thereon and was stated by the British Museum to be a coin from Avranches in Southern Normandy. Guy de Avranches, otherwise known as the Bull, was the first tenant of the Castle after its completion. He was noted for his bad behaviour, robbery, murder and rapine. Towards the end of his life he repented and entered a monastery; he died three days later, the shock was too great!

Colourful Characters. Many will remember Archibald Rose, CIE, of Moat Farm. He was the last Charge d'Affairs for the British Government at the Imperial Palace in Peking.

His manners were at all times exquisite. I met him once standing on the Market Hill. He was wearing a short overcoat. I told him how much I liked it. He was delighted and said, "Do you know my name in Chinese?", it means, "He who saves cloth."

His house was full of things of great beauty and all with a story related to them; like the Korean soup bowl made of silk and most beautifully painted; it was not one but six, one inside the other. And a beautiful Ikon which he said was given him by an old Russian peasant woman in the market place of Samarand just to weight down some vegetables he had bought from her to stop them rolling out of his basket. One of his prized possessions was a white jade bowl given to him by the Dalai Lama of Tibet; another was a pair of silver lamps in gimbals from the captain of a Chinese coaster for helping him to shoot down pirates who were trying to board his ship. If you did any work for him, to show his pleasure, he always gave you a little present.

He once stopped his car in the middle of the road; a very angry motorist who was following shouted, "Where the devil do you think you are going to?" With a gentle smile Archie Rose quietly said, "Badingham" !

Mention of Dr. Jeaffreson reminds me of Dr. Cordy Jeaffreson who lived on the Market Hill and had his surgery where Mr. Ron Allen now resides. I believe he was the first person in Framlingham to own a motor car which he used for his rounds. Mr. Samuel Barker was his chauffeur and I well remember him chuff chuffing up Bridge Street into the Market Hill every morning. I believe it was a De Dion Bouton car and was a wagonette model.

Dr. Cordy Jeaffreson left Framlingham for London just three years short of one hundred years of having a Jeaffreson as doctor in Framlingham.

His father lived and had his practice at Moat House; a very dignified figure of a man, always very correctly dressed in his long morning coat and top hat. He had a coachman and dog cart with a tall high stepping horse. He was a great believer in fresh air and when the parents of a young lad suffering from a decline (as they called consumption in those days) had repeatedly closed up the small cottage window, he kicked out the entire frame. He was a great character and stories about him are legion. Once a year a post card would be pushed through my Father's door and all it said was, "Make me a suit - Jeaffreson." As his style was always the same this was easy as Father had his measurements.

Now we go back even further and, thanks to the present Rector who kindly lent me the information; there was grandfather Dr. Jeaffreson, a wonderful pioneer surgeon who became nationally famous.

Dr. William Jeaffreson (1795-1865) had a two page article in the British Medical Journal (Nov. 6th. 1965) to commemorate the Centenary of his death. He was born at Wickham Market, educated at Bury St. Edmunds, studied medicine at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals; he qualified in 1812 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1844. Throughout his whole life he practised in Framlingham, yet he was the leader of a brilliant coterie of medical men in East Anglia. He was expert in the removal of stones from the bladder (Lithotrity) when it was a rare and unusual operation. His great claim to fame was the first successful removal in England of an Ovarian Cyst in 1836. This cyst is still preserved in the museum in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. And all his operations were performed in the homes of his patients!

On the north wall of the nave of our Parish Church there is a simple but elegant memorial tablet. The Rector feels that it would be very appropriate if a small framed notice could be placed below the tablet describing the achievements of Framlingham's most distinguished and famous doctor.

Dr. Jeaffreson's wife, Caroline, was the daughter of Anna Corday, whose cousin, Charlottee, had murdered Marat in his bath during the French Revolution.

This Dr. Jeaffreson was family doctor to the Thompson family and took a great interest in their son Henry and was instrumental in persuading him to take up a medical career. This Framlingham doctor became famous in another direction and was knighted for his services to the Royal Family in the reign of Edward VII. More about him in the next issue.

Geo. W. Cooper.