

A Society of Old Framlinghamians' centenary publication

# Remembered Days

The enduring fellowship of  
Old Framlinghamians

by Leslie Gillett



Framlingham College

1865

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by Leslie Gillett

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# CONTENTS

Forward by Air Commodore Jon Ford FRAeS.....	3
Preface.....	4
The Old Boys' Club of 1887.....	5
Establishment and Founding Fathers.....	10
The Formative Years 1901-1910 - Growing Pains.....	16
The World at War.....	34
Between the Wars.....	46
1931-1939: Doors Opening and Closing.....	59
'The Hun is at the gate' .....	78
Wartime .....	87
Mending and Making.....	95
'The glow of benevolence' .....	108
Towards the College Centenary.....	114
1965-1969: Relinquishing the Crown.....	119
1970-1975: Anxieties and Achievements.....	127
Looking Backwards and Forwards, Independence and Persons of the Feminine Gender.....	135

# Foreword

By

*Air Commodore Jon Ford FRAeS  
President of the Society of Old  
Framlinghamians 1999-2000*

**W**hilst I felt greatly honoured to be invited, as President of the Society in our Centenary year, to write the foreword to Bob Gillett's History of the Society of Old Framlinghamians, I also felt very humbled. This is because Bob was my English teacher during my time at the College and, whilst I passed my 'O' Level English, I went on the take science subjects at 'A' Level so I have had to watch my syntax and grammar very carefully to avoid having my input red-penned.

As General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson indicated in his forward to the "*Second Sixty Years*" published in 1992, Bob has dedicated his life to the College. He, as an Honorary Member and Vice-President of the Society, has spent many hours poring through the archives researching this History of the Society. The result is an absorbing but informative tale, which gives a truly excellent and very readable account of how the Society was formed by Alfred Pretty, and how it has developed over the years. Whatever your age, whatever your particular interest, you will find this History both authoritative and fascinating and I strongly commend it you.

As the History reveals, there have been good years for the Society and there have been more difficult times and yet, because of the dedicated work done by a relatively small team of Officers over many years, the Society thrives and is true to its three aims of

Promoting the interests of the College

Maintaining contact between Members, and

Encouraging contact between Members and the College

Bob Gillett's very important and valuable History should encourage us all to ensure that the vision of Alfred Pretty moves us forward with confidence into our next Centenary.

To Bob, on behalf of the Society, I pass our deep and sincere thanks, but we must also give our very warm appreciation to his wife, Margery, who has always lent him, and the Society, her very full support over so many years.

## Preface

**A**s part of the Society's celebration of the Millenium and its own centenary I was invited to review its history and have looked back here at three quarters of its impressive span. I would like to take refuge in pleading that more recent years are too close for critical appraisal but that, though true, is not the sole cause of the lacuna. Some of the early chapters have already appeared in the *Old Framlinghamian* but it became apparent that only publication in book form would enable this account of even the first 75 years of fellowship to be available at the society's centenary celebration.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the kindness and patience shown by the office staff at the College, by Bob Morris the bursar and the many Old Boys who have readily supplied information. Christopher Garrard provided some much needed computing expertise and Neville Bromage, busy, looking for a successor after a very long innings as Secretary, has gallantly fielded many questions. John Waddell moves unobtrusively into the 'But for him this work would never.....' category. We have collaborated before and his guidance has again been reassuring and encouraging.

At this turn of the century there are 2,600 names on the Society's mailing list (How gratified Alfred Pretty would be!). Not all can be traced. Perhaps they will one day write to Neville! In that connection I found what I wanted to say in, some may think, an unlikely place (and much maligned at the time) - the Editorial of the Spring '79 edition of *The Framlinghamian*:

'...And the school-leaver will find himself searching his feelings to decide whether to go back to the old place from time to time. A former Headmaster here used to say to those leaving, 'We shall be delighted to see you here again-but wait three years before you come,' but, for some, three years is too long a time to wait, and the impulse to hurry back after a month or two to give old cronies a whiff of the delights of the liberated outside-world is overwhelming.

One leavers' hymn has the wistful words, 'though nevermore in one place all may gather, backward over footsteps may wander alone,' and some will find that even forty years on, when they are 'shorter in wind as in memory long,' the urge to recapture the great days in the enchanted distance does indeed still guide their footsteps back to their old school and to the society of their old school fellows.

We have a sound and splendid Old Framlinghamian Society, at one with the School, which well covers the practical side of keeping in touch. But there could be an equally strong, if elusive, influence. Happily, the spirit, the genius of the place may assert itself and warm the memory long after the time comes when we have to leave school.'

L.G.

# Chapter 1

## The Old Boys' Club of 1887

**B**efore the Society of Old Framlinghamians came into being in 1900 there existed an Old Boys' Club. It owed its establishment to the initiative of William T. Brunger, who, though not an OF, contrived a meeting and dinner of interested Old Boys at the Holborn Restaurant in London in 1887. Dr. Inskip, in his first year as Headmaster, accepted the Presidency of the club. James Waugh (1881-84) agreed to be its secretary.

It seems likely that the occasion was regarded as no more than an informal gathering and 'pleasant function'. There were at the time some 1800 Old Boys, but unfortunately we do not know how many were present at the Dinner. *The Framlinghamian* came into existence in 1889 but its predecessors, *The Register* and *The Albertian* had lapsed long before, and though, Booth \*tells us, the Dinners continued to be held, it is not until 1890 when the third gathering took place, that we have any detailed account. The nature of the second Dinner is not recorded.

William Brunger, an assistant master, was the Governors' and Headmaster's secretary, what we should now call Bursar. He was a public-spirited man with many connections and pursuits in the town, especially interested in the Framlingham - Framingham connection. He served the College for forty-six years, retiring in 1929. James Waugh was but twenty-one years old when he took on the secretaryship of the new Club, so he was certainly close in spirit to many young Old Boys. He had in fact been Captain of the School in his last year, 1884, and had an enviable scholastic record having won the (elusive) Welton Silver Ink-stand and twice been awarded the Goldsmith Scholarship medal. Later distinction was to come to him when, as a member of the British South African Company's Police Force, he endured the siege of Ladysmith - one hundred and twenty days - raised in 1899.

It might well be supposed that Dr. Inskip's support for the Club made sure of its continuity and growth. If he wanted a testimonial for the College, he said, he would point to its Old Boys, but, strangely enough, no mention of the Club or, collectively, of Old Boys was ever made at Speech Days. No doubt the Headmaster had grave concerns elsewhere, for when he took office there were but 72 boys on the roll.

The School was not unmindful of its Old Boys, but, if one may judge from the attitude of the Magazine, its concern was one-sided. News was called for not because those who had left the College might be united thereby, but, rather that those still at school would undoubtedly be encouraged by reports of success.

So we read (April, 1892), 'The Editor is not satisfied with his O.F. News, and

\*John Booth: 'Framlingham College: The First Sixty Years'. S.O.F. Publication, 1925.

so would ask all, whenever they glean any O.F. News worthy of record, to acquaint him with the same, and (Nov.1892)'...such 'all round' successes (a Cambridge blue for Soccer; two places gained at Cambridge) are not only matters of congratulation to those who have gained the honours, but are again valuable as an incentive to our present generation at Framlingham to emulate the successful efforts of their predecessors', and (a letter to the Editor lamenting the lack of O.F. News, 1893) '...we, the present members of the school, are interested enough in the past to wish to learn their 'record' performances...' and (an earlier letter, 1891, deploring the 'bareness and desolation' of the wall of the Dining hall and suggesting that honours boards 'engraved with XIs' should be mounted)'...At present we have no trace of our predecessors in our school doings and...we ought to start a system by which their names would be handed down so that their doings might incite their younger followers to fresh honours.'

Almost in vain the Magazine Editor appealed to Old Boys to let him have their names. He was disappointed that even the offer of a reduced sub (3 Shillings) for a year brought in little news and less money, but nowhere do we find him referring to the Club, its Officers or its members, and we are forced to conclude that no standing framework existed.

Neither do we find mention of the Club in reports of the various College sporting activities involving Old Boys. There was an annual cricket match, not The College v The O.F.s, not the College v Old Boys, certainly not The College v The O.F. Club, but always 'Past v Present', and accounts of such matches, perhaps patronisingly, referred to the O.F.s playing as 'The Veterans' or 'The Old uns', 'The Warriors of Old', even though one report (1896) tells us that the Old Boys' were in the pink of condition, light of heel and supple in frame, with hardly an ounce of superfluous fat among them.' They also, on occasions, had H. H. Crickett (1875-78) playing for them. There was an Old Boys' Race (100 yards) in the programme of every Sports Day, but there was no hint that the O.F.s competing did so as members of a Club; they did so (in light-hearted fashion) as individuals. Raising a full team for the annual socker Match (as the Magazine perhaps not inappropriately named it) invariably proved difficult.

Through the Magazine various appeals were made in support of worthy causes, and though there was some response from Old Boys it is obvious that it came from individuals, not a society. In 1898, for instance a fund was set on foot to replace 'the so-called fives court that disfigured the back field'. The sum of £90 was needed to build two courts. After 11 years subscriptions amounted to £14, seventeen shillings and seven pence. In 1889 an appeal on behalf of the Library and Games fund brought from Old Boys five shillings in cash and a revolver (where is it?). In the same year some Old Boys gave 'the handsomest prize ever offered at these (athletic) Competitions,' a set of carvers, fish, meat and game - for the half-mile handicap. In 1898 an anonymous O.F. gave the Chapel a credence-table and a set of altar-linen. The credence-table, the revolver, the carvers and the cash and their O.F. donors failed to get a mention at any Speech Day.

Now it may well be wondered what The Club was doing and what it offered

its members. Its first secretary, James Waugh, was in office at the third Dinner (1890), but he left no traceable minutes, no list of members, no financial accounts, and it may be that the Club was basically a Diners' Club. The third Annual Dinner took place at the Holborn Restaurant in March, 1890. Dr. Inskip was still President, but 'owing to the universal complaint' (This could surely not have been the great flu epidemic which struck so widely nearly two years later?) there were but twenty-eight O.F.s present. Harry Smith (1867...) spoke of the annual gathering as a means of linking past to the present. Dr. Inskip observed that Old Framlinghamians (there were some 2200 of them at the time) were found in almost every calling of life - in the Church, in the Army, in Law and in Medicine - and if they only carried with them into these various callings the good which might be learnt at Framlingham there was no telling how much the name of Framlingham might be honoured by their work in life. The evening concluded with songs and instrumental selections.

Between the third and fourth dinners we find no Club activity. The editor of the Magazine (March, 1891) wrote 'We will take courage to congratulate ourselves on the increase in SCHOOL news (in the Magazine) only, wishing it were balanced by an increase in O.F. news' He was able, however, in his report of the event, to congratulate the O.F. Club ('Club' - note!) on the success of its Annual Dinner. Almost without editorial comment it was recorded that the School Colours were changed from 'claret, gold and black' to 'chocolate and light blue' and one can only regret that more was not said about the reason and significance of the change (or, for that matter, how maroon came to be chosen for the colour of the everyday School blazer).

The Fourth Annual Dinner took place at The Great White Horse, Ipswich, in February, 1891, 'Just over twenty five years', as Dr. Inskip recalled in his Presidential speech, 'since the magnificent pile of buildings was erected on a site which was not excelled by any other School in England'. Preliminary matters for the Dinner were arranged by E. P. Ridley (1873-77) of whom we shall hear more later, and W. S. Grimwade (1865-6), who has the distinction of holding fifth place in the College Register. It seemed generally agreed that the Dinner of the previous year had not proved a success and that, as the Revd. Daymond (honoured guest, first Headmaster, 1865-71) observed, the hope was that the Annual Dinner would always be held in the county of Suffolk, not in London. Ernest Disbrowe, Cambridge Soccer Blue, an assistant master (1890-98), honouring the toast to the College, declared that it was his earnest wish that Framlingham might be prosperous, and it would help them to succeed if they had the sympathy of the old boys. As an old boy (not of the college) he knew that the present staff welcomed the support and sympathy of those who had left the School. The occasion produced 'unanimous expressions of satisfaction, though the lateness of the hour debarred the singing of Auld Lang Syne'.

Three years, however, were to elapse before the old acquaintances met again in similar circumstances. And in those years we hear nothing of The Club. Still the Magazine editor asked Old Boys to tell him where they were. 'We earnestly invite the help of all to get in touch with this great body of Old Boys, who, up to the present have

remained, doubtless unwillingly, without the pale'. But the true motive behind the plea is perhaps revealed in O.F. Notes of the same time: 'We beg to appeal to all Old Boys to co-operate with us in our attempt to increase the circulation of our periodical!'

The August, 1893, edition of *The Framlinghamian* carried no O.F. news at all, but that for December of the same year printed a letter to the Editor proposing a dinner at Ipswich. There is no mention of The Club, no rallying of founders or members, no call upon a secretary. What is remarkable about the provenance of the letter is the age of the writers. Both were in their early twenties, Ernest Gostling having left the School in 1891 and Ernest Kalshoven a year earlier. Both had had a distinguished academic and sporting career; both were to have remarkable and meritorious lives.

The dinner took place at the Great White Horse early in 1894. Dr. Inskip, 'the present popular Head Master, made a genial chairman' (not 'President', this time) and 'a choice repast' was provided.

Speeches, for the most part, concerned the growing prosperity of the School, Inskip observing that it was well for the boys 'to remember not only that boys will be boys, but that boys will be men', and that 'if they held that in mind they would make good use of the time there'. No one alluded directly to the satisfaction and pleasure derived from being present at such a gathering, though a toast was drunk to 'the promoters'.

Unfortunately, 'a variety of causes conspired to limit the attendance'. It was thought that if the event was constituted as an annually recurring one, with Ipswich as the recognised centre for meeting, it would attract larger numbers.

The evening concluded musically, songs being given by, among others, 'Mr. Deputy Chief Constable'. Though one speaker mentioned 'the good fellowship existing between O.F.s' nothing substantial was said about fostering that kind of association. In the years immediately following this event Gostling was occupied by the demands of his academic (and sporting) activities at Cambridge; Kalshoven enlisted with the Hampshire Carabineers. The Magazine editor continued to call for O.F. News; the Past v Present cricket matches continued to be contested - 'with teams of 'Old Uns' gathered from the four corners of the land'; the O.F. 100 yards race was still part of the Athletic Sports (though not always graced by 'strictly conventional costume'); the visits of O.F.s to the school were faithfully recorded in the Magazine; the O.F. club seemed to have sunk without trace).

Then, March 1899, two letters were published in *The Framlinghamian*, and behold, all the groping for a regular unified Old Boys' Society, tentative over thirteen years, changed to a firm grip on what was necessary to turn elusive possibility into splendid reality.

### ***TO THE EDITOR OF THE FRAMLINGHAMIAN***

*Mr Editor*, - Without in any way attempting to disparage the School Magazine, for no one appreciates your efforts more nor scans your pages with greater eagerness than myself, I must say I think it falls short of its aim.

The duty of a school magazine I imagine is threefold : Firstly, to keep a record of all the school's doings, and to encourage literary talent among the boys, secondly, to keep Old Boys in touch with the school; thirdly, to keep Old Boys in touch with each other. In the first two our Magazine is without fault, but the third is only accomplished by an O.F. column.

Would it not be possible to start an Old Boys' Directory in connection with the Magazine? wherein could be put besides the address a few very brief details concerning date of coming and leaving, examinations passed, colours obtained and such like.

This I venture to think would be a great improvement, and would very materially help to sustain some of the interest in one's old school, an interest which is in danger of waning, when the Magazine no longer contains names of those we know.

Am I wrong in seeing in it, too, the foundation-stone of an Old Boys' Club?

Yours truly,  
WHERE IS HE NOW?

\* \* \* \* \*

*Dear Sir,* - I have long been desirous of seeing an Old Framlinghamian Club started on a sound footing. Among the many great objects of an Old Boys' Club, two suggest themselves very strongly to me, viz. :-To continue, strengthen and consolidate School friendships, and to form a bond between all who love their Old School, to work unceasingly for the good of that School. I think the present a fitting time to try and get all Old Boys together and form such a club, and I want every Old Framlinghamian who has sympathy with the idea to make it known to any Old Boys with whom he is now in touch and communicate their address to me. My idea is that we should have a meeting in London on the first evening of the Gentlemen v Players Cricket Match, at Lord's (Monday, July 10th, 1899), to consider the question, and if thought fit to at once establish the Club.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
ALFRED PRETTY

## Chapter II

### Establishment and Founding Fathers

It will be recalled that the March, 1899 edition of *The Framlinghamian* carried a letter from Alfred Pretty expressing his long-standing desire to see an *Old Framlinghamian* Club started on a sound footing. It is interesting to note that he does not ask for *the Club* to be re-started, and we may assume that the embers of the old 'Holborn Restaurant Club' were by then cold. Obviously Pretty expected a response: his letter suggests a meeting, of those in sympathy with the idea, at Lord's on the first evening of the Gentlemen v Players match on July 10th. The implicit assumption that to comply presented no difficulty to himself (he was in the middle of the summer term) on any other O.F. perhaps reveals something of a leisurely, care-free life of a lost age.

There is no evidence that such a meeting took place. The match certainly did, and those who were there on that first day (there were 14000 spectators) would have seen C. B. Fry make a hundred and W. G. Grace run up thirty-three not out. This would have pleased Pretty. He was a great admirer of Grace and had, four years earlier, collected £5 (in shillings) from the boys of the school to send to the *Daily Telegraph* National Grace Testimonial Fund, a project which he himself had suggested, for, as he asserted, 'W. G. has shown us what self-denial and training of body and mind can do...and though we cannot expect to follow him in his high flight, we can yet do our best to keep up the manliness of Britons, and show that we have no sympathy with those who in various ways are fighting against it.'

Whether Pretty bided his time or whether he made a more acceptable arrangement for a meeting is not known. Speech Day in the year 1900 took place on Friday July 27th with the 'Past v Present' cricket match on the following day. Achievements of Old Boys, academic and sporting, did not fail to receive mention in the speeches, and, of course, proud and affectionate reference was made to O.F.s 'serving their Queen and their country at the front in South Africa, some of them giving in their services their blood and their lives.' But no mention was made to the possibility of a momentous step being taken towards the securing of a true society of Old Framlinghamians.

On the morning of the cricket match Pretty was able to invite to his room thirteen Old Boys who, as players or spectators, had been attracted to the game. Past chroniclers have been zealous enough to preserve knowledge of the whereabouts of Pretty's room, the most recent telling us, 'The room no longer exists in its original form. It is now the centre part of the Middle School house-room which four former Pembroke Scholars who were at the School between 1884 and 1896 enlarged, equipped and gave to the College. Their names have never been made known. Alfred's writing-table stood in front of the window, and there was the view of the Castle, the mere and town, and

the old Church Tower.’

Some of this is hard to envisage. It seems most likely that the room in question, having passed through various stages, from junior ‘Set-room’ to Clarke-Martin Reading Room, is now the Head’s Study.

What happened at the meeting is most concisely narrated by the current report:

### Old Boys’ Club

At a meeting held in Mr. Pretty’s room of O.F.s, who had come down for Speech day and the Old Boys’ Match, it was decided

(1) on the motion of C. W. LeMay seconded by H. A. Jones “That it is highly desirable to form an O.F. Club, and in order to carry out this idea a Committee be appointed, which should communicate with all Old Boys whose addresses they could obtain and call a meeting to be held in London during the month of October.” this was carried *nem. con.*

(2) on the motion of W. G. Ellis seconded by T. P. Adnams “That the following form this Committee :-Alfred Pretty, E. P. Ridley, H. M. Mills, C. W. LeMay.” Carried *nem. con.*

The following O.F.s were present:-Alfred Pretty, W. G. Ellis, H. A. Jones, C. W., H. H. and H. W. LeMay, T. P. and H. A. Adnams, E. G. Mawby, H. M. Mills, P. T. Bull, V. Cooper, A. C. Vidal, S. Field.

It will be observed that the designation ‘Club’ persists. What is less obvious is the nature of the composition of the meeting. Ten out of the fourteen of those present were actively engaged in the match of the day. Those not playing included E. P. Ridley (1873-77) who had been captain of cricket for his last three years at the College and H. A. Jones (1894-98) who later was to play for Somerset and for Cambridgeshire and had captained the XI for two years. Pretty’s enthusiasm for the game could scarcely be matched. Would it be too fanciful to wonder if cricket, or the spirit of cricket, was embedded somewhere in the notion of the creation of an Old Boys’ Society? Having regard to the antics and unseemly displays witnessed at and about some first-class matches of today the proposition seems outrageous, but it must be remembered that in Pretty’s time the game of cricket was the embodiment of all that was finest in the character of the English and that, as one of Pretty’s colleagues put it, ‘if there were only two good specimens of Englishman left on the face of the earth, single wicket matches would be the order!’

Be that as it may, the outcome of the deliberations held in Pretty’s room was that the temporary committee published a notice in the *East Anglian Daily Times* and sent letters to all Old Boys whose addresses were held advising them, and all other interested O.F.s, that a meeting would be held at Anderton’s Hotel, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, November 14th 1900 at 7.30 p.m. ‘with the object of forming a society of Old Framlinghamians.’

Anderton’s Hotel has long since disappeared. It lay between Johnson’s Court and St. Dunstan’s Court on the north side of Fleet Street, within easy reach of the terminus of the Great Eastern Railway, Liverpool Street, by handsome cab. At about this

time horse-drawn 'buses were slowly being replaced by motor-buses, but it was not until 1905 that anything like a suitable motor service was in place. The hotel was of the traditional coaching-inn style, comfortable and modest in charges (the standard dinner cost less than 25 (new) pence, bed and breakfast less than 50). Situated near the Law Courts it claimed to offer 'special accommodation, private coffee and Dining Rooms, to Solicitors and their clients.'

That the meeting was called to take place in London may seem to us now to have been a little daring or somewhat rash, but some eighty Old Boys turned up at the summons of the provisional committee. There were forty letters or telegrams expressing regret at inability to be present. At the time it was reckoned that two thousand eight hundred boys had passed through the school. Against the name of one, in the College Register of 1907, is the puzzling entry, 'Nomination withdrawn.'

The prospect of there being a secure Old Framlinghamian Society was warmly welcomed by an enthusiastic Magazine editorial. Some may feel that the ardour shown comes a little late and the faint suggestion that it was a pity that no one had thought of the project earlier falls a little hard on the founders of The Club of thirteen years before. That editorial does, however, present a true picture of the situation prevailing, and much of it is as relevant today as it was a hundred years ago. Here is part of it-

'Boys are essential to the existence of a school, and it follows that, when the School has existed for some few years, those who have been as boys within its walls must necessarily pass out into the world and become "Old Boys" as far as the School is concerned. As the years roll on and each succeeding term sees the places of those who leave taken by fresh comers, so does the tale of the "Past" increase, until there are few spots in England, or even in the world, where a representative of the School cannot be found. So it is with this School, which in its comparatively short life of 35 years has seen over 3000 boys enter its portals, linger for a certain time within its walls and then bid farewell to the surroundings amid which they have passed their boyhood. How many of these would gladly keep in touch with their old School, if there were any means of doing so! Hitherto these have not existed except for the few who can and do pay a hurried visit on the occasion of the annual "Past and Present" Cricket and Football Matches, and who as a rule have left during recent years. Sometimes an "old-stager" will put in an appearance, and in this way one generation has been brought into contact for the time being with another more remote. But there has been no bond of union, no community of interests possible, for the links that have been temporarily joined are severed immediately afterwards, perhaps never again to be united in this particular instance.

'Until now the position of affairs has been most unsatisfactory to those who have been proud of being "Old Framlinghamians" and have been anxious to maintain the friendships which they have formed at School. Living as they do perhaps miles away from their former chums and with business claiming most of their time, years may elapse without a meeting being possible, and so they drift apart, not because they

wish but because they must....

‘Every Old Boy who can be reached must be brought within its fold, and *every boy now in the School must make up his mind to join as soon as he leaves.* Then there will soon be a Society worthy of the School, all of whose members are bound together by the ties of good-fellowship and allegiance to an Alma Mater of whom they are proud and who is equally proud of them. In fact, this Society of Old Framlinghamians must make itself the guardian of the traditions of the School and become a guarantee that the School itself shall always maintain the high position which it has reached...’

We have Alfred Pretty’s own account of the Anderton’s Hotel meeting and his observations on its significance, but the core of the matter was simply--

*‘It was proposed by E. P. Ridley, seconded by C. W. LeMay, and unanimously (by acclamation) carried- That a Society, to be called the ‘Society of Old Framlinghamian’ be and is hereby formed.’*

Pretty found it a delightful evening. There was none of that hesitancy which usually wasted the first half-hour or so of a meeting: everyone was able to state his views. The gratifying numbers of those present promised well for the success of the first Annual Dinner, fixed (alas, for the best-laid plans!) for the following February, when, at a General Meeting, the provisionally elected Officers and Committee might make way for a more permanent body. He was able to tell the gathering of the warm support for the project from Governors, Lord Rendlesham their Chairman, from the Earl of Stradbroke, Sir Cuthbert Quilter and ‘others well known in Suffolk.’ He had received similar messages of approval and good-will from Dr. Inskip and the Assistant masters.

The good wishes of the Assistant masters could, or perhaps should have made a stronger impact: no place was found for them in the membership, the provisional committee’s ruling being quite final-

*‘All past boys of Framlingham are eligible for membership and shall become members after having been proposed and seconded by members, approved by the Executive, and having paid their annual subscription.’*

The annual subscription was fixed at five shillings and sixpence (old money), which sum included the subscription to the School Magazine (three editions a year, at sixpence per issue).

When other rules drawn up by the provisional committee had been enunciated and approved the election of temporary officers was made:

*President:-* Herbert Pretty

*Vice-Presidents:-* E. P. Ridley, Dr. Hale White, W. B. Hardy, Rev. H. M. Mills

*Hon. Sec.:-* Alfred Pretty

*Assistant Hon. Secs:-* C. W. LeMay, A. B. Mills, B. F. Woods

*Hon. Treasurer:-* C. S. Mawby

*Committee:-* T. P. Adnams, G. S. Elliston, S. Herbert, G. E. Jackson, G. E. Jeffes, H. A. Jones, H. H. LeMay, E. G. Mawby, C. H. Peacock, C. L. Read, H. R. Sadd, H. R. D. Spitta

Herbert Pretty (1865-70), brother of Alfred, had been the first Captain of the School, and at the age of forty-six was the oldest member present at the meeting. He had had a distinguished academic career at the College, had played cricket for the 1st XI and was destined to become grandfather to two Framlinghamians and full President of the Society in 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1925.

Edwin P. Ridley (1873-77), who made the historic proposal at Anderton's, had been Captain of the school from 1875 to '77, Captain of Cricket and Football for three years and Swimming Captain (an innovation) in 1876. Alfred Pretty thought so highly of him that he wrote for the Magazine (March, 1899) a eulogy outlining his school career, his distinguished progress in Law (he was retained as solicitor for Treasury) and concluding, 'He is a man with a rare head, any amount of perseverance, who lives every moment of his life, a thorough sportsman, and one who does not know how to spell the word 'can't.'"

Both Herbert Pretty and Ridley had been mindful of the School after they had left it as young men. Pretty had presented two prizes (for French) and had contributed a long article, 'A Winter Tour Through Northern Europe', to the Magazine; Ridley had given two prizes (for English Composition) and had delivered a lecture to the School on Cuneiform Inscription in Abyssinia and Arabia. Both had been present at the fourth (1891) annual dinner of The Club.

Edwin Ridley had deep interest in Ipswich: he was President of the Town's Scientific Society, a Governor of the endowed schools and eventually (1898-9) Mayor. He was to become President of the S.O.F. (1903), and (1916) the first O.F. to be honoured by being appointed to membership of the Corporation. He was eventually elected to the governing body - sixty years after joining the school.

The early life and career of Alfred Pretty, principal founder and first Honorary Secretary of the S.O.F., is simple to relate though the bare narrative may not reveal his zeal for everything he undertook. He came to the School as a boy in 1870 and left, aged eighteen, in 1877. In that time he gained Colours for both cricket and football and won the Goldsmith Medal for modern Languages.

For the greater part of his schooldays his headmaster was the Revd. William Bird ('an example of endless energy'), who must have thought highly of him for (well in accordance with Governors' rules) he engaged him as an assistant master scarcely a year after his leaving, as he did two years later in the case of L.C. Cooper (1873-80), who was also aged eighteen.

One is forced to the conclusion that academic qualification were not of the highest importance in Bird's day, though Pretty's new colleagues could claim them. One of his fellow masters during his two-year stay was Oliver D. Inskip. Inskip's salary (1879) was basically £75 a year, Pretty's £40.

When Pretty left the school as a boy there were three hundred and twelve pupils on the roll, day-boys up to the number of fourteen a year having been admitted since 1874; nine years later, a savage outbreak of scarlatina and numerous 'mistakes' by the Governors having undermined public confidence, there were but sixty-five.

Pretty matriculated in 1880, secured a post at Wellingborough Grammar School, where he stayed for seven years before returning to Framlingham at the behest of Inskip, now Headmaster and in Holy Orders, in 1887, and sought to improve his academic standing in 1888. He was successful in the Intermediate Examination (London), but got no further and again returned to the College, in 1891, - as Second Master and Senior Languages Master - remaining for twelve years. Speaking at the O.F. Dinner of 1905 he recalled that he had 'had the chance of an excellent appointment when he left Wellingborough but preferred to go back to the College because it was in a low state, there being less than sixty boys in residence.' The circumstances of his leaving the school (1903) are obscure. It may be significant that though the Magazine devoted a page to praising his influence and achievements no mention of his going was made at the Speech Days of the years immediately before and after his departure. It is believed that Inskip found that there was not room enough in the school for himself and Pretty. After an interval of fourteen years Pretty joined the staff of Ipswich School, where he served until 1925.

He was a man of intense (and, apparently, to non-co-operators,, frightening) enthusiasms, especially in matters of cricket, football and the preparation of his pupils for the Cambridge Local Examinations, which (so much for paper qualifications!) yielded him increasingly excellent results. As a master he played both cricket and football with characteristic application. In lighter moments he was prepared to sing at concerts, take part in theatricals and speak in debates. He commanded (1901-03) the newly founded Cadet Corps; he was a lieutenant (under the redoubtable Capt. E.P. Clarke, 1890-96) in the 1st Volunteer Bn. Suffolk Regiment - exhorting the departing heroes (1914): 'be prayerful, be vigilant, and quit you like men.'

There is little doubt that the formation of a wide society of Old Framlinghamians had been in his mind long before 1900, perhaps even when he was a committee member at the inception of the Club thirteen years earlier. In his Magazine commentary (April 1900) on the Cambridge exams (he seems to have had a free run in that journal) he writes, 'long before another year has passed I hope to see an Old Boys Club formed, which will be a bond of union for all Framlinghamians throughout the world.' In, 1905, created a Vice President of the secure Society, he said that his life was wrapped up in Framlingham, that to unearth Old Boys who had been completely lost was a joy and that the formation of the S.O.F. was a positive delight to him.

## Chapter III

# The Formative Years 1901-1910 - Growing Pains

**B**y March, 1901, there were 122 members of the Society. That interest had been aroused amongst O.F.s could well be claimed, for applications for membership had come from all quarters, including Rajputana, Edinburgh, Quetta and Craigellachie. Gratifying as the response was to the founders they were now faced with the task of keeping numbers together. Alfred Pretty at length became a prolific letter-writer, but for the moment communication was through the School Magazine (free copies of which were sent to all members of the Society) and though that coverage of news was excellent it was of course obvious that some other cementing force must be employed as well. In place already was the O.F. Gathering for the cricket on Whit Mondays, but this perhaps did not enjoy a universal appeal. Another rallying-call (which may fall strangely on our ears today) was the influence of Empire Day (May, 24th), but the inauguration of this recognition of imperial unity lay four years in the future. The establishment of regular Dinners seemed to be the surest and most genial way of bringing Old Boys together.

The casual readers of this chronicle might soon well suppose that the Society was little more than a Diners' Club, but it must not be forgotten that on these occasions what is important is not what is on the table but what is on the chairs, a point made by Brig.-Gen. Alexander Wallace (1870-74) at the Annual Dinner of 1909 in his reply to the toast of 'The School'. They owed, he said, a lot to these dinners for renewing old friendships and making new ones but he did not think the dining part should become too prominent, although it might be said to fill a great want.

In the near future lay the establishment of the S.O.F. Football Club (and, much daring, its annual 'Cinderella' Dances) and an Indian branch.

Pretty's first attempt to get the newly-formed Society to knit together (he had called for a Dinner and A.G.M. in London, February, 5th) was thwarted by the death of Queen Victoria and her funeral (Feb. 2nd). It may be that he welcomed the delay, though not the cause of it, for at the time he was very much taken up with the establishment and kitting of the Cadet Corps - slouch hat, Norfolk jacket of mixed tartan, trousers of the same, belt, boots, gaiters, and badge of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. However, his revised notice now called the meeting for April 29th at the Holborn Restaurant. The address of the Honorary Treasurer, Claude Septimus Mawby (1887-91, a talented all-round sportsman) was given and prospective members were invited to send him their annual subscription of five shillings and six pence.

O L D

Framlinghamians' Club



First Annual Dinner

AT

THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT

(PRINCE OF WALES' SALON),

Thursday, 5th January, 1888.



REV. O. D. INSKIP,

*In the Chair.*

*The Old Framlinghamians' Club  
preceded the present Society.  
Reproduced here is the cover of the  
menu for its first dinner in 1888.*

**M E N U**

**Soups**

Mock Turtle.

Julienne

**Fish**

Turbot and Lobster Sa

Whitebait.

**Entrées**

Sweetbreads in Cas

Chicken Sauté à la Ma

**Removes**

Ribs of Beef and Horse

Saddle of Mutton and Red C

**Vegetables**

Boiled Potatoes.

Sauté Potatoes.

**Sweets.**

Mince Pie.

Macédoine Jelly.

Ice Pudding.

Cheese.

**Dessert.**

*The Holborn Restaurant, Hig*

**P R O G R A M M E .**

Toast. THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY.

The Chairman

Song ... .. Frank Denman

Toast. ARMY, NAVY, AND RESERVE FORCES.

A. Cupping

Song ... .. C. Chilley

Reply ... .. C. K. Harvey

Song ... .. G. King-Smith

Toast. OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANs' CLUB.

The Chairman

Song ... .. W. T. Brünger

Reply ... .. Alfred Baker

Song ... .. Rev. O. D. Inskip

Toast. ALBERT MEMORIAL COLLEGE. E. P. Ridley

Song ... .. A. S. Manning

Reply ... .. W. T. Brünger

Song ... .. R. H. S. Donaldson-Selby

Toast. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE. E. O. Debney

Song ... .. Frank Denman

Reply ... .. J. Waugh

Song ... .. C. Chilley

Toast. THE CHAIRMAN. L. Debney

Song ... .. W. T. Brünger

Reply

Song ... .. S. F. Dixon

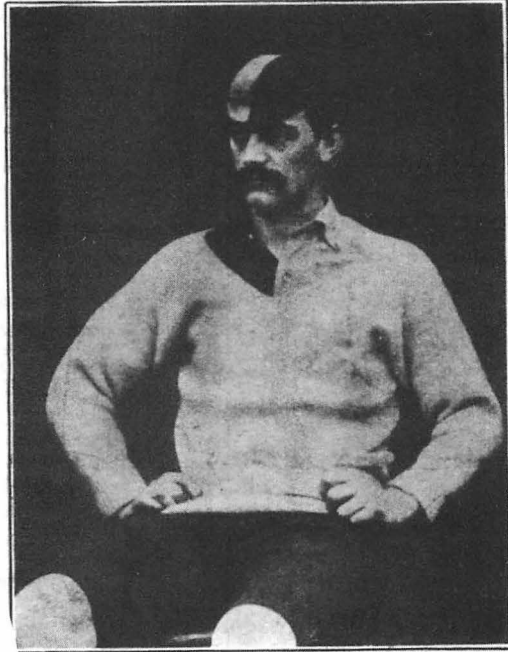
Toast. THE VICE-CHAIRMAN. W. J. Selby

Song ... .. R. H. S. Donaldson-Selby

Reply

"AULD LANG SYNE."

*At the first dinner of the  
Old Framlinghamians' Club  
in London in 1888  
the speech list, punctuated by  
song, was as comprehensive  
as the menu*



PRETTY  
PEERLESS  
PRINCE *of*  
PUBLICITY

*Photo unkindly lent by Villum T. Brunger*

*Alfred Pretty as nobody now would remember him. His advertisements designed to attract attention to the next Society meeting (see next page) met with this response in kind at an early dinner*

# OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS

## ANNUAL LONDON DINNER

Friday, Feb. 10th, 1928,

AT  
PRINCE'S RESTAURANT  
PICCADILLY.

*My five reasons why you should come :*

1. Because the hundred or so who have accepted want to meet YOU.
2. Because the *spirit* of the Public Schools is still the goodliest *fellowship* of famous men whereof the World holds record.
3. If you are young, and your spirits bubbling over, come and spread the infection.
4. If you are getting, or feeling, old and worn, come and be rejuvenated.
5. And last—and most important—Because the retiring President will only make one speech, and that consisting of three words only, but those the most powerful in the English language,  
“Gentlemen! the King!”  
ALFRED PRETTY.

*Pretty's sense of humour may seem a little dated but, judging by the number of Old Boys who attended his dinners, it worked.*

# Old Framlinghamians.

*The final Selections for the Newmarket 1st. October Meeting are as under.*

For the first race—the VETERANS' SELLING PLATE—you may go Nap on "Worham Wonder," well-tried and perfectly sound and warranted to run straight. If Sherwood sends one, have a look at him, for that stable is always worth watching.

The NORTH SUFFOLK STAKES—for which I understand there is a strong entry—you may rely on Spashett's selected. I lately saw his lot at exercise and they pleased me greatly.

The SUFFOLK PUNCH NURSERY Handicap. You can't do better than rely on the "Morston" stable. I have it from "A.T.P." himself that his colt "F.N." will well maintain the high reputation of this winning stud.

For The UNIVERSITY STAKES I fancy "Sir William," though "John Terry" should make him go all the way. I hear great things of the young "Stapleton" Colt, and at the time of writing I hear there is just a chance that he may have a "walk over."

The AFTER DINNER—(or Great Foal) STAKES—(Vins et Liqueurs.).

Put your last shilling on "The President." He has done a good trial and knows the course. Outsiders that may give some trouble are the "Bersey Butler" and Reading's "Best Biscuit," but I don't think either of them can get the distance. "Chas. H." may create a surprise, and "Tom" will want watching.

N.B.—Don't forget to "weigh out" in good time. Clerk of the Scales—

R. B. THOMAS,  
43, Bishopsgate,  
E.C.

Fee, 5/-

For the "weighing in" business I understand "A. S. M." has volunteered his able assistance.  
Au revoir. A bientôt!  
ALFRED PRETTY,  
President S.O.F.

The Dinner was pronounced 'a distinct success' though not many attended the meeting which preceded it, 'the majority of members evidently not ranking it as important as the subsequent conviviality.' At the meeting Pretty, reiterating the desirability and need for promoting the Fund to be used for purposes of direct benefit to the College, was promised the not inconsiderable sum of £65. He, as Secretary, and Sidney Herbert (1871-76) were appointed to re-arrange the order of Rules so-far passed.

Dr. Inskip and three members of his staff were among the eighty-eight members who, under the presidency of Herbert Pretty, enjoyed this first annual Dinner and appreciated the thought and labour that had made it possible.

A further meeting was held after the Past v Present match in July (1901) when 45 members stayed for the weekend. Not all the business related to sport though the design for a blazer, broad stripe of chocolate, broad stripe of light blue, divided by a narrow white line, was approved. The nature of a fitting memorial to Old Boys who had died in the South African war came briefly under discussion.

In spite of Dr. Inskip's hospitality no mention of the Society was made at Speech Day, which fell a week after the cricket. The individual achievements of O.F.s at home and abroad were recalled with pride, however, and the Magazine of December, 1901, made some amends by asserting that the establishment of a Society of Old Boys had made it much easier for them to keep in touch with the school and its doings as well as with each other. 'Every Old Boy should make a point of joining the S.O.F. and so give his support to an association which will be a great factor in the continued prosperity of Framlingham.'

Herbert Pretty presided over the second annual Dinner (Holborn Restaurant, Dec. 23rd, 1901). The 'large company' attending did not include Inskip, Alfred Pretty or any other members of staff, who found a small-pox scare inhibiting. A somewhat dismaying letter was read. It was from Frank Garrett, for the last ten years Chairman of the Committee of Management, and lamented the fact that the Suffolk Queen Victoria Memorial Fund had fallen short of expectations. Was it, he wondered, because the Old Framlinghamians and their friends had not done their best to promote its success. He felt that the school was not sufficiently advertised by Old Framlinghamians, who could do a lot by recommending its unique advantages. The Society might well found a Scholarship.

This could be taken as something of a slur on the Society. Alfred Pretty's letter in reply was firm. It would be 'extremely unwise' to add the O.F. Fund to the County Fund, which must always remain under the control of the O.F.s. There were 260 boys in the School - let each make a small donation on leaving.

George S. Elliston, proposing 'Success to the School', supported Pretty's opinion, though, as we may he did find it strange that the County had raised £30,000 for a memorial to Albert whereas less than £5,000 had been collected to mark the achievement and passing of 'our late beloved Queen.' He noted with pride 'the glorious roll of Old Framlinghamians who had died in the South African war' [a suitable memorial was still being considered] and, on a more earthy note congratulated the

Society for bearing the cost of the rebuilding of the Fives Court at the College.

The spring and summer of 1902 were full of incident, not every item touching Old Boys directly. Sir Thomas Lucas a founder, oldest Governor and donor of the statue of Albert, died; the Coronation of Edward VII was postponed - he had contracted typhoid fever - but the School got its 'Coronation' holiday none the less; A.J. Munnings' (1891-92) painting 'The Gossips' was hung in the Royal Academy and sold for £21; the South African war came to an end, an event marked by the College Cadet Corps by a parade in the Town Market Place and the firing of a *feu de joie*; an O.F. XI (dubbed 'Those of Ancient Days') played the School and Forest Hill C.C. (There was not an 'official' S.O.F. Cricket section, neither was there yet a Society Football Club though an O.F. XI raised by the Le May brothers had played one game in the previous year); J. Woodger (1877-81) was killed by a lion on the shores of Lake Nyassa.

Woodger's unfortunate end gives rise to sombre reflection on other dismal fatalities: J.W.L. Archer (1890-97) thrown from his horse, broke his breast-bone and 'from the start was a hopeless case;' Lewis Lucas (1892-97) was mortally wounded when, as he was getting over a stile, the trigger of his gun caught in his clothing; Captain Peter Elliston (a master at the College, 1899-1900) serving with the Canadian Artillery was shot dead on parade by a gunner, in revenge for a minor punishment.

On a more pleasant note it should perhaps be recorded that though in general there was no place for ladies in the pursuits of the S.O.F. or, indeed, the College (though Mrs Inskip and Mrs Brunger were ever-active when their kind of assistance or guidance was needed), the establishment of Dances by the Football club might be taken as the first step towards a happy association, which, however, would have to wait nearly a hundred years to reach perfection. Mr. Noverre of Norwich resumed his dancing classes in 1902, with 30 pupils at the College, but there is no record of invitations being extended to girls. The small pavilion located in the S.W. corner of The Back, probably built in 1902, was originally known as The Ladies' Pavilion (later on, 'The Headmaster's Pavilion'), but what ladies graced it we do not know.

Early in 1903 the retiring President, Herbert Pretty, entertained the Executive at the Hotel Metropole (Northumberland Avenue). Here it was finally resolved that the society should found a South African War Memorial Fund and that the new President Edwin Ridley, and Alfred Pretty should launch the appeal.

The third annual Dinner was held at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, in February, 1903, when Alfred Pretty, still Hon. Secretary was able to announce that membership was approaching the 150 mark. Dr. Inskip (still yet to mention the Society on Speech Days) expressed pleasure on hearing that the Society was doing something in the way of a memorial to those old school fellows who had lost their lives in the late war, but was obliged to state that the County Queen Victoria Memorial Fund (in support of which the S.O.F. had made no commitment) was flagging. It should be added that this Fund eventually picked up a little and the general wish being that it should benefit the College, an entrance scholarship, 'The Queen Victoria Scholarship', was instituted.

After a slow beginning the fund to establish a memorial to O.F.s who had lost their lives in the South African War became sufficiently re-assuring for action to be taken, some £70 having been subscribed. Dr. Inskip favoured the installation of a stained-glass window in the Chapel, but the Society's preference was observed and in May 1904, a year after the formal cessation of hostilities, a caen stone pulpit and brass tablet were dedicated.

Fifty O.F.s served in what was generally known as the Boer War; nine as the brass records, failed to survive. The oldest of them was twenty-five, the youngest, nineteen. The majority fell victims to enteric fever, but the Boers were marksmen: Henry Rutherford (1897-99) was shot through the heart on Christmas Day, 1901, but three years after leaving school.

When we look at the tablet today our attention is, perhaps, drawn to the brigades in which those commemorated served - 'The Imperial Yeomanry', 'Paget's Horse', 'Baden Powell's Sharpshooters' - rather than to their names. The words of the preacher at the dedication service anticipated such a dereliction, '...We are proud to remember that they went forth to serve their country and that they had in the past taken their part in the ordinary life of the College...'

On the last night of the Easter Term, 1903, Alfred Pretty, 'in accents sometimes stifled by emotions', made a valedictory speech to the School. It was, he said a great wrench to leave the place in which his heart was bound up. He was grateful for the perfect concord existing between himself and his colleagues. *The Magazine* gave a short history of his work at the school, 'which will doubtless interest those who knew him as one who cared for their welfare.' This tribute was introduced by the bald statement 'After a connection with Framlingham College extending over a period of more than thirty years, Mr Pretty left us at the end of term.'

At a private presentation he was the recipient of a gold watch and a purse of fifty guineas from Past and Present Boys and Masters.

When Mrs Rackham, the school nurse, retired seven months later, after thirty-three years' service she was presented with a writing-desk, a silver tea-pot and jug, £50 from the School and £50 from the Governors.

The fifth annual Dinner, Charles W. Wallace, President, (succeeding Sir William Bate Hardy, 1875-79) took place at the Trocadero in February, 1905. Alfred Pretty was no longer Honorary Secretary - his place had been taken by E. G. Mawby - but he was present, gratified at the 'high honour' of being elected vice-president.

It was keenly felt that in spite of invitations no member of the staff was present, that attendance at Dinners had declined and, indeed, that the Society could now boast of no more than a hundred members, even after forty years and the existence of some three thousand old boys.

The President looked forward to a time when the Society would be 'of greater use to the school and to themselves.' The new secretary felt that the Society was not progressing as fast as they would like; he was sure, however, that the eventual publication of the *Old Boys' Directory* [it had to wait until 1908] would pull things together.

Charles Wallace had, in fact, already done what he could to promote prosperity: he had instituted 'City Lunches', held on consecutive Thursdays, first at the Guildhall Tavern and then at Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate. Not many O.F.s had attended though city members were enthusiastic.

On May, 24th, 1905, exactly a year after the inauguration of Empire Day, an informal O.F. dinner was held at Pagani's Restaurant. Nearly thirty were present; songs were sung and led by the President, by Alfred Pretty and George Elliston, their patriotic content prompting George Mawby to recall 'the old custom' of the singing of the National Anthem by Albert's statue and bringing from him the suggestion that there should be a regular Annual Dinner on Empire Day. He did not neglect to urge those present to recruit new members for the Society.

Some may wonder whether the officers of the Society, who clearly deplored the stagnation in numbers, pondered deeply on the wisdom of almost invariably choosing London as a centre for gatherings. Obviously the location suited many, but not a few must have been hesitant to attend when they had considered three factors - time, travel and expense, and it may well seem to us today that expense was not the predominant consideration of those organising these events.

The restaurants and hotels chosen, whether in the West End or in the City, were not in any sense cheap. The much-favoured Pagani's (which was in fact in Gt. Portland Street) was an establishment where, we are told, 'you would tip the waiter twopence in the shilling rather than the customary penny.' It should be added that the 'rip-off' price for a bottle of wine had yet to make its unwelcome appearance and that the appeal of the Dinners did not depend solely on the quality of the food provided: that the evenings concluded by songs and even recitations by members suggests that feasting was not the entire constituent of enjoyment.

The time would come when popular opinion demanded that the gatherings should be held 'nearer home', perhaps at Ipswich, and the inauguration of the influential Newmarket Dinners marked the trend. The voice of ex-day-boys of the College was yet to be heard. It may be that the officers of the Society were trying, perhaps unconsciously, to set or maintain a high 'tone': there had been great disappointment when the S.O.F. Football Club had not been accepted for inclusion in the Arthur Dunn Cup competition, and great satisfaction at the first inclusion of the M.C.C. on the College fixture list - the match was played on July 18th 1905, when 'the whole team played a funny sort of game', and in spite of A. W. V. Stiemens' (1902-05) taking 6 for 62, was defeated by 74 runs.

That the Society was passing through lean times was all too obvious. The committee sought to shepherd its members and draw in others by (A.G.M. of 1905) fixing regular dates for Dinners: the Annual Dinners to be held in Ipswich every summer and London Dinners to take place on the second Wednesday each December. The Secretary sent 3600 circulars outlining the aims of the Society to boys who had passed through the School since its foundation.

At the Trocadero, London Dinner of February, 1906, it was announced that

2000 of the circulars had been returned through the dead-letter office, that contact had been made with 800 Old Boys, that there had over the years been upwards of fifty local lunches or gatherings (though it was not to be supposed 'that all work of the Society was gastronomical'), but that there were at the time only 140 subscribing members.

'The work of the Society' now included the raising of funds to provide a memorial window to Albert Daymond, the first Headmaster, and 'in order to repay what they owed the School', to establish Scholarships. To this latter end the President, Charles Wallace, and Charles Scott were chosen as trustees of the fund. The raising of money pre-supposed a robust membership, and it was believed, apparently correctly, that an *O.F. Directory* would unite Old Boys and encourage enrolment in the Society. The task of directing the compilation and publication was accepted by the Secretary, George Mawby. The *Directory* would list every known Old Boy (though not all addresses) and the officers of the Society, it would include a model questionnaire to ensure comprehensive details in future editions and would catalogue the newly-formulated 'Rules' some twenty months were to elapse before it appeared.

An interesting digression might be acceptable. At the Empire Day Dinner (Pagani's) of 1906 Dr. W. S. Richmond (1868-71), proposing the health of the Chairman, C. W. Wallace, firmly warned against 'the excessive pursuit of Athletics in Schools,' an observation which drew from the Chairman the assertion that though foreign teaching methods might be superior to ours, when it came to the 'production of MEN' it was a case of '*Rule Britannia* and the rest nowhere.' The Chairman's health was drunk 'with musical enthusiasm.'

The College XI might have benefited from more athleticism, as to the feet, in their match against the Clergy of Suffolk in that season. They were 'terribly at sea' against the simple-looking deliveries of the Revd. Rivett-Carnac, who took 8-53, bowling *lobs*. Lest it should be thought that Dr. Richmond was too outrageous in his plea for the curbing of athleticism it should be added that he made a £250 bequest to the College for the establishment of the Richmond Prize for Mathematics and Swimming. The award for swimming has lapsed.

The second Annual Dinner for East Anglian O.F.s (White Horse, Ipswich, July 1906) was not well supported though the Society in London was prospering. A notable absentee was Alfred Pretty. The President, Wallace, observed that some Old Boys whom he had approached about joining had asked, 'What advantage am I going to get out of it?' What they should have said was, 'What good can I do the School?' Charles Scott, proposing the Toast to the Society, considered that the S.O.F was not likely to become a rich Society, but the time might come when they might be able to do something for the old school which they loved so much. The evening closed with recitations (including Walter Scott's 'Young Lochinvar'-rendered 'in dramatic fashion'), songs and 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The London Dinner (Pagani's, October) attracted a larger attendance (40) than had the Suffolk Dinner, and again members were delighted by songs and recitations.

The A.G.M. and Dinner followed two months later (December, 1906. Again

at Pagani's with *Filet de Sole Pagani* on the menu) when Arthur T. Frankish (1871-73) became President, Secretary Mawby and Treasurer Herbert remaining in Office. Fifty members were present, but absentees included Alfred Pretty, who, at this stage seems to have been embarking on a complete withdrawal, and who was very much missed by all friends from the College. Among decisions made at the Meeting were two which at the time may have seemed unnecessarily bellicose, but which, as we shall see, perhaps anticipated a particular line of thought: interest on the O. F. Fund should be given for Shooting Prizes at the College; a fund (1000 notices were sent out) should be set up and applied to the purchase of a sub-target rifle for the Bisley-competing Cadet Corps.

The fortunes and stability of the Society at this period might best be illustrated by reference to the current Statement of Accounts.

Annual subscriptions from the 141 Ordinary members had brought in £36; Donations had amounted to £75, When all expenses had been met, and there were many- subscriptions to *The Framlinghamian*, preliminary expenses for the forthcoming *Directory*, printing and stationery (£23), postage of circulars (£18) etc., - the balance at the London and Westminster Bank stood at £56. This was for the 'Membership Fund'.

The 'Old Framlinghamian Fund' had sunk roots by the purchase (£99) of £100 Cape of Good Hope 31/2% inscribed stock. This had so far yielded a dividend of nearly £2. [Every schoolboy stamp collection knew of the Cape of Good Hope - the glory of his album would be the 'Cape of Good Hope triangular']. Donations to date, including six shillings interest (Barclays' Bank), amounted to £131. Cash in the bank stood at £33. The Treasurer at that time, and for twelve more years, was Sidney Herbert.

The financial situation gave no cause for immediate anxiety. Outlay was predictable, administrative costs and subscriptions to the *Framlinghamian* being regular. The Magazine was, of course, the prime means of communication within the Society. It indeed dealt faithfully with O.F. affairs and the prowess of individuals, such as the undoubted rise in acclaim for the paintings of Munnings. Old Boys' visits to the College were regularly recorded; their individual gifts to the School, such as Emile Moreau's 1907 unconditional ten guineas (they bought a new vaulting horse), were gratefully acknowledged.

Emile Moreau was emerging as a modest but powerful figure in the affairs of the Society and the College. He had left school at the age of sixteen in 1872 and by the following year was working in Calcutta in the firm founded by his uncles, eventually becoming a partner responsible for organising the firm's labour contracts and the management of some 30,000 workers. Returning to England in 1905 he headed the board of many companies dealing in rubber and oil. His loyalty to the School was intense. At the Society Empire Day Dinner of 1907 (Pagani's, twenty-five members present) he referred in touching words to the influence of the College, an institution which should be kept in 'affectionate remembrance.'

At and from this Dinner two percipient observations emerged. Dr. Inskip asserted that Empire Day was the truly fitting occasion to draw attention to the fact that

the College had sent its boys to almost all parts of the Empire to serve their King and Country in various capacities. Discipline and manliness, he said, were the making of the British Empire. George Mawby, Secretary, writing later of the Dinner suggested that it was a good thing that the success of some of the Society's functions did not depend on the enthusiasm of numbers but upon that of individuals.... for the same well-known faces adorned their last assembly.

It may be fanciful to suppose that what Inskip said about discipline and manliness maintaining the Empire, and what Mawby had had to say about 'a nation bearing arms' are together a dark reference to some kind of impending national challenge - a hint of which, as we shall see, was to come up a year later.

Mawby was announcing (S.O.F. *Notes* in the Magazine) the impending gift to the School of the 'C.W. Wallace Sub Target Rifle Machine', a 'marvellous contrivance designed to indicate every movement of the shooter.' The gift, he said, was primarily to mark the good work of the past President and to help the College VIII for Bisley, but he perceived the possibility of another motive. 'It is', he wrote, 'the duty of every able-bodied man to know how to handle a rifle and develop his shooting-powers.' And, with what some may think is twisted logic, he asserted, 'even the most strenuous opponent of Militarism would admit that the nation of which every man is capable of bearing arms is the nation most easily persuaded to reduce the number and influence of its professional soldiers.' This may mean If you want Peace prepare for War; it may mean that Might is Right and that Hilaire Belloc was expressing a serious truth when in a light-hearted poem he wrote,

'Whatever happens we have got  
The Maxim Gun, and they have not.'

The 1907 Empire Day was marked at the College by an assembly round Albert's statue, the singing of 'Flags of Britain' (Reilly) and the National Anthem, the firing of a *feu de joie* and a march past the flag by the Cadet Corps (commanded by Lieut. H.E. Brown) - accomplished 'in very smart style.'

Anxieties still persisted over the Society's apparent failure to develop numerical strength, and though Dr. Inskip (Annual Dinner, Ipswich 1907) pledged his opinion that the S.O.F. was growing in influence, in membership and in power and that it must exercise an unusual influence on the School, Emile Moreau, speaking on the same occasion, deplored the fact that in spite of the many hundreds who had passed through the College the number of members of the Society barely exceeded a hundred. He was, though, in high enough spirits to give a spirited rendering of 'Abdul the Bulbul Ameer' at entertainment-time for the forty diners.

The same number turned up for the Past v Present Cricket on the following day, but only four of the party, as the Secretary ascertained, were living or making their living in Suffolk. He could not understand why, of the hundreds who must be resident in the county, so few attended the Dinners in Ipswich or the annual gathering at the School. He ventured to hope that when the 1908 Dinner came round more from the home county 'would favour us with a sight of their long-lost but not forgotten faces.'

There were in fact three gatherings before his hope could be realised, and three further inducements to Old Boys thinking of joining the Society.

A 'Lark Pie' Dinner was held in London (November, 1907, at 'Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese', Fleet Street), at which forty O.F.s were present, there was the A.G.M. and Dinner (Monico Restaurant, February, 1908) at which it was announced, to acclamation, that Charles Wallace had endowed the Society with a certain income of £60 a year in order that it might always have funds to meet immediate calls upon its exchequer, and the Empire Day Dinner (May, 1908, at the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street). This was poorly attended, a melancholy fact which encouraged the new President, George Elliston, the Secretary, George Mawby and Emile Moreau to make urgent appeals for more support from members and potential members. The President announced his intention of lecturing School leavers at the end of term and urging them 'to appoint a President who would be responsible for keeping them in the Society.' Moreau, recording his debt to the School, considered that old boys could at least join the Old Boys' Society, whereby they would still be linked with the Old School and would in a small way be following the example of Charles Wallace, whose princely benefactions to the Society and the School would never be forgotten.

It was announced that the O.F. Football Club was now on a sound basis, its Secretary, pleased to receive enquiries, being Maurice Rumball (1894-97), and that the promised *College Register* was ready for publication.

The first Register, compiled in the main by George Mawby, was published by The Scientific Press, London, early in 1908 (though it bears the date 1907) priced, 'in order to give it the widest possible circulation', at one shilling and sixpence, that is, seven-and-a-half pence 'new money'. It was, by any standard, but especially as it was a pioneer, a remarkable work. It listed 3374 names, some with addresses and biographical details. The first name recorded was that of George Ling (1865-6), the last C.G.Barker, who, presumably, was at the School in 1906, though his name is not found in subsequent Registers.

Though the Council of the Society had done all it could to contact all Old Boys it was recognised that there were gaps in the list. It was believed, however, that publication might well bring in news and assure completion in later issues.

This first *Register* sets out the RULES of the Society (as do subsequent Registers - 1949 and 1968), and though their complete reiteration here might make tedious reading there are some which deserve scrutiny.

The Original Rules, drawn up by a Provisional Committee (1900), stated that the objects of the Society were

- (a) To enable old Members of the School to keep in touch with one another.
- (b) To promote a bond of union between past and present Members of Framlingham College to their mutual pleasure and advantage.

The new Register added a further object:

- (c) To promote the interests of the School in every possible way.

and subsequent Registers did the same, save that in the '68 edition we find the 'old' (in clause 'a') has become 'past' - a nice distinction!

The Rule relating to the Management of the Society, as laid down in the new Register remained much the same as the original, but no longer allowed the Honorary Secretary to enjoy the luxury of having 'at least two assistant Hon. Secretaries.' The Registers of '49 and '68 no longer limited the number of voting Vice Presidents to six. From 1907 the Management was vested not in an 'Executive' but in a 'Council'.

Pretty's original Rules suggested that Vice Presidents were subject to re-election, but this condition had lapsed by '07 though the duration of their voting-power was limited -

Any Member recommended by the Council and duly proposed and seconded at the General Meeting in December shall be eligible for election as a Vice-President. When the number of Vice-Presidents exceeds six, the six to serve on the Council for the ensuing year shall be decided by election at the General Meeting in December, and one-third of their number shall retire in rotation at the end of each year.

No such limitation appeared in the Rules of '49 and '68.

In the early days of the Society the election of Officers was straightforward enough and apparently the handling of financial matter was performed uncomplicated:

The Officers and Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in February. Any casual vacancy occurring during the year may be filled by the Council.

but by '07 it was felt necessary to elect three auditors to manage finance, and by the time the second Register was published the Rules were amended thus - '...Accounts shall be audited by a *qualified* accountant nominated by the Finance Committee and elected annually at the A.G.M.'

One of the most remarkable features of the constitution arose from the Rule relating to subscriptions. In 1900 it stated baldly 'The annual subscription shall be five shillings and six pence, which shall include the subscription to the School Magazine.' The 1907 Rules enlarged upon this -

The Annual Subscription shall be 2s. 6d. for the first three years after leaving School, and after that time 5s. per annum, which shall include the Subscription to the school Magazine. Subscriptions shall be due on the first of January, and no one shall be entitled to enjoy the privileges of the Society until his Subscription is paid for the current year. A Subscription of Five Guineas shall entitle a Member to life membership of the Society.

and even after the passage of sixty years no basic change was felt to be necessary.

We saw (Chapter II) how the early days of the Society seem to have been closely bound up with the game of cricket, and 'Pretty's Rule' on Meetings indeed fitted the pattern -

There shall be two General Meetings of the Society - one in London

in the month of February, when an Annual Dinner shall be held, and another at the School the day of the Past and Present cricket match. The Rules of 1907, however, modified the conditions of time and place, changing them to '.....and another in Suffolk during the course of the summer', a Rule which was still in force sixty years later.

The founders of the Society obviously did not expect any 'trouble' or questioning, but after seven years they were prepared to deal with well-supported suggestions or criticisms, and a new Rule, which also survived the test of time, appeared -

The Executive may, and on a requisition signed by twenty Members of the Society must call a Special General Meeting, to be held in London within a month of such notice, and at such Meeting no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the notice convening the Meeting.

In later years the word 'Executive' was substituted by 'President'.

Pretty's deeply-felt hopes and intentions for the inauguration of what he called the 'Old Framlinghamian Fund' were formally set out in the first Register -

There shall be a fund called the 'Old Framlinghamian Fund' which shall be kept separate from the General Funds of the Society. It shall consist of subscriptions and donations collected specially for it. The Bankers of this fund shall be Messrs. Barclay & Company (Framlingham Branch), and the balance in hand from time to time shall be invested in securities authorised by the Trustee Act, 1893 (56 and 57 *Vict.*, *Cap.* 53) in the names of Trustees appointed at a General Meeting. The whole or any part of the interest accruing annually may be used for purposes of direct benefit to Framlingham College, and at the General Meeting in each December the Society shall decide what portion, if any, of the funds shall be allocated for any such purpose or purposes.

- but, for better or worse, the Rule, in such precise terms, never appeared again.

There was, originally, no provision for the election of College Masters to the Society, but by 1907 a Rule allowing them to be considered as Honorary Members (provided that they paid their five shillings sub.) was in place, and by 1968 honorary membership was extended to 'other persons closely connected with Framlingham College.'

Whether this publication and distribution increased membership or not is hard to say. The Annual Suffolk Dinner of '08 (at 'The Great White Horse', Ipswich) attracted some fifty Old Boys, and the President, George Elliston, expressed his delight at the number; but some felt that there should have been many more. Dr. Inskip was there, and two members of his staff. This drew from Elliston not a reproach (for the newly-published Rules had made it plain enough that Masters could become honorary members) but praise for the academic staff of the College - 'There are still men working at Framlingham at a wholly unremunerative reward ('laughter'), [and one wonders

if it was sympathetic, derisory or astonished]. They were there years before I left. It is remarkable that men could be found who could spend the best part of their lives at Framlingham. The supreme test of a Headmaster is to be found in his staff.'

Dr. Inskip, replying, forbore to mention the merits of his staff, but in thanking the Society for installing a stained-glass window in the chapel, memorial to the first Headmaster, for the fine silver trophy for swimming ('the most magnificent I have ever seen') and for the sub-target rifle, he said that he was sure that 'all this generosity to the school by the Old Boys must have its effect on those who are at present boys.'

The effect of the novel rifle was yet to be felt: the College competed at Bisley, for the first time, in this year (1908). In the Ashburton competition the VIII attained the 50th place.

At this same Dinner an Illuminated Address of Thanks was presented to ex-President C.W. Wallace. Acknowledging the honour he said that he considered that Framlingham was a 'wonderful educational institution: boys could receive a training and education which, if they knew it, would fit them for the highest position in life. Boys leaving were as good as those leaving the top public schools. But he found one difference: many of them LACKED AMBITION.

Having indulged in what some think was a hurtful lack of tact or a gross inaccuracy or an acute perception, he offered a constructive observation, namely that old members of the Society might give a lead to younger ones.

We do not know what the Headmaster thought of the charge of 'lack of ambition' in his pupils. These were the days before a Careers Master was established on the staff, but he might have pointed out that the College was not unmindful of life after school. At this time the Debating Society had carried the motion that the immigration of aliens into Great Britain was detrimental to the state, had rejected the proposition that disarmament was desirable, and had (16-9) considered that conscription would be beneficial to the United Kingdom.

As regards the help that older members might give to younger, the Society might have countered by pointing out that W.N. Edwards (1884-5), tea-planting in Assam, was currently offering, via the S.O.F., two 'apprenticeships in tea'. The applicants should be aged between 19 and 23 years (he himself was 40). There was one other condition, one which may cause the social historian to ponder: 'Applicants should be the sons of gentlemen, for, as you can well understand, they must have an inbred instinct to command labour.'

The Society began to grow in strength in every way. The pattern of attracting new members by regular Dinners was not broken, indeed it is hard to think of a better way, and by the end of 1908 the Secretary was able to report that numbers had reached 411 ('but this number ought to be trebled, for over 3000 boys have now passed through the School'). The annual cricket match had brought in over fifty, and though numbers at the autumn Dinner (Hotel Chatham) were disappointing, the Football Club was confident enough not only to raise two teams but to organise a Dance - the first occasion in connection with the Society to be graced in any number by ladies,

The Club now (1908) had a fixture list of 32 matches for its 1st XI and 24 for its 2nd. It had a 'home ground' at Forest Hill (15 minutes from London Bridge by the L.B. and S.C. Railway) - and it had youth. The Dance (Gaiety Restaurant, Aldwych), at which 99 in all were present, was pronounced 'a distinct social success.' It even showed a small credit balance. The bearing and handsome uniform (Horse Guards, Blue) of C.J.R. Heal (1898-1900) was especially noted.

The toast, 'The School and Old Boys wherever they may be', is heart-warming no matter where it is proposed, but, in the brief history of the Society, it had probably never been more touching than when it was honoured at newly-formed India Branch gathering in March, 1909. The meeting had been brought about by the exertions of the Revd. Edward Herbert and the generosity of Edouard Moreau, his contemporary at school, who provided the Dinner (at Peliti's Restaurant, Calcutta). Six Old Boys were able to attend, the Branch was put on a proper footing, with Moreau as President, and a comprehensive sub., ten shillings a year, was fixed. An on-the-spot collection raised £10, which sum was in due course sent to the Parent Society for the purchase of small replica silver cups for the winners of Challenge Cups for athletics.

Edward Herbert (1871-74) was an interesting man. His main work was with various Missions in India, and it was while he was missionary to the Seamen at Calcutta (on the Hoogli, some eighty miles from the sea) and to the Hindustanis of that city that he found time to exercise his zeal for his old school. He later held various chaplaincies in Switzerland before returning to the mother country where he eventually (1917-29) became Rector of Carlton, Market Bosworth. At one time he was a member of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and later, in this country, a supporter of the National Society of Non-Smokers.

Herbert's regard for the College scarcely needs emphasising, but part of his letter to George Mawby, Secretary of the home Society, after the Calcutta Dinner deserves repetition-

*'....we appreciate the good School and are grateful to the founders, the Masters, and our old chums for what they did and what they were, to and for us.*

*I enclose a little token of our love to the School, and I hope next year we may be able to report progress.....It was owing to your kind efforts in making a Register that we got to know each other....'*

Edward Herbert, apart from his affiliation to the Nagpur Rifles, might well be described as a man of peace. His brother, Sidney, who had been Honorary Treasurer to the Society for many years, and who became President in 1909, was pleased to be thought of as a military man. After leaving the College (1876) he became a Civil Servant attached to the War Office. He joined the Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles (to whom he became Musketry Instructor) returning after some twenty years' service with the honorary rank of Major.

It is little wonder that in his Presidential speech at the A.G.M. and Dinner (1909, Hotel Chatham) he urged O.F.s to join the Territorial Army - classifying such a

move as adopting 'as interesting a hobby as anyone could wish.' He was gratified to announce that interest on the capital of the O.F. Fund (launched primarily to provide a Cambridge Scholarship) would go not only on Gymnasium prizes but also on prizes to be won in the Cadet Corps (recently raised to O.T.C. status). From current funds a 'supporting gift' would be made to Mrs. Rackham, six years into her retirement after her long service in the Sick Room.

When the Society embarked upon its tenth years the financial situation was one of stability if not prosperity. The year 1908 had seen a widening of interests with no threat to capital. Membership subscriptions had brought in £54 and the sale of what was now called the O.F. Directory £44 (which was £2 less than its printing and postage had cost). When expenses had been met, and they included a payment of £19 for the school Magazine, there remained £50 in the Membership Fund - six pounds less than in the previous year.

For the Old Framlinghamian Fund the Cape of Good Hope had yielded £3 ten shillings. Investment in the Budla Beta Tea Company (£1000 Debenture at 6%) had produced £57 for an Endowment Fund, but from this there had to be a deduction to pay for professional clerical assistance for the Honorary Secretary. A balance of £29, ten shillings was left in the hands of the Trustees

Presumably the S.O.F. Football Club, not yet financially stable, kept its members' subscriptions to itself; we find no reference to a subsidy being exacted by the parent society. The Club was certainly growing in strength, with a full fixture-list which included Eastbourne, the London Hopsital, Brentwood Rovers and the London and National Provincial Bank. Such, indeed, was the sporting inclination of the day that a challenge was sent to the School - a contest, not only in football, but in athletics, shooting and even boxing.

The summons, though not to the boxing, was readily, if a trifle fearfully, taken up. The Old Boys won handsomely.

It is difficult to suppose that in the year 1909 there was anyone who glimpsed the merest fringe, the merest trace of a dark shadow forming over Europe. In a year when domestic issues, 'Votes for Women', and the wonders of applied science, Blériot's historic flight, were attracting attention there seemed little reason for looking far beyond our shores. But perhaps somewhere a cloud was indeed brewing; perhaps something, somewhere, was simmering. And because the deluge, when it came, was so awful and because boiling point, when it was reached, was so agonisingly high, the prelude to the catastrophe which held both suffering and glory - for Old Boys as well as for thousands of others - cannot be ignored.

When Sidney Herbert urged O.F.s to join the Territorial Army as a 'hobby' he had in mind, one is bound to think, only their participation in a rewarding pastime. The *Haldane Plan* of 1907 had reorganised the Army by embodying the Militia, the Yeomanry and the Volunteers into a force to supplement the Regulars - the Territorials. Could it be that Haldane was gifted with truly remarkable powers of foresight - and prudence? He himself was (to the derision of Edward VII) known to be pro-German.

He was not a scaremonger.

The King, it is true, made no secret of his dislike and mistrust of the Kaiser, his uncle; the Kaiser declared publicly (1905) that Edward was 'a devil' and was convinced that he was plotting the destruction of Germany. The *Entente Cordiale* of 1904 between Great Britain and France had been regarded with deep suspicion by the Fatherland. Only Edward's pacifying birthday greeting to the Kaiser (1906) assuaged his hurt and vindictive feelings - there was no aggression felt towards Germany; affection must obtain between 'such old friends and near relations.' And yet....

In Cadet Notes in the December, 1908, edition of *The Framlinghamian*, we read, '.....Alas, not half the number of recruits expected came forward. Why is it? Are boys at Framlingham unpatriotic, are they unwilling to give up one day a week to serve their country? We are constantly being reminded of the unpleasant fact that the Germans will invade and land on the east coast: neither Cricket nor Football, not even Swimming will keep them out - not the Bisley VIII, but a good proportion of bulls and magpies will do the trick. Framlingham! Vorwärts!...'

This was most probably written by (Capt.) H. E. Brown. It is surprising that he did not put more faith in Cricket to which game he was devoted, but the style of writing is his and he was C.O. of the O.T.C. at the time. The source of the 'constant reminders' and a substantiation of the 'fact' that invading forces would land on the east coast are not given.

More was to come. A month after this doleful rallying-cry the Magazine published a letter from L. Creaghe Creaghe-Haward (This was presumably Lawrence Creaghe Haward, who was at the school 1880-85, and served in the South African War) - 'When I read your report ...I felt ashamed for my old school. It is on those now growing up that the brunt of the defence of our country will fall, unless we are overwhelmed in the next five years by an European nation - which is quite possible...I do not believe that England realises what a German invasion would mean to everyone in the country...'

He expressed fears that regiments of men, plucky enough, would be shot down only because they 'had not learned their lesson early enough.'

The officers of the Society were much troubled by this outburst, but there was little they could do beyond making the relatively minor gesture of funding prizes for shooting. There was some comfort in the report of increased numbers (from 55 to 79) in the O.T.C., and that as a result of an Inspection by the Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate [!] the War Office had extended an invitation to members to be considered for Officer training at the Royal Military College or Academy. Equally significant and more to the point for Old boys, was the proposed formation (Oct. 1908) of a National Volunteer Reserve of ex-public School boys who had served not less than four years as Volunteers. On a wider front the conference of Imperial Defence, 1909, resolving that the armies should maintain the same standard of efficiency throughout the empire, went some way to reassure those who perceived that Germany's fear of encirclement and the continuous strengthening of the German fleet must lead to but one terrible conclusion.

Any thoughts of impending disaster were far away from the fifty O.F.s attending the Empire Day Dinner, May, 1909, at the Rutland Arms in Newmarket. This was the first of many influential gatherings at Newmarket and interests were directed towards racehorses rather than race-relations. The local Secretary was James Waugh Butters (1898-1904, and at the time but twenty-three years old). His three brothers, all Framlinghamians, are still remembered even beyond Newmarket circles for their many great successes in the training of horses for the turf.

The Old Boys' day at the College in that year was particularly felicitous. War was certainly not on the agenda, and we read of the warm greetings of men who had not seen each other for years, of the joviality and camaraderie 'which must have impressed the rising generation', of two generations hobnobbing together and drinking a loving-cup of ginger-beer. The Captain of College Swimming, H. D. Cox (1904-10) formally thanked the Society for their continued interest and encouragement of Swimming.

No mention of war then. But Henry Cox, serving in the Queens Westminster Rifles, was to die of wounds six years later.

Disturbing thoughts of invasion, fleeting though they may have been, did not go away, and there were some who perceived that unchecked they might develop into an uncalled-for scare. When Brigadier-General Alexander Wallace presented the prizes at the Speech Day of 1909, while praising the work of the O.T.C., he asserted that it must not give reason to suppose that it had acquired an aggressive spirit. The platform from which he spoke 'was made charming by tastefully-disposed flowers flanked by rifles of the O.T.C. piled in two triangles over drums'.

On this occasion Dr. Inskip referred warmly to the encouragement and interest in the School shown by the S.O.F. ['Applause']. He was pleased to have on the platform with him three members of that Society - Alexander Wallace, Charles Wallace, and his 'worthy friend', Edouard Moreau.

The Football Club closed the year in un-warlike mood when they held another 'Cinderella Dance' at the Gaiety Restaurant. Their battles on the field had not always ended in victory, but today's followers of the game might like to know that in the first game of the season, at Portman Road, they beat Ipswich Town by four goals to two. One of the team's most reliable and stalwart players had been Robert E. Lincoln (1898-1906), goalkeeper. He was a remarkable athlete, Captain of Cricket and Football, champion of Fives and Victor Ludorum while at school and a regular member of the Kent F.C. later. To him, on his departure overseas, the S.O.F.F.C. presented 'a little memento in the shape of a gold match box' at a special Supper at 'Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese' Fleet Street, 'noted for its beefsteak puddings (Wednesdays).' Unhappily, Lincoln, strong as he was, could not survive an attack of enteric fever and died at Aden within the year.

It might not be out of place to mention here that as today we are accustomed to Seven-a-side Rugger, so the College had long been used to Six-a-side Soccer, an end-of-season competition known as Scratch Sixes. The captain of one of the 1910

teams was Lionel D.K. Collins (1907-10) who, serving with the Seaforth Highlanders, was killed some six years later; a member of his team was J. Dabiak [sic] who was to become Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., and President of the Society in '48.

Medals in the shape of a Maltese cross, were awarded to the winning six; they were not very grand and quite unlike the gold medals given to the School, 1910, through the Society, for Gymnastics and Boxing, by M. Dawson Waugh (1885-89), who trained the Derby winner of 1912 and became President of the Society in 1914.

The President for 1910 was George Mawby, temporarily giving up his office as Secretary to T.E.A. Kent (1897-99). At the Annual Dinner after the A.G.M. (Café Monico, Piccadilly, February 1910) Mawby spoke warmly of the pioneering work of Alfred Pretty (who was not present) whose planning had made the Society such a useful organisation, They had branches 'in all parts of the world' and were certainly promoting a bond of union between past and present boys in the College.

One is bound to observe that the claims for world-wide branches is difficult to substantiate. There was talk of the formation of a South African branch, but it seems that at the time the only functioning division abroad was the O.F. Indian Society who, as it happened, was in that very month celebrating its second annual Dinner (Politi's Restaurant, Calcutta), with, in the absence of Moreau, William O. Taylor (1880-83) in the Chair. There was seven O.F.s present.

There were upwards of fifty Old Boys at Mawby's Monico Dinner. Dr. Inskip was an ever-welcome guest, but we do not as yet read of invitations extending beyond College circles though the Newmarket branch was at the time (and subsequently) lavish in hospitality. A puzzling situation arises concerning the numerical strength of the Society: Mawby said he was glad to know that they now (1910) had a membership of 270 - the highest number they could boast of since establishment. Sidney Herbert, speaking at the 1909 Dinner immediately after his election as President at the A.G.M., had announced that the Society's membership numbered 'over 400'. Study of the relevant balance sheets - 'Members' subscriptions' - confirms neither claim.

Now in the tenth year of its existence, the Society could look back with satisfaction and consider new benefactions. A second memorial window had been installed in what the *East Anglian Daily Times* called 'the pretty little chapel', this one to commemorate the headmastership of the Revd. William Warren Bird (1872-81); numerous trophies had been presented to the School for sporting achievements; the three S.O.F. Funds - Membership, Endowment, Scholarship - were firmly in place.

The Endowment Fund (which, so far, had made grants only to the Football Club and to Mrs Rackham, who was 'in rather straitened circumstances') was sufficiently strong to allow the Treasurer to invite suggestions as to its distribution. The Scholarship Fund, too, held enough capital to promote a bursary, and considerable disappointment was felt when the Governors turned down the proposal (which, according to Dr. Inskip, they 'did not understand and wanted to hear more about') that the Society should sponsor a promising boy who might otherwise be obliged to leave the College

before his full potential was realised.

In the outer world at this time the emotion was not disappointment but anxiety and foreboding. The King's health was giving rise to grave concern. He had been deeply worried by criticisms of the house of Lords and the possibility, as he saw it, that the impending 'Peers against People' election might undermine the prestige of the Crown. Even after a stay in Brighton his appearance, 'tired and old and ill', shocked those close to him. A holiday in Biarritz did nothing for him and when he returned to the Palace at the end of April (1910) what began as bronchitis turned into a series of heart attacks. He died 'without a struggle' early in May.

At the Newmarket Dinner in June it fell to the President, George Mawby, to propose the toast, 'King, Queen and Royal Family.' He said that in King Edward they had lost a monarch who was worthy of his Empire and its love..... that George V had ascended the throne at a time of critical changes. The toast was loyally honoured and 'God save the King' was heartily sung.

It was indeed a time of changes and there were indeed some sombre observers who could see what lay ahead. But as to the Society, what lay behind, though certainly not in oblivion, was best presented by Mawby, not at the Newmarket Dinner but in his own preface to the 1907 Register: 'Within the limitation of the paucity of funds at its disposal the Society has been able to do several things for Framlingham - not great things individually but in the aggregate redounding to the credit and working to the advantage of the School, by showing that her old scholars are mindful of the benefits that they received under her roof and on her playing fields.'

## Chapter IV

### The World at War

It might well be supposed that to have survived for ten years was sufficient guarantee that the Society was truly established. There was capital, limited but safe, in the bank; it was felt that many local branches (that of India was cited), affiliated but with their own committees, might well be set up; Inskip referred to the 'generosity and interest' shown towards the School by the Society in his Speech day report of 1910; the Newmarket Dinners were proving a powerful draw; the Fund set up for improvements to the Swimming Bath was flourishing. And yet, for the Council, there was a pervading anxiety as to the numerical strength of membership, and the Editor of *The Framlinghamian* (the Society's main means of communication) continued to plead for more news of Old Boys' activities. In short, though the S.O.F. might not be said to be robust it was certainly not ailing.

The outbreak, progress and culmination of the First World War had at once a cementing and disintegrating influence on the Society. Friendships formed in the golden days of youth became more precious and, for many, needed the security that membership of a Society devoted to friendship gave. Some, in the course of duty and faced with the grim panorama of new experiences, had little time to think of the past, and some, for the most tragic reason of all, were denied even the opportunity.

It must be observed here that for the duration of the war and afterwards whether an Old Boy combatant was a member of the Society or not was not of the first importance. That he was on *Old Framlinghamian* was sufficient for the Society to treat him as one of theirs, and it would indeed be mean-spirited to ignore or diminish faithful service or heroic deeds because of an unpaid subscription.

The Society's programmes of events for the year 1910 opened with an unusual (and, over the years, rare) event - a concert. Though it was customary for Society Dinners to be graced by songs and recitations by members, or, occasionally, professional entertainers, the 'Bohemian Concert' (Restaurant Frascati, Oxford Street, London), given in the presence of the President, George Mawby, was poorly attended. The 'Lark Pie' Dinner at Pagani's six months later attracted more guests, including two opening scholars, Abraham Abbey Yorke and Edward Scarlett, both of whom had entered the school in 1865.

It also gave rise to an irate (but mis-informed) letter from an O.F. who considered the consumption of singing-birds at a feast was outrageous.

The O.F. Football club, badly in need of members, was unable to raise a team to play the School (Nov. 1910) though its London (Waldorf Hotel) Dances remained popular. Attendance levels at other society functions were stable if not remarkable. Perhaps not too much should be read into the gratification shown at the Newmarket

dinner (the third, Rutland Arms, May, 1911) when it was observed that 'most of those present are Suffolk men', nor should sinister inferences be drawn from the fact that at the Summer Dinner (Ipswich) of 1911 'Suffolk O.F.s were conspicuous by their absence.' At the Newmarket Dinner the School Song '...Greet we now our school with singing, Framlingham, thy court we throng...' was sung. It was the work of Reginald Barnicott, a master, director of music, and Gordon Jeune Willans, boy (1895-04) and master (1908-12). It was published by Novello in 1910 (by post three-and-a-half pence) but in spite of various attempts at resuscitation has never really caught on. At the Ipswich Dinner great satisfaction was felt at the announcement that the Society had been instrumental in introducing several younger members to Seniors who could offer advice in the world of business and careers. W. N. Edwards (1884-85), tea-planter in Assam, was still offering apprenticeships to sons of gentlemen.

At both gatherings substantial funds were raised for the refurbishment of the Swimming Bath. 'No school' said the *East Anglian Daily Times*, reporting the events, 'No school throughout the whole of England had ever received greater attention from its Old Boys' than Framlingham College'. At the 1911 Speech Day Dr. Inskip thanked the Society for its donation of £600.00 - which had produced 'perhaps the best outdoor swimming bath in England'.

Colonel William D. Gunn (1869-71), returning from India after service in the Army Veterinary Corps, was chosen as President for 1912 (A.G.M. and Annual Dinner, Connaught Rooms, Kingsway, February). He was no doubt interested to hear the views of the Revd. Edward Herbert, soon returning to India to add to the twenty-five years he had spent there. India was 'not half a bad place.' The people were intensely loyal, and 'except for some of the scum, were very good friend of the British.'

Perhaps (if we may digress) more interesting to us today is what Inskip, replying to the toast of 'The School', had to say about discipline and corporal punishment. It will be recalled that in our day Parliament has banned such punishment even in independent schools. 'There is now', said the Headmaster 'much less flogging' (cries of 'shame', and laughter). He did not think a school could be carried on unless it was known there was corporal punishment in reserve (renewed laughter). He was obliged to say that a too frequent resort to corporal punishment had a bad effect.

Opinions may be divided today, but few will fail to understand why O.F.s held this Headmaster in high esteem. Later in the year (Old Boys' Day, July, 1912) the Society presented him with 'a vellum and cheque' to mark the 'Golden Days' of his twenty-five years of headmastership and his 'wise and kindly rule.' Mrs. Inskip, not forgotten, received a gold purse.

At the College Speech Day, in the same month, when the prizes were presented by J. W. Lowther, Speaker of the Commons and a Governor of the School (see his portrait in the Dining Hall), Inskip, mentioned 'the loyalty and generous support of the S.O.F.' He also spoke, in, for him, severe terms of the loss by young men, and older ones too, of respect for law, order and discipline. He would welcome universal military service or conscription - and once again we are forced to recognise that even in 1912

the shadow of war, for those who had eyes to see it, was not far away. The School Magazine, in that same July, carried a letter addressed to leavers and signed *Roberts, Field-Marshal*. Its final paragraph read -

‘As you know, some of our fellow-countrymen across the seas have already adopted the principle that it is the duty of every man to be trained in the use of arms; believe me, boys, you can give no greater service to your country than by doing your utmost to procure the adoption of the same principle in the Motherland.’

Less than a year later O.T.C. *Notes* deplored the falling off in numbers of recruits - ‘Surely the spirit of patriotism does still exist in Framlingham? There can be no doubt that some form of compulsory service will be instituted in this country in the near future....’

Nor did the derelictions of the young go unnoticed at the A.G.M. and Dinner of 1913 (when Dr. William S. Richmond, 1866-71, donor of the Richmond Prize for Mathematics and Swimming, was chosen as the new President). In proposing the toast, ‘The Old Boys’ Society’, George S. Elliston observed that to date at least three thousand boys had passed through the College, yet the Society could boast of only three hundred members. He drew a parallel with the opinion of Sir Frederic Wilson who ‘regretted the degeneracy of young men of the present age’ and considered that the country should have not a quarter of a million but one-and-a half million men under arms.’

The same spirit, Elliston insisted, was responsible for the poor state of membership of the Society. If O.F.s were inspired with the proper spirit they could do many things for the advancement of the College. The S.O.F. would be ‘in a tight corner but for the princely endowment of their past President, C.W. Wallace.’

Charles Wallace was the first O.F. to join (1912) the Governing Body of the College. His younger brother, Alexander, (1870-74), Major-Gen. Sir Alexander Wallace, K.C.B. was accorded the honour in 1917. Both held the Presidency of the Society for two years, Charles 1905 and 6, Alexander 1917 and 18. Alexander had an outstanding military career; Charles, an East India merchant, founded the Wallace Scholarship in his will and is also remembered by a memorial tablet in the Chapel. Noted for his generosity he was not lavish with money, his own or that of anybody else. When Reginald Le May (1898-02) wrote (*Magazine*, May, 1912) deploring the Society’s refusal to finance the ailing Football Club, ‘the best advertisement the School has’, Wallace, ‘a trustee, replied in uncompromising terms - if the O.F.s don’t want the Club it doesn’t deserve to flourish. Let more join!’

It is time to pay tribute to the contribution made by the Magazine to the dissemination of the Society’s views and to its strength as a unifying body - imagine what a deep void would be created should the magazine of today fail to appear! The time-lag between publications naturally damped a sense of novelty or urgency, but as a vehicle for solid news or fascinating trivia it could hardly have been bettered. In truth, it could have been bettered: hardly a year went by without the Editor appealing for more

and more O.F. news. And, far from incidentally, hardly an issue went by without a letter urging leavers and veterans to join the Society.

Among those who saw oblivion in falling numbers was Charles Le May (1891-93), not an officer of the Society, who (May, 1912) drew attention to the fact that 'in the last two-and-a-half years 179 have left the School, but only 26 have joined the Society', and (a year later) asserted that 90% of leavers did not join and that the number of members stood at less than 290.

The Editor, no doubt wisely, continued with the policy of not attempting to make any distinction between news of or from O.F.s who were members of the Society and that from Old Boys who were not. Though to have excluded non-members might have brought about the enrolment of some who wanted to be in the news it would have been too severe a measure and would undoubtedly have robbed us of many an important or interesting item. For example -

In the Christmas number of the Windsor Magazine appears an interesting article on 'Horse Fairs' by Alfred J. Munnings, R.I.(O.F.).

From the 'boxing' news in the Laurence Marques Guardian, of April 6th, 1911, we cull the following:- 'Of one thing the public may be assured, namely that the refereeing will be 'top-hole', for Hugh Le May, the heavy-weight champion of the province, has agreed to officiate.'

The same journal, of date April 10th, contains an entertaining account of a boxing encounter between Sid Le May, heavy-weight champion (the brothers seem to share the title), and a gentleman called Lukas. 'The contest', it continues, 'did not last a minute; Le May, breaking down Lukas' guard, floored him with a blow which would have felled an ox.'

We congratulate Messrs. Arthur, Tom and George Spedding, of Oakley Villas. Dewsbury, on their having set up a wireless telegraphy apparatus at their house. The station has been thoroughly examined and inspected by a Government Inspector, who expressed the opinion that Messrs. Spedding had done very creditable work. As yet no transmitting has been done, but they are hoping that they will soon be able to commence doing so. We regret that lack of space forbids further details. 1913.

We have received the following most interesting letter from W.N. Edwards ('84-'5):- '.....Sydney is a delightful town and the people have a wonderful way of combining their pleasure and work. Business men say they take no holidays, but then every day seems to be a holiday in this delectable land where the sun always shines and the air is fresh. The Creeks, Coves and Rivers in the Harbour are always full of boats laden with pleasure seekers off to picnics, surf-bathing or excursions into the country. The Australians are a very bright and happy people, and certainly their kindness and hospitality is not to be beaten in any other country that I have visited. The girls are all useful as well as ornamental, for they are all brought up here to make their own things and cook a decent meal, no matter what their means are. They nearly all play well, and may sing and paint, and they always look smart and well turned out in spite of their domestic duties. Soldiering has caught on well and the boys are very enthusiastic over

their training. The Labour Party is just losing its power, and when the Liberals once more hold the reins of Government, the Country shall go forward fast. There are no poor, and the men are all workers, the leisured class being noticeable by its absence...'

Happily, among recurring reports in the magazine, were those giving news of the Indian Branch of the Society. Its fourth annual Dinner (Palace Hotel, Calcutta) was celebrated in January, 1912, with W.O. Taylor (1880-83), chief engineer of the Bengal-Nagpore Railway, President, and E.E. Rope (1887-88), agent for the India General Steam Navigation and Railway Company, Secretary. Ten members (the largest number so far) were present and, we are told, 'the hat was handed round for the old School.'

The gathering in the following year was in the Grand Hotel, Calcutta. There were but four present and 'in the absence of any musical talent' a quiet evening was spent. However, a collection was again made, this time to present the College with a Challenge Cup for Shooting. The money raised eventually went towards the purchase of a lantern (a lime-light 'magic' lantern) to illustrate lectures. It may be that the Society looked upon the College as a kindly uncle looks on a nephew: as well as the introduction of ambitious projects for future stability there was a steady attention to what was currently needed or fitting. A handsome clock was given (for the Dining Hall); a memorial brass for E.W. ('Bugs') Lynch - twenty-eight years an assistant master, remembered with gratitude by the many he taught to swim - was set up in the Chapel. The swimming bath was renovated and reconstructed.

When Dr. Inskip retired from the Headmastership of the College (Summer, 1913) the Society presented the School with his portrait (oils, by Myra Luxmore) - 'to hang upon these walls to speak for ever to the boys the great truth that there was an order of merit far beyond that which Kings could give, which was the merit Dr. Inskip had earned.' Such had been the support for the project that not only could the artist be asked to paint a copy (for the Inskip home) but some of the monies subscribed had to be returned. The Society, with good reason, felt that a good friend was being lost with the departure of the Headmaster and could not pay homage enough to this 'great and good man who has brought a great English public school to a high pitch of efficiency.' Inskip himself was not unmoved by the loyalty of the Society towards him: it had been a great encouragement to him in his work; its generosity had seemed unbounded.

Stocks, the new Headmaster, took up his duties in September, 1913. He was (with Inskip) the guest of honour at the Society's fourteenth Annual Dinner (Monico Restaurant, Piccadilly, February 1914) under the presidency of the newly-chosen M. Dawson Waugh (1885-89) the Newmarket trainer who numbered a Derby winner among his successes and (to quote the words of his Society Secretary, E.G. Mawby) 'held respect of all men from King to costermonger.' Mawby asserted that S.O.F. traditions were well established and making history in all parts of the world. More to the point, he was able to claim that membership numbers 'stood at a record of above three hundred', that he was in touch with 1760 O.F.s and that the Society, having reached such dimensions, was now able (and, indeed, obliged) to engage an assistant secretary.

Loyal toasts were drunk; Stocks was truly welcomed; the School song was heartily sung by the fifty diners.

As we have observed, it is difficult fully to take in the buying power of 'old' money. The cost to each guest at this Monico dinner, seven courses, was seven shillings - less than 50p in 'new' money. The Society's outfitters at this time were Ridley's of Ipswich. Their price-list includes O.F. blazers at twenty-four shillings and sixpence, O.F. silk ties ('chocolate and light blue divided by a narrow strip of white') for 'sailor knot' at five shillings, hat ribbons at one shilling and sixpence. The annual subscription to the Society was then (1913) five shillings a year. In the General Fund there was a balance of £30; the O.F. Fund stood at £10; the Endowment Fund showed a balance of £103. It must not be forgotten, though, that the investments in Cape of Good Hope stock and in the Budla Beta Tea Company backed the cash in hand.

The inaugural Dinner of the South African Branch of the Society was held on Oct. 14th 1911. There were at the time thought to be about one hundred O.F.s in South Africa, and though only fifteen were able to attend this first gathering the membership was doubled within twelve months. George Mawby was present, witnessing the election of Charles George Ward (1875-81) - The Hon. Mr. Justice Ward, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, Transvaal - as President of the Branch. His chosen Secretary was John S. Fry (1906 - 08) only twenty-one years old, and, sadly, not destined to survive the war.

The S.A. Dinner three years later ('14) was again held at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, on May 23rd. In the absence of the President the Chair was taken by Edgar T. Goffe (1894-97). The Secretary was R.T. 'Dickon' Hall (1902-05), one of the four O.F. Hall brothers long-remembered for their service to South Africa in farming, industry, business and in war. During the evening it was asserted that no doubt the Newmarket members of the Society were holding their annual Dinner at that very moment (it being the Saturday preceding the Epsom Derby Meeting, the customary time). A (spoof) 'wireless telepathic message' was seriously suggested and essayed. At least one of the twelve diners claimed to have received a reply - the Newmarket gathering wished them well.

The toast, 'The School' was proposed by W.R.Needham (1879-83; College Registers give his name as W.R. de Nedham). To some the untimely death of Lynch and the retirement of Inskip were as yet unknown. Tributes were paid. Some were unaware that the Society now sported 'colours'; the suggestion that the O.F. tie should always be worn by members attending any public gathering was warmly supported, as was the proposal that the next Dinner should be held on the Saturday of Show week at Johannesburg.

The carefree optimism of 'same time next year' was the perquisite of youth and ambition. It will, though, be recalled that the shadow of impending war had, for some, been brooding heavily for several years. Here and there in this narrative the foreboding and warnings of the apprehensive have been recorded. But, seen or unseen, the processes of war marched inexorably on. In 1912 Frank Garrett, Governor, had

presented the College library with 'A Short History of Germany' - published by 'The British-German Friendship Society' ( an organisation which may remind some of the International Relations Club under whose auspices the Sports Club of Düsseldorf visited the school in the spring of '39). Early in 1914 the College Debating Society in rejecting the proposition that 'a Channel Tunnel would be conducive to the welfare of this country' did take into account the tunnel's function in the event of war with Germany. The April *Framlinghamian* for that year reproduced, without comment, Maupassant's short story, 'Two Friends.' This was a brilliant editorial decision - the story, of course, deals with the brutal side of the Prussian occupation of Paris. The July issue urged leavers to do their duty - 'Do your duty to the school that did its duty to you - join the S.O.F.'

At Speech Day, July 23rd, 1914, less than four weeks after the heir to the Austrian throne had been assassinated at Sarajevo and five days before Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Stocks made mention of individual successes of O.F.s but did not identify the Society. Neither did he refer to the appalling probability of armageddon.

Neither did rumours of War impinge upon the relaxed atmosphere of the Society's Suffolk Dinner (Ipswich, Great White Horse, July 24th). Dawson Waugh called it 'an excellent muster', but of the three hundred member less than fifty turned up and there was a disheartening lack of Suffolk boys. However, the occasion did offer the opportunity of welcoming Francis Stocks, of paying tribute to the devotion and enterprise of Secretary George Mawby and of indulging in pleasurable discussion on the best way of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the College, which would fall next year, 1915.

It would perhaps be tedious to go fully into the causes of the First World War, but because it was a conflict into which our young men threw themselves, not doubting that right and justice were threatened, it would be a disservice to them to gloss over the reasons for the taking up of arms. Paradoxically it was the creation of alliances to ensure peace in Europe that precipitated war, in what in these days might be called a 'knock-on' effect. Germany, unified by Bismarck, with trained conscript armies but lacking sea-ports, sea-power and colonial possessions, was feared. The annexation of Alsace and Lorraine after the Franco-Prussian war had not been forgotten and when Germany marched through Belgium to attack France again the British/Belgian alliance was invoked and inevitably sounded the death-knell of a generation.

The British Expeditionary Force landed in France on August 16th, 1914. The November edition of *The Framlinghamian* presented a 'Roll of Honour' - a list, not of the dead (that was to come later, under the same heading), but of the two hundred Old Framlinghamians who so far had volunteered to serve their country 'in its peril.'

Some may recall that early in 1940 General Ironside, C.I.G.S. (who, eighteen months later presented the Speech Day prizes) through the newspapers issued a challenge - 'Come on, Hitler, we would welcome an attack! we are sure of ourselves....' The College issued its own challenge (Nov. '14) in the words of W.H. Troughton

(1909-16), verses under the heading 'The Die is cast' -

'The Kaiser is a mighty man in his own estimation,  
But let him do whate'er he can to beat the British Nation;  
We'll just unfurl the Union Jack;  
We'll show him that we nothing lack  
In courage, and we'll beat him back  
For ever....'

The first O.F. casualty was Adrian Harry Stewart (1899-04). Aged 26, he was killed in German West Africa within six weeks of the declaration of war. By December, '14, the Roll of Honour (combatants) numbered 250; by April, '15, there were 325 names recorded, with the sombre news of four deaths and eleven casualties. By July of the same year there were 430 on the strength, but there were 10 killed, 25 wounded and prisoners of war also named. By December '15, the School could humbly boast of a Roll of Honour of over five hundred names, and with sombre pride salute its twenty dead.

Among those killed (Loos, Sept. 1915) was Edwin George Mawby. This noble man, Secretary and President (1910,-11) of the Society, was one of those present in Pretty's room in 1900 when the formation of such a Society was envisaged, and had worked for its success ever since. He loved the School (and had in mind the writing of its history); he looked on his compilation of the First College Register as the roll of a band of brothers. When he was killed in action with the Welsh Guards he was thirty-six years old. The Society erected a memorial in the Chapel and established the Mawby Prize in his honour, but perhaps his most lasting memorial is the existence of the Society itself.

At the College Speech Day of 1915 the Chairman, G.H.Garrett, paid tribute to Old Boys who had joined up. He hoped that the boys still at school would be worthy of their inheritance. The Public School spirit was the mainstay of the country, he asserted. The boys still at school were not unaware of the magnitude of the conflict. Stocks gave lantern lectures on the course and progress of the war, the War Office commandeered all the O.T.C.'s serviceable rifles, but the Magazine's observation that 'the war continues to cast its shadow over us' could refer only to the growing list of O.F. losses rather than minor deprivations.

There were, of course, difficulties for the Society. The President of 1914, M. Dawson Waugh, promised to pay first year's subscriptions, but from 1915 until 1920 the number of members remained just above or below 300. The South African branch was in abeyance, the India branch was 'just hanging on.' In accordance with the action of other Old Boys' Societies London Dinners were suspended. The chosen President for 1915 (and '16) was Charles Hamilton Scott, his Secretary being T.E.A.Kent (1897-99). Scott had been a member of the Council since its foundation in 1900, and in due course was to become (1921) its Treasurer for nearly fifty years. His portrait, in an O.F. group, by Francis Hodge, is to be found at the College, as is one of his own paintings (there used to be a dozen), a delightful country scene, 'Willows at Hallingbury'.

Letter from 'The Front' began to reach the Magazine for inclusion in the O.F. Section, remarkably free from censorship. Those of early days tend to speak of the war as a muddy adventure; later one begin to perceive the realities. The saddest are those composed with lively hope and surmise but published with an obituary of the writer. Altogether the letters make fascinating reading. A few extracts are given here; perhaps one day a representative collection might be published.

As the war progressed the anxieties of the Society's Council deepened. Funds were not the primary concern though it may seem to us today that in that area foundations had no great depth. At the end of 1917 the General Fund stood at £16, the O.F. Fund at £29 and the Endowment Fund at £12, having been diminished by £100 for the purchase of War Loans. It was the lack of members that caused concern. At the end of 1916, the membership numbering a meagre 250, with a view to attracting more to the Society, a copy of the current Magazine was sent to all serving O.F.s. The gesture was welcomed - let a single letter (from F.B.J. Bradbeer 1913-14) to the Editor speak for many:

'.....I must write a few lines just to tell you that I appreciated very much the receipt of the *Framlinghamian* and the Roll of Honour of the old school. I was very glad to get news of the Old Boys that I knew when I was at Framlingham and to know what the members of the old school, old and young, are doing for their country now. It seemed to me that it would be a grand thing if all the Old Boys who are fighting could meet together after the war and celebrate one of the finest Old Boys' Days that the School has ever known, not forgetting the memory of those who have given their lives for the cause of their country....'

but in spite of the reduction in the subscription for Life-membership of the Society (from five guineas to two), by the end of 1917, there were, from a possible 4000, only 176 ordinary members on the books. When Major-General Sir Alexander Wallace (1870-74) was named as successor to Charles Scott as President (A.G.M., Palmerston House, Broad St., Feb., 1917) there were but nine members present - it was reckoned that some eight hundred were serving in France at the time. Wallace's brother, Charles William, great supporter of the Society and friend of the School, had died in the previous year and it was the new President's melancholy but proud duty to announce his bequest of £1000 to the Society for the establishment of a Wallace Scholarship.

The O.F. Fund for a Chapel memorial for Charles Wallace was over-subscribed, as was that for Lynch. The Society gave the surplus monies to Stocks, who applied it to the purchase of books for the school library. There were high hopes of collecting photographs of all serving Old Boys, but somehow the project failed to secure ready response from more than a score or so and nothing came of it. Neither did ideas for the compiling of a History of the School.

At the College Speech Day of 1917 (no prizes given: donations instead to the Red Cross Society) the Chairman's message to the company was 'Keep smiling.' But

smiling was not easy. It was known that at that time seventy-one Old Boys had been killed and one hundred and twenty wounded. It was true that many honours and distinctions had been won, but if the paths of glory led but to the grave, there was little comfort there. And the *In Memoriam* notices in the Magazine continued to appear with dismaying frequency.

More could be done, of course, than the wringing of hands. There was the shaking of hands with Corporal William Henry Hewitt (1894-1900) to whom the Society presented a gold watch to mark the award of the Victoria Cross; the requirements for the award of the Mawby Prize were stipulated - 'for the boy who had been of most use to the School and of credit to himself both in work and play'; the Society's memorial tablet to C.W. Wallace, 'staunch supporter and benefactor', was set up in the Chapel; part of the expense of providing *Medici* prints for the class-rooms was met.

There is one survivor of these excellent prints - a portrait of George Washington. The first winner of the Mawby prize was J.N. Phelps (1911-17) who indeed had been of use to the School - as Captain, C.S.M., and with Caps for Cricket, Football and Athletics. He fought in both World Wars but was a P.O.W. of the Japanese for three years. William Hewitt visited the School after the war; his Victoria Cross, presented to the Chapel for safe-keeping, hangs with the like awards made to Gordon Muriel Flowerdew (1894-99) and to Augustine Willington Shelton Agar (1902-03)

We know that the Society took a lively interest in the affairs of the School. There is no doubt that the School was deeply concerned in the fortunes of its fighting Old Boys. The pity was that the immediate excitement and challenges presented to leavers tended to oust far-reaching commitments. So it was that cruel statistics showed that at this time only about 5% of leavers were joining the Society. Stocks was continuing to give talks on the progress of the war; boys were still cultivating school land; from time to time there were unlooked-for excitements-

On Tuesday, March 12th 1918, considerable excitement was caused in the middle of morning school by the advent of two aeroplanes which seemed especially anxious to land on the school fields, and which for some minutes flew continually over and around the buildings. For some reason it proved impossible for them to land, and eventually they flew off and landed in a field up the Saxtead road.

The pilots turned out to be Flight-Lieut. W.L. Jordan (O.F.) and a friend. After dinner everybody turned out and marched up to the field where the aeroplanes had landed, and Jordan and his friend explained the mechanism of their machines, and the wonderful synchronisation of the Machine Guns, to the N.C.O.s and those privates of the O.T.C. who were lucky enough to get near the machines.

Before leaving to return to their station Jordan and his friend gave a wonderful exhibition of the modern tricks of the airmen, which proved a great treat for all who were present.

As the year 1918 progressed there were signs, great and small, that the end of the war, if not in sight, could at least be contemplated and the confidence in victory identified in a July letter of Robert Brunger (1903-11, killed tragically, three months after writing it), was not what we later learned to call 'wishful thinking' -

'...We have not, up to the present, been the subject of the immediate attentions of the Bosche, although he has made one or two small attacks; during these attacks we have come in for our fair share of gas, which, apart from the unpleasantness, does not worry us a bit, as our respirators are infallible. The papers say that the Bosche - or Jerry, as he is now almost universally termed by Tommy - is bound to make another splash, but he'll fail, and may the Lord help him if he attacks on this part! In my opinion he is nearly played out, and we shall soon have him going full speed back to the beastly country he came from.'

The A.G.M. of 1918 (February. Again in the City) was attended by twelve members. General Wallace was again chosen as President, with F.F.Mawby, brother of the sadly-missed George, as his Secretary. Among those present were Francis Stocks and Emile Moreau. It was Stocks who 'formulated a scheme for a War Memorial Fund.' An executive committee was established, and though it was recognised that its deliberations and decisions depended on the fortunes of war, confidence was robust enough to go ahead with the summoning of a general meeting in April.

This meeting, attended by some 60 O.F.s and parents of those to be remembered, took place at Winchester House in the City. A working committee was established, with Moreau as Chairman. Stocks stated the general aims of the project; Inskip proposed their practical application: free education would be offered to the sons of those killed or left badly off; a War Memorial would be set up in the College Chapel; a Memorial Hall would be built and on its walls would be recorded the names of those who had served in the war; if funds permitted, the endowment of scholarships would be provided. It was hoped to raise £10,000.

The War Memorial fund Appeal was, in fact, not wholly an S.O.F. enterprise. Its President was the Earl of Stradbroke. It had six distinguished Vice-presidents, a general committee of twenty-four, and executive committee of six with Moreau as Chairman. It had two secretaries and two treasurers, one of whom was Stocks. The appeal was in the first place addressed to 'all Old Boys and the many friends and benefactors of the School.' Of the 2000 letters sent out 200 were returned by the Post Office, 200 were answered and £1800 was subscribed. The Committee was not completely dismayed for it was of course recognised that 'the Memorial cannot take final shape until the close of the war.' It was not until late in 1920 that the Chapel Memorial was unveiled. Of that and the Fund we may learn more later on. Sufficient to observe now that one member of the committee was of the opinion that the appeal was tardy in flourishing because 'income-tax is rapacious, profiteering in food and clothing is rampant and a treasury note does no go far.'

November 11th, 1918 was a day for reflection and rejoicing. The College greeted the news of the signing of the armistice with 'three real British cheers.' The

O.T.C. paraded for a March Past, the firing of a *feu de joie* and the Royal Salute. There was a Service of Thanksgiving and a concert (at which Stocks sang 'Land of Hope and Glory') in the gymnasium. The Society sent out a thousand notices announcing the intention to hold a Victory Dinner.

After a lapse of five years Old Boys' Day was observed on Whit Monday, June, 1919. Over fifty turned up, many in uniform, but, we are told, there was a sad element in the happy day, for few present could not but have been conscious that there were many gaps that could never again be filled.

Estimates of the number of O.F.s serving, wounded or killed were at variance for some time. By July, 1919, it was reckoned that 842 Old Boys were combatants, that 118 were killed, 160 wounded and that 120 distinctions, including 2 V.C.s (Agar had yet to be awarded his) had been won.

The Presidency of General Wallace ended at the A.G.M. of February, 1918 when Emile Moreau was chosen for the office. Wallace had had a difficult time. All Dinners and functions had been dispensed with and it had never been altogether clear how best to use what resources there were. At the close of 1918 the ready-cash situation read like this -

General Fund - £82

O.F. Fund - £33

Endowment Fund (depending on interest from Budla Beta Debenture Bonds and from £100 War Loans) - £2

Wallace's term of office ended on an optimistic note. The Russian Revolution had been to the advantage of Germany, but the entry of the U.S. of A. into the war was of most tremendous consequence.

Moreau presided over the Victory Dinner (Holborn Restaurant, July, 1919). There were less than fifty present. Some considered this 'a goodly number,' others thought it showed 'a lamentable lack of enthusiasm', but it was a nostalgic and sometimes moving occasion. The toast 'to the sacred memory of those who died that we might live' was honoured in reverent silence.

'Under many white crosses,' said Moreau, 'in the fields France and Flanders, in the plains of Mesopotamia and Egypt, and in the Holy Land lay our boys from Framlingham, who died trying to do their duty....'

## Chapter V

### Between the Wars

**T**he College War Memorial Fund, inaugurated in 1918 with a strong and respected committee of management, surprisingly and sadly failed to gain reassuring support, and the Society, which felt responsible for the project, was obliged to press its appeal. Emile Moreau, Chairman of the Executive Committee, had already cast the net wide, appealing 'to every Suffolk man and women to help us with their 'mite' to raise in Framlingham - where already the spirit of Old England lives enshrined in his Castle Battlements facing the College grounds - a fitting memorial to the spirit of that Young England which is our country's pride and glory still'. But even by the end of 1919, of the hoped for £10,000, less than £3,000 had been subscribed and it looked as though only the proposal that some of the monies should go towards providing free or assisted education for the children of O.F.s killed in the war would be implemented. The setting up of 'some form of memorial in the Chapel', the erection of a Memorial Hall and the establishment of scholarships would have to wait.

Notices of the appeal had been published in all the principal London and East Anglian newspapers and, though it came to nothing, it was proposed that 'prominent members' should act as Secretaries and call local meetings to raise funds.

Disappointing as the situation was there was enough cash in hand to launch the assisted-places scheme. Management and preliminary decisions were left in the hands of the Headmaster, Francis Stocks, though final allocation of monies was left to the Society's committee. Extreme delicacy and tact were exercised throughout. The names of recipients (five in the first instance) did not appear even in the minutes of the committee dealing with them; it is pathetic - and a stark reminder of the demands of war - to find them referred to as 'orphans'.

Emile Moreau was chosen for a second year of office (1919/20) as President. His vigour and devotion in furthering the welfare of the Society and the College was inspirational, but he did more than encourage. He personally bore most of the cost of the production of the July 1919 *Framlinghamian*, a number which carried the complete list of Old Boys known to have served in the war [957], and in the early days of 1920, when the Memorial Appeal was languishing, he undertook to add five shillings to every further pound given by those who had already subscribed and half-a-crown for every pound from new subscribers.

Plans for a tangible memorial were not blunted by the tardy response to the Appeal. Stocks had asked Sir Thomas Jackson, R.A., to prepare a fitting design and in due course the 'memorial tablet' was erected in the Chapel. In alabaster, green marble and bronze, it bears the names of one hundred and thirty-six Old Boys and four masters with the regiments to which they belonged.

On November, 3rd, 1920 this simple and dignified memorial was unveiled by Major-General Alexander Wallace, C.B., O.F., and blessed by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. In his address the Bishop observed that 'in a few years there would be worshipping in the Chapel not one single person who ever saw one of those whose names were inscribed on the roll', but what the company present at that dedication service were doing would ensure that the memorial and those named on it 'would enter henceforth into the life of the institution'.

A central bronze medallion proclaimed - 'In thankfulness to God for the return of peace, and to the undying memory of those old boys of this School who gave their lives for justice, for the liberty of the world, and for their King and country, 1914-1919'.

As for those who, perhaps scarred but virtually unscathed, returned to households not indelibly marked by war's most sombre stroke, there must have been, though never expressed, the inward satisfaction of the survivor, the knowledge, never revealed, that a challenge had been well met, the recognition that, unexpected and unlooked for, something beyond victory had emerged, that a new order of brotherhood had been established.

How far - except in the obvious way - the cessation of hostilities had a direct bearing on the number of applicants wishing to join the Society is hard to say. Certainly, save for a strange falling-off in 1922, numbers increased steadily, though never enough fully to reward the efforts of succeeding Presidents to double them. In 1920 the roll showed 305 members; in 1924 - 393; in 1925 - 411; in 1927 - nearly 500, including 330 Life-members; in 1929 - 520, including 390 Life-members.

The Great War ended officially in May, 1921 (though there was ominous Sinn Fein unrest in Dublin); the War Memorial Appeal Fund was closed two months later, but 'in view of the fact that the Fund if not absolutely closed is now for all practical purposes completed' it was decided 'to constitute a Trust Fund vesting the funds in Trustees'. So, their duties completed, the Committee was dissolved and the balance of funds entrusted to Charles Scott and Emile Moreau, with the Headmaster ready to make recommendations as to applications for 'educational assistance'.

The Fund, in fact, was certainly not 'absolutely closed'. In March, 1920, it stood at £2,530 (the Chapel Memorial tablet, before additions, had cost £420 - the highest of three estimates considered) and contributions were still coming in. Moreau's generous offer was still in place (in three months it had cost him £33); the 'assisted-place' scheme was no great burden - in 1924, for instance, £120 was disbursed, in 1925 £59. The balance and late contributions were astutely handled by the Trustees, who relied on War Loans and War Bonds to bring in a steady and safe return (the £2,600 invested yielded upwards of £150 a year). In 1921 they made an investment of another kind - the purchase (£380) of Park Close. This field, lying partly between Dennington Road and 'The Back' is of six acres and was considered to be 'an admirable site for additional buildings should they be required'. Though no longer known as 'Park Close' (having become successively 'The Bathing-Pond Field' and

'Borrett's') it has been of great use having been employed for the cultivation of rhubarb, the digging of air-raid trenches, the construction of Moreau House, the Sports Hall and the siting of cricket-nets and tennis-courts. 'Park Close' appeared as an asset on the Society's annual balance sheet and earned from the College £10 a year in rent.

'Reeve's Field', four acres, which lies between 'Dickson's' and the top end of College Road was bought by the Society, through the War Memorial Fund, in 1925 for £300. The purchase was one of the ways in which the School's Diamond Jubilee was marked, but the acquisition was also forward-looking: the Report (1925) of the Council of the Society tells us why - 'Reeve's came on the market and would undoubtedly have passed into the builder's hands but for this timely use of the War Memorial Fund'. It was let to the College at the rent of £15 a year.

John Booth's *Framlingham College - The First Sixty Years* was published by the Society in the Jubilee year. This detailed work, copies of which are now hard to find, used to be presented to every leaver.

Although the Society was usually a donor, it was, sometimes a recipient. This appears to be the case in 1919 as the following unsatisfactory narrative relates (unsatisfactory because it is incomplete).

Whether or not the War Office was asked to present a trophy of war is not clear, but one detailed account of the O.F. contribution to the war effort (*Framlinghamian*) is followed by this statement - 'This record has at last received acknowledgement from the War Office in the shape of a captured field-gun'.

Details of the gun are few. It was sited near the Chapel. How long it stayed and where it went we do not at present know. But there are Old Boys who remember it. Some say it was a howitzer; some claim to have sat on its barrel; one claims to have tried to make it work. But like the elusive Welton ink-stand, though unlike the (lower corridor) elephant-tusks, this no doubt massive piece of ordnance enjoyed but a fleeting existence when its sombre working life was done.

The A.G.M. of 1920 (Queen's Hotel, Leicester Square) was especially distinguished by the on-the-spot raising of £200 for the War Memorial Fund and a presentation (a silver cigarette box) to Augustine Agar to mark the award of the Victoria Cross for his attack on a Bolshevik cruiser in the Baltic (June, 1919).

Emile Moreau, President, was absent, on business in India, for this occasion, but he had presided at the annual Suffolk Dinner (Great White Horse, Ipswich, in May) when £200 was subscribed for the Fund 'in record time'. The War Memorial Fund was not alone in attracting support; in this year Moreau gave the School money to buy scientific apparatus while the Society financed the purchase of a new lawn-mower.

Although at the time membership numbers were not high and the annual subscription still stood at five shillings the Society was, barring disasters, financially secure. Sidney Herbert (1871-76), treasurer since 1901, was prudent and far-seeing; his management of resources was neither unadventurous nor rash.

The Society's finances were examined annually by two honorary auditors, their findings being set out in a Statement of Accounts at the end of December.

Customarily their balance sheet showed the position of the various Funds which went to make up the whole. There was the General Fund, the Society's 'cash box'; the Endowment Fund, as it were the Society's Savings Bank, which maintained a small cash-balance and an extensive holding in various shares - in 1920, for instance, it held £1,000 in Budla Beta Tea, £100 in War Loans, £500 in South American Stores and £800 in Chinese Government 4½% Bonds. This Fund fed into the General Fund (£15 in 1919; £50 in 1924) when necessary. The O.F. Fund or Life Membership Fund kept a small balance (£35 in 1920) and also contributed to the General Fund. In the period under consideration it held £200 in War Loans (5%) with a £520 Conversion Loan (3½%), which investment brought in (1923) nearly £20 in dividend.

The Mawby Memorial Fund and the Wallace Scholarship Fund came, of course, under separate headings, the former having a capital of £120 invested in War Loans which yielded £6 a year (the amount spent on the prize), and the latter with a capital of nearly £3,000, also invested in War Loans, which yielded about £150 a year and provided for the award of two scholarships.

The War Memorial Fund has already been looked at. Sidney Herbert retired as Honorary Treasurer in 1921 and his remarkable service to the Society was marked by a presentation (a silver cigarette box) at the Annual Dinner (August, Princes Restaurant, Piccadilly), in the presence of 75 members under the newly-chosen President, Arthur G. Angier (1867-74), a newspaper proprietor and director of numerous rubber and hemp companies. An interesting fact emerges from the pricing of tickets for the occasion ('Evening dress'; 'Musical programme'; 'Seven-course Dinner') - 'Tickets will be seven shillings and six pence until one week before the event, then ten shillings and six pence, the price the Society is paying for the dinner'.

In need of financial backing at this time was the O.F. Football Club, and they needed players as much as they needed money. Huge efforts were made in recruitment though the London Dance (Caxton Hall, December 1921), 'through the lamentable lack of support by a handful of O.F.s present was financially disastrous'. The Club had to be baled out from the General Fund to the extent of £10-4-8.

It is surprising that this Dance made such a limited appeal. The Society's own Dance (Caxton Hall, March; 'E.H. Morby's Jazz Orchestra'; Charles Scott, M.C., Eight shillings) had been popular enough. Perhaps fashions had changed in ten months. Boogie buffs might like to know something of the jazz orchestra's programme. It included eight waltzes, one of which was 'Love in Lilac Time', six Fox-trots, one of which was 'Watermelon Whispers', five One-steps, one of which was 'Oh! By Jingo', and two sets of Lancers.

The Football Club (14 Vice-presidents, 4 Executive Committee members, Capt. of the XI, T.G. Sullivan, 1911-13) did manage to recover, not only making up on financial ground but securing a new playing-ground, at Hendon. By the end of '21 two elevens had full fixture-lists.

Alfred Pretty's name, long absent from official lists, appeared again when he attended the A.G.M. and Dinner (Prince's Restaurant in February, '22). The Honorary

Secretary was now S.H. Sullivan (1912-19); Charles Scott had replaced Sidney Herbert as Treasurer. It had not been the custom to invite officially anyone outside close O.F. circles. It was made as plain as could be that masters who had retired or moved on to other posts would be very welcome - at the 1913 Dinner an honoured guest was James A. Swornsbourne, who was Second Master under Daymond. To teach in Bombay he had left the College, in 1870, taking with him the gold watch presented by Captain of the School, Herbert Pretty, for his 'zealous, earnest and loving help' for the College. This watch, still accurate after forty-three years, he showed to the fascinated company.

Although seven years were yet to elapse before a truly 'outside' speaker was invited to an Annual Dinner, the gathering of 1922 did indicate possibilities in that direction. George Herbert Garrett, Chairman of the College Governors, was the honoured guest. He was hardly an 'outsider': the College had good reason to be thankful for and grateful to the Garrett family, but the Governors had not been so represented before this occasion and it was timely and fitting to have him there. Charles Scott, proposing the toast, 'The Governors' (a toast usually absent from the list), attributed the School's progress to the deliberations and policy of the Governing Body.

The President for 1923, Thomas Sidney Wederell (1866-71), a Chartered Accountant, reminisced fondly when he spoke at the Annual London Dinner. He recalled his early impressions when he 'ran the corridors'. Then, to him, the building was ugly [One is reminded of the verdict of Dorcess Wallace in her book on Suffolk - 'an unfortunate edifice in red brick'] but when he returned later to visit his old haunts he thought it 'one of the most charming spots in which a school was ever set'. He remembered 'the hours on the frozen meres, crawling up the castle, and then those with the cane'. ['Laughter'].

At this function the Society made a presentation to Francis Stocks to mark his successful ten years of Headmastership. Looking to the future he said that the Diamond Jubilee of the College [1925] must be fittingly observed. What the School needed at present was 'a satisfactory receiving set' and he was prepared to spend £100 if one could be found.

Such a set was not found immediately. It was the age of interference and violent oscillation. Elaborate trials, conducted before the whole School, resulted only in disappointment.

The presidency of Sidney Wederell did not extend to a second year. He was followed (1924) by Henry Herbert Le May (1891-93) of the remarkable Le May family whose academic and sporting distinctions deserve lengthy documentation. An official of the Society since its inception in 1900, his portrait may be seen at the College in the Francis Hodge group in which he is shown with Charles Scott and George Elliston. The painting, first exhibited at the Royal Academy, was presented to the School by Hugh Le May (1893-96) of, amongst other things, boxing renown - not his only gift to the College.

The year was a good one, socially. 'Old Boys' Day', Whit Monday, attracted a record gathering, making possible the hoped-for contests against the School in crick-

et, swimming and shooting. The only source of disappointment was the realisation that in the coming winter term there could be no soccer match with the School: reasonably enough, Stocks had had his way - soccer was out and rugger was in. He did not doubt that rugby football was 'the best game for young boys to play, and most use to them in the future'. It was generally believed that rugby football produced and strengthened not only sporting instincts but moral fibre as well.

It will be recalled that Herbert Pretty was the Society's first President (1900) and that Alfred Pretty was its first Honorary Secretary. At the A.G.M. Dinner of '25 (Great Eastern Hotel) Alfred proposed the toast; 'The Society'; Herbert, newly-chosen President, replied.

It may be safely assumed that after twenty-five years members were quite satisfied with the process by which a new President was chosen. The method, if it may be called a method, was (and still is) this: before his two years in office are up the retiring President chooses a suitable successor from his Council. In good time the nominee is asked if he is able and willing to take up the presidency; if he is, then his suitability is informally discussed by the whole Council and invariably he is invited to take the office.

Nineteen years were to elapse before Alfred Munnings (1891-92) was elected to the Presidency of the Royal Academy - Sir Alfred, K.C.V.O., P.R.A., R.W.S. He had been elected A.R.A. in 1919, now (1925) he was elected Royal Academician.

Born at Mendham Mill, in Suffolk, he was sent to the College shortly before his thirteenth birthday (1891). As a child he had had drawing lessons from the parson's daughter, Kate Brereton; at his first school, Redenhall, the Headmaster had encouraged him in the pursuit of what was even more than a hobby; at Framlingham his lessons in art, mostly copying, were conducted by Walter Lynch. He was, in his own words, 'damned miserable'; he was not a natural games-player and he was, or fancied he was, persecuted by Alfred Pretty, Second Master. He made, however, a lasting friendship with the young Charles Scott, with whom he could share enthusiasm for drawing. Scott's later zeal for the welfare of the Society cannot have escaped notice; his artistic achievements are less well known.

An exhibition of Scott's work was held (at the old Corn Exchange room in the Crown Hotel) in Framlingham in 1947. It enjoyed the patronage of Sir Alfred.

To an undemanding world Munnings is known from his painting of horses and equestrian scenes, for what he said about modern art ('... foolish drolleries... damned nonsense') and the way he said it at his presidential Dinner in '44. Nearer to the College he is known as the painter of the Flowerdew Charge which he executed as an official War Artist. [A copy may be seen in the O.F. Room at the College]. The School possesses one original Munnings: a small pen and ink drawing of Chink the Carrier. It does include a horse - though a rather sad one.

There is no doubt that Alfred Munnings had little affection for the School. He did, though, enjoy the company of its Old Boys. He was never more comfortable than when absorbing the atmosphere of Newmarket O.F. Dinners and, with great gusto,

delighting the company with his own songs and verses.

Munnings' boyhood friend, Charles Scott, was honoured at the '25 A.G.M. by the presentation of an illuminated address and a canteen of silver (with a wrist-watch for Mrs Scott). He had been a member of the Council since 1900, and for twenty-five years, in spite of the demands of the Stock Exchange, he had served the Society and the School with wisdom and devotion.

The School's Diamond Jubilee (1925) was marked by the Society's purchase of Reeve's Field, the opening of the new classrooms, the gift of £500 by C.G. Davis (1884-89) for a Leaving Exhibition and the Society's publication of John Booth's *The First Sixty Years*. Booth deals faithfully with the Society, recording its history, benefactions and activities, 'all of which, have been directed to the Society's main object, which is to help the School'.

It was reckoned that by 1925 some 5,000 boys has passed through the School. At that time slightly over one twelfth of that number were members of the Society. Fifty were present at the London Autumn Dinner (Florence Restaurant, W1) - 'a very jolly evening' it was; among those who had contributed 'some excellent songs' was Alfred Pretty.

It was Alfred Pretty who was chosen as President (A.G.M. and Dinner, Hotel Victoria, W.C.) for 1926. His Secretary was Rhys Buckley Thomas (1913-17); his Treasurer, Charles Scott. Attendance at the Dinner was record-breaking, but when it came to the Whit Monday Gathering at the College a General Strike had cast its baleful influence and numbers were few. There were memories of the Railway Strike of 1911 when armed soldiers were seen guarding stations, but this one had increasingly sinister undertones, and demanded even more awareness and self-help by those not directly involved.

To many young men for whom the strike was not a bread-and-butter issue the driving of a 'bus or delivery-van was a bit of a lark. Viewed more seriously these amateur contributions assumed a nobler status. 'In various directions', the Council report stated, 'the exigencies of the strike demonstrated once again that O.F.s were ever ready to give their services for the general good'.

The Whitsun business Meeting amended the rules regarding official annual Meetings: there should be two a year, one in London in January, one in Suffolk in the summer. The quorum should be ten. It was also resolved to revive and hold a Newmarket Dinner annually.

In his address to the gathering Pretty observed that all were meeting as friends from many climes and associated with many periods in the School history. They were actuated by unity of purpose, which was loyalty to themselves, their School, their country and their God.

He might have added that the Society's active membership had been maintained and that the financial position was sound.

Ten years earlier invested funds had amounted to £1,250; expenditure since then had included the purchase of two fields (Park Close and Reeve's) 'now worth

about £9,570', provision of the Chapel Memorial (£580), the launching of *The First Sixty Years* (£150) and the Second College Register (£100), both the work of John Booth. The Endowment Fund was bringing in interest of about £100 a year; the War Memorial Fund was currently paying fees for four scholars; in hand it held over £3,300. The Wallace Scholarship Fund had increased its War Loan holding to £3,000 and its trustees had bought India 4½% Stock to the extent of £200. This would guarantee the award of a £50 a year scholarship for three years.

In a less exacting field the first O.F. Hockey Club came into existence, not running just one XI, but two, its ground being at Osterley and its Secretary and Treasurer Sidney Fawcett (1918-21).

As resolved, a Newmarket Dinner did take place (Masonic Hall; October) in that year (1926). Tremendous enthusiasm was shown and it was unanimously agreed that the event must not be allowed to lapse. The School was not forgotten, Goodwyn Archer (1890-92) drawing attention to the handsome College-colours bow which adorned the menu-card, and expressing the feelings of the company with the exhortation, FLOREAT FRAMLINGHAMIA!

The number of members attending (over 100) was very gratifying. The high attendance was generously attributed to 'Our President's wonderful advertising campaign in the Press', and indeed all the published notices were striking - in sincerity or whimsicality.

Pretty held office for a second year (1927) - At the Dinner, 'devoted to intercourse and song', after the A.G.M. (Hotel Victoria, W.C.), it was said, 'Words cannot do justice to the obvious way in which the Society revolves round him'. His brother, Herbert, however, did not forget the corner-stone of the Society. In replying to the toast of 'The School' he said of the members that their presence was practical proof of their affection for the place where they received their first training to equip them for the battle of life. 'Throughout all the hurley-burley of life', he asserted, 'there still persists the love of one's old school'.

At the Whitsun Gathering dissatisfaction was expressed with the lack of uniformity as to styles and colours produced by the various hosiers supplying Society members. It was agreed that the O.F. blazer sold by Ridleys of Ipswich was quite satisfactory; the design of the tie, submitted by Charles Scott - wide chocolate stripes intersected by a narrow diagonal light-blue stripe, with a narrower white stripe on either side of it - was approved. If there was symbolism behind this pattern it has yet to be revealed.

The Newmarket Dinner (October, '27. Secretary, T.R. Leader, 1896-97, Trainer of racehorses including a Grand National winner) was well attended again. Both Inskip and Stocks (described as 'the reigning Headmaster') were present, but there were no 'outside guests'. Pretty's Presidential speech included a strong plea for support for the O.F. Scholarship Fund, newly launched and at the time having a balance of £118. In his appeal he pointed out that the College was 'a young school greatly handicapped in competition with other schools with large endowments and many leav-

ing scholarships’.

Emile Moreau, asking the company ‘to listen to an old man’s dream’ [He was seventy-one years old], outlined his ideal for the Society. To him the Society was an integral part of the fabric of the School and should become, both in a material and spiritual sense, its completing corner-stone. The School was the very foundation of the Society.

Altogether it was a heartening evening. ‘They told stories again’, says one report, ‘and plucked new ones from the cupboard of memory’. Not the least of those who helped to create a genial atmosphere was Alfred Munnings (obviously undeterred by the presence of Alfred Pretty). He gave stirring recitations of his own verses, ‘The tale of Anthony Bell’ and ‘The Glo’ster Old Spot’. [To be published later, 1957, in a book of Ballads and Poems, illustrated by the author].

At the time of this happy gathering it was felt that the Society was indeed flourishing: nearly five hundred members, investments standing at about £10,000 and the Hockey Club, with 31 members, firmly established.

Cyril George Davis (1884-89) took over the Presidency after the A.G.M. and Dinner (Prince’s Restaurant) in February, 1928. He was Chairman of many industrial concerns but had found time to watch the progress of the Society and the fortunes of the School. Alfred Pretty became a Vice-president on relinquishing the major office - a nomination which causes one to suppose that the rule demanding the Vice-presidents held their position for one year only (Pretty was already a Vice-president) had indeed not lapsed.

There were encouraging numbers (120) at the Dinner, largely, some said, because of Pretty’s personal popularity and the jocular press notices with which he had heralded the occasion. The company included Agar and Munnings and R. Eaton White, Chairman of the College Governors, who, in his reply to Stocks’ state-of-the-College report, declared that the School was at the time in good heart though it had been through a difficult time. What they wanted, he said, was an improvement in numbers: ‘If you will undertake to do that, we will undertake to keep the College going’.

The Whit Monday Gathering of ‘28 was an occasion balancing between what was fitting and what was unseemly. The Society made a presentation - silver candlesticks, a silver inkstand and a small book containing the names of subscribers - to Archibald Macqueen, who, in his thirty-five years’ service as a master, had ‘won the affection of all’.

Some of the younger members of the Society made a nuisance of themselves, not for the first time. This ‘riotous conduct and destruction’ brought a stern warning and rebuke from the Council, in a letter (July, 30th, ‘28) addressed to all members, the offended and the offenders -

‘... It should not be necessary to point out that Old Framlinghamians are expected to behave as gentlemen and be a credit to the Old School, and it is expected that those who abused the hospitality of the School at Whitsuntide, if they have not already written an apology to the Head Master will do so at once ...

Naturally a continuance of such abuse cannot be tolerated ...'

This was followed by a memorandum, sent to all members, reminding them of their obligations when visiting the School: don't interrupt prep; don't be upstairs after 9.45 p.m.; don't smoke; don't invite any boy out unless four years have elapsed since you yourself left the School.

One is reminded of Reginald Kirkman's invitation to leavers - 'Yes, by all means come back to see us, but wait three years until you do'.

The Newmarket Dinner of '28 gave Pretty another opportunity to further the Society's Scholarship aspirations. He looked for a capital of £6,000, which could be safely invested to bring in £240 a year, enough to provide an award, annually, of £80 a year for three years. The carrying out of this scheme, he said, would be further evidence of the good will, the good fellowship and the high ideals which had always characterised those who had received their early training within the College walls. The sum of £1,500 had already been subscribed.

On a lower plane there was satisfactory news of the Hockey Club, now in its fourth season and playing on its new ground at Whaddon. Two XIs had been fielded, the 1st XI, captained by W.A. Goodale (1913-21) and with V.G. Bromage (1924-26) at centre forward, had met Alleyn Old Boys, The Royal Dental Hospital, Hounslow, Barnes and Westminster Bank, and emerged with credit.

The formation of an O.F. Golfing Society was also announced. Its main aim was to gain representation in the Halford Hewitt Public Schools Competition, but contests within the Society had been arranged, the first being for the President's Cup (C.G. Davis was the first President: H.H. Le May, Captain), to be played in early '29 at Addington Golf Court (near E. Croydon). A Committee of seven was thought to be capable of managing the Society's affairs.

By the time of the main Meeting of 1929 (Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly, again. A.G.M. and Dinner. February) the parent Society could boast of 535 members. The new President was Augustine W. Shelton Agar, V.C., D.S.O., R.N., and under him certain changes were to be observed. The first was in the preliminary arrangements for the Dinner itself: the general notice invited members and non-members to attend, the former at a cost of eleven shillings, the latter at fifteen shillings. The second concerned the formalities of the occasion: DISTINGUISHED GUESTS from 'outside' the Society had been invited. Sir Charles Howell Thomas, K.C.B., C.M.G., an official at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Sir Percy Thompson, deputy chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, were among those who could not claim membership of the Society. Both, though, familiar with its activities and influence, spoke glowingly in their response to the toast of 'The Visitors'.

It may be remarked, in passing, that it seems that as many as eight official speakers (as there were on this occasion) were more than acceptable at functions like this. There was more, too - 'A delightful and varied programme of music was contributed by ... their efforts towards the enjoyment of the evening being greatly appreciated, and forming one of the features of the gathering'.

Yet another feature was the souvenir toast list, on which were printed 'excellent photographs of the College and the Castle'.

The Committee and General Meeting which preceded the Dinner had inevitably found itself a little subdued by the shadow thrown by the 'riotous conduct and destruction' stigma of the '28 Whitsun Gathering. How far their adjustment of the Society's RULES was influenced by their apprehension is not recorded, but the provision of certain safeguards was the outcome of their deliberations: so it was that 'All past boys are eligible for election as members' was augmented '... all candidates to be elected by the Council and are subject to re-election each year. Re-election shall be the sole and unfettered discretion of the Council'.

Neither could Life-members feel altogether secure. The rule was amended: 'Life-members shall be subject to re-election annually'. A return of subscription was guaranteed to any who suffered disqualification.

Tragedy struck the School and the Society this year ('29). Francis Stocks, sixteen years Headmaster and apparently not ailing, died on May, 21st.

Alfred Towle, Second Master, took over until the end of the summer, earning the gratitude of the School and Governors (and an honorarium of £50). The new Headmaster, formerly assistant master at Gresham's and Housemaster at Lancing College, coming to Framlingham with a distinguished war record, was William Hervey Allen Whitworth, M.C., B.A.

There was no Whitsun Gathering, but in August Agar sent a Presidential letter 'to all Old Boys of the College whose address is known'. His aim was to arouse interest of all Old Boys in the society. He listed all the major benefactions made by the S.O.F., including, of course, the purchase of the two fields 'which would otherwise have fallen into the hands of builders'.

'This', said the letter, 'is a personal invitation to you to join the Society ... I should like to see the Society's membership raised to one thousand ... it is your influence and interest that we want, so we may be able to claim that the Society truly represents the finest type of British Public School ... even if you are not a subscribing member of the Society we are always pleased to have word of you, and more pleased to see you and welcome you at our gatherings ...'

The Newmarket Dinner (October) was somewhat overshadowed by memories of Stocks' presence on former occasions. The establishment of a memorial fund ('to pay for a cricket pavilion or some other useful object'), though gratifying, did not, of course, make up for his absence. To welcome Whitworth was, however, part of the business and pleasure of the evening.

We are told that, the 'handsome and commodious Masonic Hall' sported 'very tasteful and dainty decorations'. The menu for the meal (seven shillings and six pence) comprised Boiled turbot, Saddle of mutton, Roast goose, Fruit salad, Dessert and Coffee. The menu-card itself bore a ribbon bow in the College colours.

Warm and sincere tributes were paid to Stocks, and his 'honourable and useful career' was reviewed before the new Headmaster replied to the toast of 'The

School'.

The gathering was perhaps slightly taken aback when Whitworth, expressing his pleasure at being one of its number, disclosed that he had 'written to the Honorary Secretary asking if he might be elected as an honorary member of the Society because he wanted to work in conjunction with the Old Boys'. He was, however, received with a hearty outburst of cheering and gained a sympathetic hearing. All, he asserted, wanted to see the School return to the old mark of success and excellence. If there was anything Old Boys did not like about the School - 'for God's sake come and tell me'.

There had, in fact, been some dissatisfaction over the apparent lack of O.F. news in the School Magazine, and some thought that the Society might well publish its own journal. To this end a referendum was set in place. This, however, produced no conclusive result. Compromise was necessary: it was agreed that under the guidance of John Booth the O.F. News should be granted more space.

Among the important announcements the magazine had to make in that year ('29) was the proposed establishment of a system of local S.O.F. Secretaries, starting with Manchester, Birmingham, Lowestoft and Southampton. There were at the time 520 members of the Society - out of an estimated 3,000 potential members. The scheme did not flourish.

Prominence was also appropriately given to the nomination of Emile Moreau and Frank Rochfort Garrard as Governors of the College.

The interests and achievements of Moreau are sufficiently well-known. Rochfort Garrard (1874-80) was a boy at the School in Bird's time. After prospering in brewing he returned to his boyhood home, Framlingham Hall, and devoted himself to the School, to the breeding of Suffolk horses and Red Poll cattle and to the Society, of which he came President in 1931

It was Rochfort Garrard who proposed the toast of 'The School' at the Dinner following the A.G.M. of 1930. A new centre had been found for these events (and prices had risen - ten shillings for members, twelve shillings and sixpence for guests) - this was the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue.

Honoured guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Eaton White, Chairman of the Governors, and, of course, Hervey Allen Whitworth. The evening, we are told, was 'full of traditional jollity, with an atmosphere sprinkled with happy schoolboy reflections'.

Rochfort Garrard appealed to O.F.s to send their sons to the School. Eaton White praised the School for its admirable site and for its feeding, which, he said was - unlike many schools' - remarkably good. At the College there were 'no undue luxuries, no hardships'. The Lord Lieutenant asserted that Public schools produced gentlemen. Agar, President for a second year, proud that the Society 'had branches all over the country', considered that its future rested on younger members.

The Whitsun Gathering, strangely, was not well attended, but in the course of the year, membership numbers increased to 540, the Hockey Club had two successful half-seasons, including a London dance, and the newly-formed Essex branch of the

Society enjoyed 'a splendid success' at its first Gathering, October 27th, at the Saracen's Head in Chelmsford, when the Chairman was F.J. Jackson (1887-91), Freeman of the City of London and eventually (1932) to become President of the Society.

The nature of the Stocks memorial was decided upon, the 'useful object' turning out to be something which would o doubt have delighted him, namely a squash-court, not the regulation size, to be sure, but a tremendous asset to the School and a source of great fun and achievement to countless boys. It cost £450. A second court was added - the generous gift of Frederick Minter.

By the end of 1930 the Society's financial position seemed secure. There had been losses on the Annual Dinner (£22) and the Newmarket Dinner (£11), but the Endowment Fund, strengthened by gift of £500 by past-President, Arthur Angier, held investments of nearly £3,000 and was able to bolster the General Fund which showed a balance of £85 after supporting, among other things, the Stocks Memorial Fund, the School Swimming team (for the Bath Club Competition), the Scout Hut and a grant to the Hockey Club. The Wallace Scholarship Fund stood at £4,000 after making two £50 awards. The O.F. Scholarship Fund had received £40 in donations, had £122 in hand and investments (£1,870) which brought in £122.

The loss of the airship R101, 'the acme of all that mechanical practice and theoretical skill can devise', was observed by a minute's silence when Newmarket members met for their Annual Dinner in October ('30). Spirits were not unduly dampened. 'Once again', we learn, 'school-day experiences were re-told with zest ... whilst the 'toasting' roused individual sparks of enthusiasm into a flame which enveloped the handsome and tastefully adorned dining-room of the Hall into one unbroken flame'. Pretty, Moreau and Whitworth sat with the President, Agar, and Secretary, Thomas Leader.

During the evening tributes were paid to the staunch Newmarket Waugh family and presentations were made to Alfred Towle and also to William T. Brunger, who, it will be remembered, in 1887, brought into being the original Old Framlinghamian Club.

Whitworth took the opportunity to thank the Old Boys for the way in which they had backed him up over his first year of Headmastership. They had, he said, given support both in money and in spirit; he was confident for the future, but it would, he estimated, taken ten years for him to bring the School to the shape he wanted.

Alfred Pretty was more satisfied. It was fitting, he said, that the College should be the leading school in Suffolk and one of the leading schools in all England, for it was the second oldest. King's School, Canterbury was the first school in this country, and the second was Dunwich, now under the sea, and the place of which had been taken by Framlingham.

'This interesting tit-bit', ventured the official account of the occasion, 'delighted the assembled company'.

It probably puzzled them, too, but the mood was one of hope and confidence.

# Chapter VI

## 1931-1939: Doors Opening and Closing

**I**t may be recalled that at the Newmarket Dinner of 1930 Whitworth, after one year of Headmastership, stated that he was confident for the future but that it would take ten years for him to bring the School to the shape he wanted. Pretty had been less cautious. It was unthinkable that within ten years Whitworth's lofty aspirations and Pretty's visions of boundless prosperity could be challenged or mocked by an upheaval of catastrophic dimensions.

If Pretty spoke having primarily in his mind the welfare of the Society his confidence was indeed well founded. Whitworth spoke against an uneasy background. Early in 1930 there were but 199 boarders and 38 day-boys at the School; financial considerations were soon to lead to a reduction in staff salaries and (in spite of Speech Day assertions that the Governors intended to economise 'neither in staff nor food') a reduction in man-power. Cruelly worse was the withdrawal of the College's name from the list of Schools affiliated to the Headmasters' Conference.

It might be true to say that Pretty was thinking of construction, Whitworth of survival.

The new Headmaster was not one to wilt; Pretty's confidence was not misplaced, but before ten years were up and before the world was turned upside down the School was far from secure though the Society's help, material and financial, was manifest. The Society itself, growing in influence and strength, not only in this country, saw the emergence of such benevolently powerful men as Scott, Minter, Moreau and Clarke.

Commander Augustine Agar had sailed away (Captain of the new sloop, H.M.S. Scarborough) to join the N. Atlantic and W. Indian stations before the 1931 A.G.M. and Dinner (Hotel Metropole, February). The new President was Frank Rochfort Garrard (1874-80), already a Governor of the College. His guests were Eaton White, Chairman of the Governors, and Dr. Montague Rendall, who made a 'happy speech' in replying to the toast of 'The School'.

At the meeting which preceded the Dinner a new Rule was instituted - that Past Presidents should have a seat on the Council. There soon followed another Meeting, that of the Whit Monday Gathering, and one is forced to wonder how the Society could sustain two meetings a year [the Rules set the minimum quorum at ten] with the probability that their compositions would not match. At this second Meeting it was resolved that the Life subscription should be raised to five guineas and that the Junior subscription [School leavers] should be fixed at one guinea for five years. A proposal that parents of pupils should become Honorary Life Members (for one guinea) was later rejected by the Council.

An innovation was made - a golf match was played between O.F.s (Captain, J.C. Sheldrake, 1925-29) and the Staff (Captain - of the winning team - W.E. Winstanley). The contest, popped into the Whitsun proceedings as 'a jolly idea', was played at Thorpeness and proved so popular that it became an annual event.

Few can have failed to notice the elephant tusks (recently refurbished) displayed in the School's main corridor. These were shown and presented to the Society at this same Whitsun Gathering, in 1931, by Hugh Le May, who had shot the animal in Portuguese E. Africa. They were then handed over 'to be preserved for the use of the College'. The creation of ivory artefacts was outside the capabilities of the School, but Whitworth contrived to put the loan to good use - and this is why so much is made of it here - by delivering a short homily, not on cruelty to animals or the preservation of the species, but on the lessons the trophy could teach. The tusks, he said, would be put in a recess in the main corridor so that they would always be seen. 'It is one of our great ideas to give people rather wider ideas than those merely associated with these islands, causing them to realise that we are not merely Englishmen, but associated with a great Empire'.

As if to underline Whitworth's words news came from A.D.C. Burbidge (1920-24), who was employed by Bird & Co. of Calcutta, Moreau's old firm, that he hoped to revive the S.O.F. Indian Branch. This he did by arranging a meeting at the United Services Club in Calcutta in January, 1932. A President was elected - Lt. Col. R.E. Flowerdew (1896-1903), one of the ten Flowerdew brothers to come to the School.

The Newmarket Dinner (Rochfort Garrard, Chairman) and the Essex Supper (F.J. Jackson, Secretary), both held in October ('31) were followed by the Hockey Club Dance (Suffolk Street Galleries). All three events were proclaimed highly successful; attendance, 50+, at the Essex Gathering was especially satisfying. Total numbers in the whole Society had increased slightly, now standing at 568. Income was also up. What at the time was causing acute concern was the standing of the School, which could claim an increase in neither numbers nor capital.

Unless an exceptional call was made on the Society's funds its expenditure was fairly predictable. Surprisingly, both the London Dinner and the Newmarket Dinner usually 'made a loss' (seldom more than £10); there was the cost, gladly met, of sending the School team to the Bath Club Swimming competition and, of course, there were many administrative expenses (and here Miss D.H. Allder, who was Assistant Secretary from 1905 to 1919, should be mentioned), but, obligations met, the Society could apply its monies where benevolence urged or necessity demanded.

In 1930 the War Memorial Fund, which held a capital of nearly £3,000, disbursed £73 towards School fees. The O.F. Scholarship Fund, with a capital of nearly £2,000 made a single grant, £10, similarly. It had a cash balance of only £19 after the investment of £50 in Consolidated 4%. The General Fund expended £16 on 'Special Case School fees'. These seem modest sums. Far weightier grants and donations were, as we shall see, but a few years away. The management and active benevolence of the

Benevolent Fund were at that time discreetly withheld from general gaze.

Frederick John Jackson was named as President at the A.G.M. and Dinner of 1932 (Hotel Metropole, February). The guest list for the Dinner (which was ornamented' by a very interesting musical programme provided entirely by O.F. talent) included the Head Boy and Viscount Dunwich, grandson of the first President of the School.

Whitworth spoke of the state of the College. As his custom was he spoke with extreme optimism. Things were going to be all right. But between June of '30 and June of '32 the number of boarders, starting at 156 had risen to 164 and sunk to 149, and such was the anxiety of the Governors that they sent a letter to every member of the Society pointing out the far-reaching effects of the general depression and urging the recommendation of the School to any friends who had sons seeking a boarding education. The Bursar appealed, not in vain, to the Society for the provision of bursaries to encourage applications. Fifteen were offered (of which Emile Moreau financed four), each for 20 guineas a year, tenable for three years, for entrants.

It would be pleasing to record that numbers increased and financial stability was achieved. Sadly, this was not so. Numbers fluctuated, but by May of 1939, in spite of the Headmaster's reassuring words and the Magazine editorial's 'We are carrying on comfortably and efficiently', there were but 156 boarders in the School.

The new President, anxious to meet as many O.F.s as possible, and realising that Gatherings held at the College, London and Newmarket might not satisfy him in this respect, inaugurated a Lowestoft Dinner (Royal Hotel, February. Morning dress. Five courses. Four shillings and sixpence). Sixty attended this meeting of what was designated 'The Norfolk and Suffolk Branch', and it was hoped (not altogether in vain) that this was but the first of many more successful gatherings.

There were no Essex Branch meetings this year ('32), but the Newmarket Dinner was 'an enthusiastic and cheery gathering'. Unhappily, the Hockey Club, founded by Sidney Fawcett in 1925, was obliged to disband. The Croydon ground was lost in this year and, we are told, 'the members were spread over other clubs'. No other ground was available at a reasonable rental and though the parent Society might have met the extra cost, prudence had to prevail.

That the Treasurer and Trustees did indeed exercise prudence may be deduced by a glance at the spreading of the Society's funds - clearly the lesson of the elephant tusks was not lost on them. Investments were held in N. Zealand stock (£575), Indian stock (£587), S. American Stores (£500), City of Tokyo (£560), Buenos Aires, Great Southern Railway (£500), Marshomabad Railway (£600) and, nearer home, L.M.S. Railway (£600), and, a shrewd touch, Allsopps' Brewery (£450). Early in 1953, when there were 588 members, the Society's assets amounted to £14,000.

Frederick Jackson (recently made a Governor of the School) was invited to serve for a second year as President at the A.G.M. of 1933. At the Dinner which followed it (Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly. Price, eight shillings and sixpence) "Outside" guests included the Headmaster of Brentwood School and Reginald

Kirkman, Headmaster of Shoreham Grammar School. Whitworth, replying to the toast of 'The School', could not but admit that numbers were falling. 'We are', he said, 'in the fourth year of a great economic depression'.

The President outlined a scheme, not for increasing numbers, but to help the School leavers to find employment. An Advisory Committee was being formed. It would 'serve as a link between the Society and the School - Any Old Boy who is an employee of labour who feels he would like a Framlingham boy to be trained to take up work in his business should tell the Advisory Committee'.

The message was repeated at the Whitsun Gathering, which was so well attended that accommodation was strained to the limit.

A strange 'True or False?' story has emerged from this meeting and it is recorded here as a test for memory - An O.F. connected with the confectionery industry used to distribute sweets to the boys on Whit Mondays. Parents protested. The Headmaster put an end to the practice. Matthew Dawson Waugh (S.O.F. President, 1913) organised a whip-round to buy jam for the tea of the deprived scholars.

The likelihood of such generosity is not in dispute - Waugh had given the Chapel a new altar - but dates are lacking and the massive purchase of jam seems unlikely. 'Jam yesterday' must be remembered by someone!

On the Sunday of this same ('33) Whitsun Gathering the Society's memorial to Francis Wilfrid Stocks was unveiled in the Chapel by the President - a simple oak tablet, suitably inscribed. In a short address, Rupert Kneese, Chaplain, spoke of Stocks as Headmaster, sportsman and one 'who understood human nature. The best type of English gentleman'.

Inskip had not been forgotten: on his 80th birthday a flower-bearing S.O.F. deputation, led by the President, Jackson, presented him with a silver salver. This was neither the first nor last presentation made to the distinguished Headmaster. In 1912, it will be remembered, when he had completed twenty-five years in office, the Society gave him a cheque (and Mrs. Inskip a gold purse) and an address engrossed on vellum expressing their deep appreciation of his services to the College. On his retirement (1913) the Society gave the School the commissioned portrait of their departing Head, presenting a copy to Dr. and Mrs. Inskip.

The year 1933, though a poor one, even Whitworth admitted, for admissions to the School, was rich for the Society, its numbers reaching the 600+ mark. The reason for the increase may be attributed to the zeal of the President, the indefatigable reporting of O.F. activities by John Booth in the School Magazine, the infectious popularity of Branch gatherings and the establishment of Branch Secretaries in Birmingham, Lowestoft, Manchester, Newmarket, Norwich, E. Anglia (Alfred Pretty), Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Middx., - Bucks. - Herts., Sussex; Port Said, Singapore; Buenos Aires and India.

It was considered that the Lowestoft Branch was definitely established. Its second Supper (Royal Hotel. November) attracted upwards of sixty guests. The Chairman was George F. Spashett (1895-01), a man of great achievement who, having

won a Military Cross in the first World War, lost his life in the second. Pretty, replying to the toast to the S.O.F., said that he did not believe that there was a stronger Old Boys' Society in the kingdom. He added, perhaps unnecessarily, that he could not stand slackness or lack of keenness in class or on the playing-field.

The Newmarket Dinner (October) was judged an 'outstanding success' (though it recorded a deficit of £5). Whitworth spoke of the increasing co-operation between the Society and the School Governors, mentioned with gratitude the Moreau bursaries and applauded the setting up of the Advisory Committee (whose assistance, he advised, should not devalue the School Certificate). He was still confident in the future of the School and looked forward to a fixture with the M.C.C.

The London Branch, thanks largely to its Chairman, Alfred Howe (1908-09), maintained its run of monthly Suppers (at two shillings and sixpence, at Stone's Chophouse, in Panton Street, W). The Essex Supper (40 attended) took place at the Army and Navy Inn, in Chelmsford.

It has been shrewdly observed that at a Dinner what is on the chairs is more important than what is on the tables. Even so, it may not be altogether unfitting to look again at a menu. The 1935 A.G.M. and Dinner was held at the Hotel Metropole once more, in February. The price of a ticket was ten shillings and sixpence. Here is the bill of fare -

Hors d'Oeuvre des Gourmets; Saumon Fumé.  
Consommé Riche Othello; Crème Ambassadeurs.  
Saumon d'Ecosse Braisé au Champagne.  
Escalope de Ris de Veau Maintenon; Domes Carijnan; Hericots au Beurre.  
Neige au Curaçao  
Poularde de Surrey Cocotte Bohémienne; Salade Mignonne  
Bombe Chatelaine; Quartier de Poire Dame Blanche: Gourmandises.  
Café

Sixty-five members and guests, under the new President, Thomas Richard Leader (1896-97) enjoyed the meal and the event though a appeal for 'musical volunteers' apparently fell on deaf ears. In the past, when light entertainment was fitting it was always hoped that O.F. talent would provide. When none was offered professionals were engaged, typically a baritone, a soprano and an entertainer.

The newly-chosen President, Tom Leader, had a ready following. His management of the Newmarket Gatherings had been both efficient and popular; he had, moreover, been the trainer of two Grand National Steeplechase winners. When he proposed the toast to The Society he was able to hint at what were great projects.

There is some irony in the fact that while Whitworth, replying to the toast of 'The School', was able to report an increase in numbers, Reginald Kirkman, speaking for The Guests, offered congratulations to the Headmaster for his persistence in difficult times.

George Elliston, in proposing the toast to the President, spoke of some of the great men of the College. He referred particularly to the distinguished scientist Sir William Bate Hardy (1875-79) who had died but a few weeks previously, and put forward the suggestion that the Society should raise an Honours Board at the School to record outstanding achievements of its sons. It may be observed here that just as there is insufficient room on these pages to render such a worthy service, so it is likely that the College could not offer enough wall-space.

There was a change of Honorary Secretary in the year ('34) when R.B. Thomas, after eight years of devoted service, handed over to John F. Young (1914-22). He was presented with a silver cigarette box and a 'handsome' cheque by a grateful Society.

The background to suggestions and resolutions made at the '34 A.G.M. was this - By that year the Society's War Memorial Fund, launched in 1918, was left with no immediate obligations. A memorial had been placed in the Chapel and, where it was needed, provision had been made for the College education of children and dependents of Old Boys who had been incapacitated or killed in the war.

There remained a balance of some £3,000.

The Bursar, Commander Edward Palmer, put it to the Society that the money might be applied towards enlarging, modernising and improving the School buildings. This reasonable proposal was accepted at the A.G.M. when the President raised it and Emile Moreau, Chairman of the War Memorial Fund supported it. A Building Subcommittee was set up under Moreau's chairmanship. At a Council-meeting in May when the whole scheme was outlined it was decided to call in Professor Knapp-Fisher, the architect, to give it detail. It was recognised that implementation would take years rather than months. When it became obvious that the full project would over-tax resources (it was provisionally costed at £2,700) Moreau promised to double the balance when a new appeal was set up.

Over a period of five years, and with the formation of committees and sub-committees (some strengthened by the presence of Moreau and Minter; all steadied by the prudence of Edward Palmer), the project took shape and achieved completion early in 1939. The War Memorial Fund became The War Memorial Building Fund; when Inskip died (July, '34) the Fund to provide a suitable memorial was merged with the general fund but directed particularly towards improvements in the Junior School wing; when Moreau died (February, '37) provision was made for what was at first planned to be a 'commemorative plaque'; Park Close Meadow and Reeve's Field, which were reckoned as part of the capital of the War Memorial Fund, were transferred to the School when the Building Fund came into being.

In May, '35 the Silver Jubilee of the accession of King George V was everywhere celebrated with great splendour and rejoicing. The Society, somewhat belatedly, perhaps, opened a general-purposes Jubilee Commemoration Appeal in the following year, and though the King died early in '37 this Appeal and Fund remained open for some years.



*The three O.F.s who won the Victoria Cross in World War One:  
Augustus Agar, (1902-03) (top). William Hewitt, (1894-1900)  
(bottom left) and Gordon Flowerdew, (1894-99) (bottom right)*

## FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE IN WARTIME

Framlingham College is fortunate in being situated in the heart of the country, far from any large town or industrial district. The danger from air attack is therefore at a minimum. However, as an additional safeguard the Governors had, before the outbreak of war, provided four concrete Air Raid Shelters in the grounds, capable of accommodating the whole School. The boys are regularly drilled in getting to their shelters, and in the use of their gas masks.

**CURRICULUM.** It has not been found necessary to make any important modifications to the Time-Table.

**OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.** As a War measure, to assist the domestic staff, the senior boys have been called upon to undertake the making of their own beds and the cleaning of their own boots. In addition, they are being asked to sacrifice some of the time devoted to games, and occupy themselves in work on the land : one of the School playing fields has been ploughed up and used for growing vegetables. The boys are responding very well to the calls made upon them, and show clearly that it is their desire to help in these difficult times.

**CATERING.** Catering is more difficult, but so far, in spite of a scarcity of some commodities, it has not been necessary to alter the standard of feeding.

*While old boys were acquiting themselves courageously on all fronts in the war, life at the College, on what was once presumed to be the invasion coast, was , apart from the short evacuation to Repton, relatively untroubled as this notice to parents proclaims*





*With The Second World War ended the Society's dinner in 1946 - the first since the war - still featured a few O.F.s in uniform and thoughts strongly centred on those who had not returned from the conflict. Among those missing was Percy Pickard (1926-32) (seen right) whose exploits made him one of the war's popular heroes.*



The Building Fund was not shown on the annual statement of Accounts after '36, but the Jubilee Fund began to incorporate items formerly shown on the Building Account. In short, the War Memorial Fund became the Building Fund, which merged into the Jubilee Commemoration Fund. Thus, for the year ending December '37, we find in the Jubilee Fund Account - 'Reconstruction of Junior House Room' (£250), 'Payment to Builder' (£450), 'Architect' (£190), 'Panelling' (£1,317).

There were two instances of great generosity. In '36 the Building Fund received £62.10 each from E.P. Clarke, C.L. Reade, J.M. Martin and A.E. Martin (1889-94) to pay for the refurbishment of the Junior House. Support, too, came from unlikely sources. In '37 the India Branch, its members too scattered to meet, having temporarily dissolved, sent 220 rupees (£16) for the Fund. The most striking gesture came in '39 when the work had been completed. There remained a Bank overdraft of £200.

When this melancholy fact was made known at the Newmarket Supper three members, all original subscribers, took up deeds of covenant, cleared the debt and so brought about the liquidation of the Fund.

When, at the A.G.M. of '39, the President, E.R. Ennion, was pressed for the names of the benefactors he declined to answer. It is more than likely that he himself was one of them.

What emerged from this long and sometimes involved process was that the College gained three large house-rooms, a new large bath-room and hot water service and a new central-heating system. The studies were built on what was the west courtyard, and what had been the Junior School Wing was fashioned into an Assembly Hall and another house-room. The Dining Hall and entrance-hall were panelled in oak, and the whole project was fittingly completed by the setting-up of busts, by E. Whitney Smith, one of Inskip, one of Moreau.

Oliver Digby Inskip, Headmaster from 1887 to 1930, had died in May, 1934, aged 82. He had been an assistant master before being urgently recalled, and by his guidance, strength and personality he increased the nominal roll, in ten years, from 72 to over 300. The Society supported him and he supported the Society, always, with Mrs. Inskip, offering warm hospitality at Whitsun and never failing to attend major O.F. functions - and never failing to stir enthusiasm and affection.

The Magazine Editorial for December, 1934, mentioning the gift of a squash-court by Frederick Minter, the raising of £350 at the Newmarket Dinner to provide two new hard tennis-courts, and the S.O.F. Bursaries, praised the Society's 'spontaneous financial generosity'. The Editor claimed that he was aware that it was unfashionable to declare loyalty to an old institution, of whatever kind it was; 'The Old School Tie' had become a national jest. But, he asserted, there was still something singularly attractive about patriotism and loyalty - such loyalty as makes the Old Boys of a School support it long after they have left.

Alfred Pretty, characteristically, extolled the excellence of the School and the Society at the Newmarket Dinner (Oct., '34. T.R. Leader, President). News of the

building plans and progress had been enthusiastically received; Whitworth had said that Framlingham boys were as happy as the boys in any school in England; Pretty, proposing the toast to the President, said amid cheers that he had been told that there was no Society could hold a candle to the S.O.F. in what it did for the School. There was no town in England which sent a better lot of men to Framlingham than Newmarket.

He was not, however, totally engrossed in the interests of those nearest to the College. Before the year '34 was out he and the President had sent letters to overseas O.F.s conveying good wishes and an account of the structural alterations completed or in train. An appeal for more contributions was implicit. Replies came 'by cable, wireless, air-mail and post from four continents', all expressing gratitude for news and wishing the Society well. Albert Narlian (1891-93), a solicitor practising in Los Angeles, observed that it was "nice to hear that the Society has 80,000 dollars invested".

The new President, in office at the Hotel Metropole Dinner after the A.G.M. in February, '35, was Edwin Percy Clarke, Corn and Agricultural merchant of Framlingham, member of the College Corporation and, among other distinctions, commander of the battalion which he had joined as a private.

Naturally enough, much was made at the Dinner of the improvements being effected at the College. The Bursar thanked the Society for what it had done through the War Memorial Fund and Frederick Minter's gift of £3,250; Whitworth, thanking the Society, said, 'We shall go steadily ahead ... I think we shall be full within quite a reasonable time ...' [There were 148 boys in the School just then]; Pretty said that young Framlinghamians had something to live up to and could live their lives properly by looking as well to the past; John H. Stransom (1904-11) expressed delight at the increase of material comforts and modernisation though he had 'misgivings at the introduction of cups and saucers in place of good old mugs'.

Although the demands of succinctness must not be ignored it would not be right to fail to mention the conferring of a knighthood in this year on Frederick Minter, President of the Builders' Benevolent Institutions, Director of the Ancient Buildings Trust Ltd., Committeeman of the London Police Court Mission, Captain in the Royal Marines, and on Albert James Walton (1898-99), Surgeon to King George V and to Queen Mary, Officer in the R.A.M.C., and, among many offices of distinction, President of the Medical Society of London. Neither should Alfred Munnings go without a mention of the fact that in this year ('35) 'he had endeared himself to the public by his brilliant studies of horses' and was showing six pictures at the Academy Exhibition.

It is sad and puzzling to relate that although, through the Society, Munnings offered to come to the School to talk on Art, if the Headmaster would name a date, we find no response.

Herbert Pretty, first President and part-founder of the Society, died in April, '35 aged 80. He had joined the School at the age of 11 on its opening-day in 1865 and stayed five years. For 58 years he was with Huntley and Palmer, the Reading biscuit

firm, and in this service he visited 'every country in Europe except Russia, sometimes by horse-drawn diligence'. He could remember listening to Gladstone and Disraeli in the Commons and seeing 'Croucher' Jessop batting at the Oval. He maintained that the secret of fitness was open-air and exercise.

A third knighthood was mentioned at the Whitsun meeting - that of Stephen Murphy (1889-93), Judge, of the India Civil Service. On the strength of three knighthoods and the training of the winner of the Derby by Frank Butters (1888-95) Percy Clarke asked the Headmaster to give the School a half-holiday. It had been an especially interesting Gathering: not only were the seventy O.F.s who turned up able to see what improvements had been made but they were treated to a 'kinemetograph film' of the School events of the year.

There was hardly one Gathering or meeting at which Alfred Pretty failed to speak most highly of the College, the Society, individual Old Boys and achievements of former years. At the Essex Branch Meeting (Chelmsford, April, '35. Mark Liell, Secretary) at which he was 'pleased to see many of the younger men' he asserted that the School, though only seventy years old, had turned out men who had become famous and had reached the highest positions in their vocations.

At the third N. Suffolk Dinner (Royal Hotel, Lowestoft. Percy Clarke, President. 60 present. Musical items by 'The Olde Englishe Concert Party'). Pretty, proposing the toast to the Society, claimed that every decent man was proud of his old School, and by bringing the old boys together at London, Lowestoft, Chelmsford and Newmarket they did engender enthusiasm which impelled them to do something for their School. The Public School spirit was a very impelling force, fruitful in suggestion and fertile in action.

He was strangely silent over differences which arose through assertions made in speeches at the Newmarket Dinner of October, '35; Percy Clarke presiding. The toast to 'The School' was proposed by the Revd. G.D. Castleden (1886-94), Rector of Dennington. In asserting that the Public School was one of the greatest and most potent institutions ever devised by the wit of man for the 'forming of citizenship', while praising the disciplines, demands and rewards of the playing-field he suggested that it was the playing-field rather than the examination-room that ruled Public Schools. If that situation were reversed it would be the end of the Public School system, a system which suppressed individualism.

Whitworth would have none of this. Individualism may have been trampled on thirty or more years before, but that was not the case at the moment. Moreover, parents would not send their boys to a school unless it put first and foremost the passing of the School Certificate Exam.

We, privileged by the passage of time, may now judge. Whitworth, of course, well knew the importance of academic success. Rejection by the H.M.C. less than five years earlier - too few boys, too few gaining a School Certificate, too few old boys at the Universities - had been a cruel blow.

The theme had, perhaps unwittingly, been taken up by Bertie Fountain Woods

(1892-99) when he spoke at the Lowestoft Dinner of '35 (at which we have already looked). A Cambridge graduate, he was, perhaps well qualified to pronounce on academic matters. At the College he had won all the major prizes, had gained caps for cricket, football and athletics and, moreover, was Captain of the School.

Addressing the Lowestoft assembly he defended 'the old school tie'. It was a symbol of loyalty to the Public School, and loyalty was only a step to patriotism. 'And surely what we want today is a full-blooded patriotism instead of the anaemic internationalism which is offered us ... Public Schools are like rocky islands in the swift-flowing current of modern times; safe on their secure foundations they stand for tranquillity and stability; they are not barren islands, but full of orderly business - the business of producing good citizens ... Framlingham has produced leaders ... We may say that Framlingham has fulfilled the ideals for which it was founded and has taken its place in East Anglia ('Hear, Hear!'), but I want to hear the School mentioned in wider circles, and I therefore ask the Headmaster to give us a Blue, and an open scholarship at the University'.

How uncomfortable this was for Whitworth (and, perhaps Pretty) we may not know. He took pleasure in announcing that numbers were increasing and that of his 158 boarders 54 were Suffolk boys; the XV had lost only one of its six matches. He had every intention of supplying a Blue at the earliest possible moment [Norman Borrett gained a Cambridge Blue three years later]; he was sending up a boy an open scholarship in a month's time (Applause).

It has been remarked elsewhere that these days the Albert Memorial College does not often remember Albert. There are reminders enough: the Berners Library can exhibit more than one original signature and a Baxter print, and, of course, there is the imposing Joseph Durham bronze statue of the Prince looking out on what must be one of the most striking yet tranquil views of any county in England. Perhaps he is, as it were, taken for granted. Perhaps, one day, he will be remembered at a Founders' Day. However, the death of King George V brought Albert to mind. The School Magazine, though making a faulty assessment of the character of George's natural successor, Edward, asserted that we should be proud to belong to a school which is, however humbly, connected [George was Albert's grandson] with such a line of Kings.

Sir Frederic Willans (1894-1900) was Surgeon Apothecary to H.M.'s Household at Sandringham and the first signatory to the bulletin announcing the King's illness and, in due course, his death.

The 1936 A.G.M. and Dinner took place at the Hotel Metropole again (February). Percy Clarke had been elected for a second year of office. His guests included Lord Peel, Lord Cranbrook, Viscount Dunwich and Robert Eaton-White, still Chairman of the Governors. Emile Moreau, who at the Newmarket Dinner of the previous year had received copious acknowledgement of his generosity to the School and to the Society (his most recent acts of benevolence had been to contribute to the cost of the Dinner and to promise to give to the School 'the best wireless installation that could be provided') was again accorded warm and sincere thanks by the speakers and

the company.

During the evening a gold cigarette case was presented to F.R. Garrard, Governor of the School and a former President of the Society, in recognition of his services.

G.S. Elliston, proposing the toast of 'The School', referring to the modernisation that had been achieved, considered that Framlingham 'now compared favourably with any school in the country of the same character'.

There must have been a wry smile from those who were at the School in earlier, bleaker days, when Eaton-White, replying to the toast, said that it might be that they were now bringing up boys in a little hot-house, but it was so that they might be stronger when they planted them out in the garden of life.

When Whitworth spoke of the School he made indirect reference to a topic which was beginning to exercise the minds of a few forward-thinking politicians, namely the prospects of War. 'Whatever are the opinions about re-armament', he said, 'I, for one, like to inspire boys with a realisation that there is no more honourable career than that in His Majesty's Forces'. The applause which greeted this statement seemed to indicate that Churchill was not alone in his views on the country's lack of preparedness.

Shadows of war were not likely to darken the perspective of the Society as a whole, but Whitworth, a military man, was acutely aware of what could happen and it is no surprise that he wanted the School to share, not his apprehension, but his awareness. Late in '36 he promoted a lecture 'with the prosaic title' (said *The Framlinghamian*) of 'Foreign Affairs'. It was delivered by Mr. Kenneth de Courcy ('whose diction reminded us forcibly of Tennyson's brook') and 'convinced us that the League of Nations was a myth, that Hitler and Mussolini were war-maniacs and that something would happen in the next ten years unless Great Britain made herself powerful enough to stop it'.

A debate followed - 'Within the next five years War in Europe is inevitable'. Whitworth, agreeing, advocated an armed Britain. The motion was defeated, 2-21.

When a short chronicle of an institution is essayed it is, sadly, necessary first to consider that whole body rather than the individuals who are embodied. Happily, as from time to time we have seen, exceptions must be made. In this instance the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1936 prompts them.

Alfred Munnings showed six pictures, including 'A Farm in Suffolk'; W.O. Hutchison exhibited 'Homage to A.P. Herbert, M.P.' an interior scene showing the little smoke-room (now no more) of the Crown Hotel in Framlingham Market Place, with a contented David Foreman, redoubtable porter, steward and messenger of the College, well to the fore - a picture purchased by the Society and presented to the School; Cuthbert Julian Orde (1902-07) had four paintings hung.

It should be remarked, in passing, that Orde had a remarkable career, one worth looking up, and that, perhaps, it behoves the Society to secure an example of his art. In that Exhibition, too, was the bronze of Emile Moreau by Edwin Whitney Smith,

commissioned by the Society and in due course presented to the School.

Moreau's 80th birthday fell on July 11th '36. A deputation of O.F.s, including Percy Clarke, Alfred Pretty, who had been at school with him sixty-five years earlier, Charles Scott and John Booth, waiting upon him at his Brighton home to offer the Society's congratulations and good wishes. Similar messages came from the College and all quarters.

As has already appeared, the College and the Society had innumerable reasons to be grateful to him. He had always been ready 'to put his hand in his pocket' to provide a prize, to buy equipment or to settle a collective bill, and when it came to the making of large donations, he invariably headed the list.

Unhappily, he lived but six months longer. His had been an extraordinary life. From the time when, only seventeen years old, he first sailed to India, to his last years he was immersed in commerce and the interests of public welfare. A trustee and twice President of the Society, a Governor of the College, his advice and guidance were as golden as his benefactions.

He left £2,000 2H% Consols to the Society, and £8,000 ditto to the College. Although he did not insist on it, it is clear that he would have been gratified by the application of some of this benefaction to the establishment of a Moreau Scholarship.

Part of Moreau's will is both touching and puzzling - '... As to the income accruing to the Society of Old Framlinghamians from my residuary estate I desire half the income therefrom to be accumulated in a Benevolent Fund to be created to aid Old Framlinghamians who have fallen on evil days and are deserving of assistance from such a fund ...'

Now, a Benevolent Fund did already exist. Full details were not published, but we know (from the General Account) that £5 was paid out as a grant in the year '36. The wording of the will suggests that the existence of the Fund was not known to him. In 1938 the Fund held a balance of £20 and received £63 from Moreau's bequest.

Emile Moreau was a grandson of James Bird, the Yoxford poet (*Framlingham - a Narrative of the Castle*, Baldwin and Cradock, MDCCCXXXI). It would not be incongruous to suppose that some inherited instinct had caused him to be instrumental in the publishing, Calcutta, 1889, of some of Kipling's early works, through A.H. Wheeler and Co's Railway Bookstalls.

The Whitsun Gathering of '36 attracted a record attendance - 80. An innovation was a match, a successful match, against the Old Ipswichians, played on the Saturday. A special preacher, the Revd. Albert Lombardini of St Lawrence, Jewry, was invited for the Sunday service. After Monday's match the Headmaster and Mrs. Whitworth held a reception and the well-contented guests were able to view the progress made in the great improvement programme.

After being inactive for some little time the South African Branch held a reunion (April, '36) in Johannesburg under the Presidency of Charles L. Read (1884-94). When, in 1900, Dr Inskip had written to parents promoting the formation of a Cadet Corps 'conducive to the development of a strong and healthy physique and the

inculcation of the principles of order, discipline and respect for authority', it so happened that Read, aged 24 (he was but seven years old when he first went to the College), was waiting for his commission in the Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment preparatory to going out to fight in the South African War.

He was able to find time to become the first commanding officer of the School Corps, handing over to (Capt.) Alfred Pretty before a year had passed. Surviving the war he remained in South Africa. Ten fellow O.F.s did not survive. The Chapel pulpit is their memorial.

The Essex Branch Annual Supper was again held in Colchester (F.J. Jackson, Chairman; L.M. Liell, Secretary), but though as many as thirty members attended it was decided that future meetings should be held in Chelmsford 'because the train service to Colchester is inadequate'. Though thirty was a satisfactory number it was believed that among the absentees were those who did not even know that the event was taking place. To strengthen the Society and to give all members complete knowledge of what was going on, Pretty caused a list of 'lost' members to be published in *The Framlinghamian* (still the Society's only purveyor of news) and asked for addresses. Totals were dismaying: there were seventy-two Life Members and 21 Annual Members with whom contact had apparently been broken.

There was, however, a good showing of Old Boys at the College Speech Day (October, '36) when the busts of Inskip and of Moreau (who was present) were unveiled by the Chairman of the Governors. He spoke warmly of the great work the S.O.F. had done, of Inskip's devotion and achievements and of Moreau's love of adventure, his public spirit and benefactions.

The spirit of the public was, at the time, being subjected to diverging tensions, for the Abdication Questions had soon to be resolved, and for many, as well as Edward, it was a question of where loyalties lay. There was little doubt when a portrait of King George V by Alfred Munnings was presented to the people of Ipswich. It was received with enthusiasm and, in the words of the Mayor of Ipswich, would be a source of joy and pleasure. It is to be found in Christchurch Mansion.

The Newmarket Dinner (October, '36) attracted one hundred and one guests, a record number and one, the reaching of which was said to be Alfred Pretty's ambition. For this achievement Minter thanked 'our dear old friend', Tom Leader for his organisation; Leader attributed it to the drawing-power of Pretty, who, in his turn put it down to the influence of the President, Percy Clarke.

Reference was made by more than one speaker to the increasing contributions to the Appeal Fund and to the work already carried out. The President, perhaps ungraciously, observed that as regards panelling the College entrance hall - if the Society didn't do it, nobody would.

The toast to The School was proposed by the Revd. T.R. Browne, Rector of Earl Stonham. He considered that through the generosity of the Old Boys the School *buildings* had been made 'really splendid'. Wherever one went one found that Framlingham produced men who were doing Yeoman service to King and country ...

the tone of the School would stand Old Boys in tremendous stead as they went through life. It was, in fact, the speaker as well who needed a resolute spirit. His son, R.H.P. Browne (1931-35) lost his life when, in 1940, H.M.S. Hood was sunk.

On this occasion, the Newmarket Dinner, diversion was offered by the Revd. W. Bowen and Miss Dolly Hunt, who sang, and Mr. George Gass, who entertained. Mention is made of this because at a Council Meeting (Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street) earlier in the year H. Le May had secured unanimous agreement when he proposed that at the London Dinner there should be no entertainment, though a pianist might be welcome.

The London Branch went even further: at the March-to-October Suppers (Mason's Arms, Maddox Street, W.1; price two shillings and sixpence, that is, twenty-five 'new' pence) the rule was 'No speeches'. A jolly gathering was promised. Hospitality was, of course, not lacking elsewhere. It was resolved in Council that all School-leavers of '36 should be invited to attend, free, the February, '37 London Dinner. Percy Clarke undertook to foot the bill, but from what accounts we have of the occasion there is no indication that the invitations were taken up.

This Dinner, preceded by the A.G.M. (at which a new Rule, that the Council should meet four times a year, was established) took place at the Hotel Victoria in February - between Abdication (Edward) and Coronation (King George VI). The new President was Sir Valentine Crittall [First O.F. to enter the House of Commons, and later to become First Baron Braintree in the County of Essex]. His guests included Lord Eustace Percy, formerly President of the Board of Education, and Robert Eaton White, Chairman of the Governors. There was a record attendance, and among those there was Alfred Munnings, whose presence was described in the official account as 'another feature of the gathering'.

The first feature was the presentation of a gold cigarette case (bearing the Framlingham arms and the words, 'In sincere gratitude') to Charles Scott, retiring as treasurer after fifteen years of duty and a devotion beyond the calls of duty. His place and office was taken by J.H. Stransom.

Lord Eustace Percy spoke of the place of the College in what was an area rooted deep in the countryside of East Anglian and its rural life. [Pretty probably thought his observations somewhat short-sighted]. The new President, speaking of the Society, said it was an unusual Society in that it took on itself the duty of improving the School as an educational centre and as a place to live in. [Whitworth could no doubt accept the second observation, but, Scholarships and Bursaries notwithstanding, he must have been very tolerant to accept the first].

Alfred Munnings indeed did capture his audience and, had there been any doubts about his feelings for the School (and, incidentally, about the healing powers of Time), they were dispelled by his lively reminiscences of two years at the College. "I hated the place", he declared. Clearly, he had not been embittered by his experiences: turning to the Secretary of the Society he asked, disarmingly and amid renewed laughter, 'May I join?'

It may be recalled that the Old Framlinghamian Club, which preceded by a few years the establishment of the Society, in 1900, was founded by William Thomas Brunger, assistant master and then secretary of the College, which he served from 1883 to 1928. He died in March, 1937, aged 78 years. His interest in the Society and individual members was boundless; he seldom missed a function, and his devotion was recognised by the unprecedented award of an Honorary Vice-presidency. In the town he was remembered for many kindnesses and for the forging of links with Framingham, Massachusetts.

Of him it was touchingly said, 'He knew every family for miles around; all the children by their names; each path through the fields and where the wild flowers grew'.

Thomas Brunger was remembered when the Essex Branch held its annual gathering (Saracen's Head, Chelmsford, April, '37); F.J. Jackson, its President; Mark Liell, Secretary). Alfred Pretty, who, of course, knew him well, spoke warmly of his personality and achievements. He also took the opportunity of thanking Horace Burlingham (1924-31; Captain of the Shooting VIII in '31) for sponsoring the O.F. Bisley team shooting for the Veterans' Challenge Trophy.

There were forty members present - 'most of them young and all apparently enthusiastic and happy'. Among the not-so-young was Aubrey Wilme Collier (1870-72) who joined the School when Daymond was Headmaster and had sailed for New Zealand and Australia when he was eighteen.

The South African Branch, which held a successful meeting in Johannesburg in March (14 present; R.T. Hall, Convenor; G.F. Henderson, Secretary) decided to appoint local secretaries (from Cape Province to Kenya) to encourage cohesion. The creation of life memberships was also approved, the first member so elected being Clement Modlin Gibbs who, a pupil at the College on its opening day, was in his 86th year. He was a prominent figure in South African life and in due course (1947), when he was in his 95th year, would be presented to Their Majesties King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the Princesses.

The Coronation took place in May ('37) and the first Levee soon after. At this both Captain Augustine Agar, V.C., and Lt. Richard Flowerdew, C.I.E. (1896-03) were presented to His Majesty.

In this year it was decided that the time had come for the compilation of a revised College Register (the first one, containing 3,374 names and going up to 1905, was published in 1907). In March 317 notices were sent out in an attempt to fill gaps. There were 74 satisfactory replies; 59 of the letters were returned, marked 'gone away'. A s.a.e. had been included and it was confidently expected that in each case something would be heard; the anticipated replies of 186 Old Boys, however, failed to materialise.

There was a call, too, for O.F. Masons to consider the desirability and possibility of establishing an O.F. Lodge. The Council, feeling that much deep deliberation would be called for, set up a small committee to take preliminary steps, R.M. Fickling (1892-96) acting as Secretary.

Much thought was subsequently devoted to the project, but it was at length decided that it was not yet the time to go ahead. The proposal would come up again.

*The Framlinghamian* for July, '37 carried an anonymous article entitled 'Our Society and What She is Doing' in which the writer suggested that unless one attended meetings at the College, at Newmarket or in London one never knew what the Society was doing 'to promote the interests of the School in every possible way'.

Seeking to enlighten those who did not read the Magazine or attend meetings the author of the piece outlined the progress already made by the Society and what was in hand. There was, as we have seen, much to be proud of, and, among the other achievements, much was justly made of the improvements to the swimming-bath: 'The Society and the Governors have made the bathing-place a positive delight to behold; they have erected new sheds [a more elegant word had yet to be chosen] and they have installed a filtration plant through which the whole body of water can be passed in ten hours'.

It was pointed out that the Council was currently considering how best to use monies subscribed to the O.F. Jubilee Commemoration Fund, that meetings were held four times a year and that the Council was delighted that Sir Frederick Minter, K.C.V.O., had accepted the invitation to join the Governing Body of the College.

What the writer might have added, had he not been dealing with material things, was that the Society, through its gatherings, business or social, could engender and encourage a spirit of comradeship which transcended even the warm pleasure of meeting old companions or making new friends.

Had it been available to him, he could hardly have done better than to quote from a letter sent to Alfred Pretty by G.A. Ratcliff (1922-24) who was returning to Buenos Aires after a brief spell in England during which he had attended the summer ('37) O.F. Day at the College - '... it was a treat that filled my heart with joy, and those, refreshing memories I shall treasure for a long, long time ...'

This particular gathering had taken place in July because of the proximity of the Coronation date to that of Whitsun. Present were O.F.s from as far afield as Montreal, South Rhodesia and the Argentine. All spoke with admiration of the Society's interest in Old Boys overseas and its efforts to draw still closer the ties that bound O.F.s to one another and the School.

During the proceedings the Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Moreau expressing her deep appreciation of the Society's kindness to her late husband and herself.

By modern considerations Moreau died at no great age (70). Towards Christmas, '37, 'O.F. News' published a list of 20 O.F. Octogenarians, extending 'very hearty congratulations and cordial wishes ...' They were, in their way, all remarkable men. The eldest, at 88, was Edwin G. Clarke, the Framlingham Corn Merchant and Maltster, who had joined the School on its opening day. Perhaps the most interesting of his school fellows were the Boldero twins, Lonsdale James and Edmund Raynham. Lonsdale had stayed at home to become a farmer (and a Poor Law Guardian); Edmund had gone to New Zealand to become a gum digger and farmer (and a lay reader). There

was a third brother, Henry (1865-69), who, at the age of 13, took his eleven-year old brothers to the School on opening day.

The O.F. section of the School Magazine, edited by John Booth, was at this time particularly lively and informative. It did not dwell unduly on the past. So, for this year, '37, we read that Munnings had six paintings accepted for the Academy Exhibition and that one had been bought for the nation. Charles Scott, exhibiting at the Stock Exchange Exhibition, included 'The Willows at Hallingbury', a reproduction of which is to be found in the December, '37, edition of *The Framlinghamian* and the original at the College. F.J. Jackson, at the time Chairman of Brentwood District Hospital, received, we are told, a Television set from the inventor, Logie Baird, who put it to him that in the course of time Television sets in hospitals would be as universal as wireless sets.

It was Jackson who told the company at the October ('37) Newmarket Dinner what had been achieved in the great improvement and reconstruction scheme at the College. Many, of course, had seen for themselves the new oak floor and panelling in the Dining Hall, the new floor in the entrance hall, the busts and the coats of arms, but he urged another visit now that the work was almost complete.

It was at this time that Alfred Pretty, Treasurer of the O.F. Jubilee Commemoration Fund had announced that the reconstruction activities having for the present come to an end it might well be time to review results and the financial position. The total cost had been £2,515 - £600 more than funds allowed - but there were the assets of five years' covenants yet to come.

Pretty closed his announcement with a challenging, and, some might say, disconcerting observation -

'... With the extraordinary longing for luxury on the part of both parents and boys nowadays, one thing is quite certain that but for the improvements carried out in the last few years by the Governors and the Society the School would have ceased to exist as such'.

And some may recall that Percy Clarke had asserted that if the Society did not make itself responsible for certain improvements no one else would.

When the time for the A.G.M. and Dinner came round (February, '38. Great Eastern Hotel) all seemed to be going well. The Society had an active membership of 674; the School, according to Whitworth, was beginning to prosper. There were more boys than at any time since he became Headmaster and there were thirty-five boys in the School who had already passed the School Certificate Examination. At the end of '37 the Society's Endowment Fund held a capital of nearly £5,000; there were over £2,000 in the Life Membership Fund and the jubilee Commemoration Fund had, in merging with the Building Fund, contrived to settle accounts.

The incoming President, Edgar Rowland Ennion (1890-94), Solicitor, was able to claim that the Society could 'rest satisfied that it was carrying out the objects and ideals for which it came into existence'.

News from the Branches was reassuring. The South African Branch reported

a presentation (a silver-mounted cut-glass inkwell) to Charles Lawrie Read, first President of the Branch, on his retirement after thirty years in Africa. The London Suppers were 'bringing in valuable membership recruits, and providing the younger fraternity with much useful knowledge as to what the Society is doing'.

But was there anywhere a hint that the international situation would deteriorate? Early in '38 the School Debating Society had 'denied very definitely that it had any belief in 'Peace at any Price' as a working policy'. There were not-very-serious references to Hitler, Austria and the Polish Corridor.

A visiting lecturer, G.M. Gaythorne Hardy, warned of Hitler's duplicity, but at the same time arrangements were being made for Debating members to visit the German Embassy. It was not until October ('38) that international affairs impinged on the programme and plans of the S.O.F.

Meanwhile, O.F. Day was restored to Whit Monday ('38, when 40 O.F.s and their President, E.R. Ennion, turned up); the O.F. team of Veterans (5) shot at Bisley for the Challenge Cup; an O.F. Sports Committee was set up 'to raise teams and to keep the Council in touch'. (We hear very little of this body); an O.F. blazer was approved - dark blue, with crest in Cambridge-blue silk thread; chromium buttons; the South African Branch invited would-be settlers to contact their Secretary, Kenneth Plant (1911-16) for introductions and advice; the Brunger memorial tablet was set in place in the Chapel; the College speech-day audience heard (or misheard) that a Moreau Scholarship, worth £100 a year, had been established; the O.F. 'Overseas Bag' brought in letters from all over the world, including the war-ships H.M.S. Warspite, Malaya and Rodney, one hinting that an upheaval was threatening, and the Magazine editorial for December, '38 asserted that the effect of the Munich Crisis on the School was 'staggering' - 'Staggering in its ineffectiveness'.

The Munich Crisis was so called because it was there that P.M. Chamberlain and his allies agreed not to oppose Hitler in his designs for the annexation of Czechoslovakia. Had they not done so it is thought to be certain that a war embracing the whole of Europe would have resulted. 'Appeasement' became synonymous with capitulation.

The date of the Newmarket Dinner depended on the outcome of the meeting of the powers. In the event the original date could be kept and seventy-one members were able to attend. No doubt they were gratified in a sombre way to hear that Philip Austin-Sparks of the R.A.F. who, at the age of 21, had been killed in an air accident, had bequeathed one quarter of his estate to the Society.

The A.G.M. and Dinner of 1939 took place without hindrance at the Hotel Victoria in February when the President in succession to Edgar Ennion was Sidney Pelham Flowerdew (1894-99), the seventh of the ten brothers, a civil engineer who had worked on the Indian State Railway. Among the guest speakers were the Bishop of Norwich and Sir Arnold Wilson, 'a Back-bencher who believed that democracy consisted of leadership by men, selected by consent, who were willing to make sacrifices'.

The Bishop of Norwich was full of praise for the Society: 'To examine the fine

records of Old Boys of Framlingham, their achievements in many spheres all over the world, is to realise that they carry away from the School a certain quality which was in line with the best traditions of the Public School'. He believed that at school one learned the spirit of give and take, to put the team before self and that many troubles and difficulties have their humorous side.

Sir Arnold Wilson, looking further afield, was convinced that we were entering on a long period of peace: it must be preceded by a long preparedness for war, but he saw no reason whatever to think that civilisation was in danger.

The School was not so sure about this; even the Magazine editorials could not conceal a certain foreboding. The Debating Society pondered on the motion, 'England will lose and not gain by the present alliance with France'. Only the visit by the Hockey Deutscher Sport Club from Düsseldorf was persuasive in giving the impression that there was no need for alarm. The Magazine Editor claimed that he could carry on with very little change or inconvenience, but the departure of Messrs Broughton and Lovegrove to join their regiments could not be ignored, nor could the fact that the Debating Society threw out the motion, 'We have no quarrel with the German people' - in spite of a sturdy speech in its defence by the Headmaster.

There were happier things: James Mason Martin (1888-94), a great lover of the College, presented each member of the Council with a Leonard Squirrell etching of the School; Sidney Fawcett (1918-21), living near Salisbury, invited any O.F. serviceman to call in 'for a bath, a meal or a drink in an O.F. home'. Then there were the celebrations for Alfred Pretty's 79th birthday: lunch at the Crown Hotel with twenty Old Framlinghamians who were old friends, and the presentation of 'a casket containing a purse' and Pretty declaring, 'I know well that the spirit of Framlingham rings true from 1865 to our time and in every quarter of the world'.

It ought to be added that the spirit of compassion did not prevail universally. The School Mission, St. Christopher's, received but nine O.F. subscriptions over the whole year '38. Charles Scott, Treasurer, had issued a Statement of Accounts for that year. The Society's investments amounted to £12,043.

Early in 1939 Pretty appealed to all O.F.s, especially those overseas, to write in so that a register, easily consulted, could be compiled. John Stransom, Treasurer, seeking to bring accounts up-to-date, asked defaulting subscribers to pay up: he had found that in '38 contact had been lost with no less than 250. This appeal was taken up by Bertie Woods who became Deputy Treasurer when Stransom rejoined his regiment. 'We shall probably need all the money we can get to help those of us whom the war has hurt in business or disabled in body'.

In November, 1939, Pretty placed notices in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* asking all serving O.F.s to write in. He wanted his 'Overseas Bag' to be a clearing-house from the news from all the Forces. He published a list of those members of whom he had lost trace. He sent a circular, hopefully, to 400 promising addresses.

He received 185 replies (mostly from Army personnel). Sixty of the circulars were returned bearing the ominous words, 'Gone away'.

## Chapter VII

### ‘The Hun is at the gate’

**I**t is difficult to write of the Society’s activities in wartime without putting them in the context of the war. At the risk of being tedious one must attempt to portray not a background, for the threat of war and war itself was never far distant in the mind, but the setting in which the S.O.F. strove to honour its declared obligations to the School and to its members.

Between June and September, 3rd, ‘39 (when war was declared) three-and-a-half million had been evacuated from possible danger-areas; 25,000 Civil Servants had been removed to the (presumed) safety of seaside resorts; the B.B.C. had gone to Bristol, and the Bank of England to a village in Hampshire. Upwards of two-and-a-half thousand prisoners and Borstal Boys had been released; 140,000 patients had been obliged to leave their hospital beds to make room for possible air-raid casualties; thirty-eight million gas-masks had been distributed; the snakes of London Zoo had been put down. Thousands of cardboard coffins were fashioned.

The Military Training Act of May ‘39, introducing conscription, called only the 20/21 group, and that for but six months’ training, but as soon as war was declared the National Service (Armed Forces) Act made all men between 18 and 41 liable to immediate conscription (unless you were a light-house keeper, physician or Television official). By the end of the year over 1H million men were in uniform, as were 43,000 girls - all volunteers. It was reckoned that in the first call-up 22 men in every 1,000 were conscientious objectors.

The nature of the coming of the Second World War was such that when, on the quiet September Sunday morning Chamberlain’s uneasy voice came over the wireless (as we quaintly called it) announcing that the time for Germany’s answer to the British ultimatum had expired and therefor this country was at war, there was a peculiar feeling of relief and satisfaction in at least knowing just how we stood.

No bombs fell. There was a false alarm from the London air-raid sirens (An errant French plane had arrived unannounced), a destroyer dashed busily along the Aldeburgh coast-line, low-flying Blenheims roared reassuringly above. And for most it was a time of fearful doubt coupled with sturdy resolution. Here was none of the hysteria the country had seen in August, 1910; no dachshunds were stoned in the streets; there was no banging of drums, but a settling-down to the discipline of black-out, ration-cards, restricted wireless programmes and the acceptance or rejection of ever-present rumour.

Of the College Winstanley, editing *The Framlinghamian*, was able to write, ‘We ourselves are fortunate in being able to carry on with very little change or incon-

venience .. comfortably and efficiently ...'

Old Boys who were at the School in '39 may be amused to learn that when, in '38, the Governors consulted the leading A.R.P. Official for guidance on the line of action in the event of an air-raid, this gentleman advised that the best policy was to 'scatter the boys in the surrounding countryside rather than to provide splinterproof shelters for them'.

A sense of humour was not a casualty of this war. We sang 'Run, rabbit, run ...' and 'We'll hang out our washing on the Siegfried Line ...' and later dubbed William Joyce, the sinister purveyor of German propaganda, 'Lord Haw-Haw', and christened the appallingly menacing flying-bomb 'Doodlebug'.

But it was not always like that. When Alfred Pretty, seeking to gather, as it were, all Old Boys into one flock, had sent out his scores of letters to establish their whereabouts and had in so many cases received the dismaying response of 'gone away' it did not reflect one of the two powerful forces which were beginning to make themselves felt, namely to get out of cities on which bombs were likely to fall (the other was to get married), but rather the emergence of the most demanding of initials - 'O.H.M.S.'

To leave home, to be despatched to a teeming camp, to a solitary outpost on to a theatre of war was an experience thrilling to some, harrowing to others. An adventure or a disaster. A youthful spree or a heart-breaking severance.

That the Society and Alfred Pretty recognised these things and sought to remind Old Boys that associations made in their youth need not be severed was a warming reassurance in a bleak time. And the message was, of course, addressed to all Old Boys, whether they were members of the Society or not. It is convenient, though not accurate, to write of the S.O.F. in wartime as if every Old Boy was indeed a member.

There have been many instances where Old Boys, as individuals, have been mindful of the welfare of the School. There have been books for the Library, contributions to funds for leaving-presents for departing masters, for chapel furniture and memorial tablets, for building projects. There were gifts for the Museum - who can forget that ghastly spider-crab, the massive punt-guns, the medals of Charles Edwards, the grisly lock of Surrey's hair or the albatross, to which mystical and fearful powers were attributed?

In 1887, when the School was reduced to sixty-five boys and four masters, the rescuing 'Resuscitation Fund' launched by the Governors 'to continue the School', was augmented by a special 'Old Boys' List'. Though inappropriate, it would be a pity not to mention F.J. Bennett (1877-80) who, we are told, 'started a Rugby Football Club in Buenos Aires', and E.S. Beaven (1866-70), the great agriculturist, 'King of Barley', who died in '41.

A further word must be said here about the School Mission, The Fellowship of St. Christopher. It was always the hope of the Chaplain of the College that the Society would make an official and regular donation. As it was he had to be content

with individual subscriptions and happy to be joined by the few O.F.s who visited Chiswick House (in '38 K.K. Knight, 1932-38, was one of them) to play soccer against the Mission XI.

Not unnaturally subscriptions, and perhaps interest, fell off as the war progressed, but the Chaplain, determined that the work must go on, remained hopeful that contributions would not dwindle and that exchange visits might still be possible. In April, 1940, he was able to write, 'it is gratifying to see the increasing support under the Old Boys' section, and results from this year show promise of a still further increase from that quarter'. What 'that quarter' was is not clear. Certainly none of the Society's Statement of Accounts shows, or even hints at, any contribution to the Mission.

It will be readily understood that the year '39, and especially its last quarter, precipitated a difficult time for almost everybody. The Society, anticipating further perplexing situations, under the Presidency of S. Pelham Flowerdew and with Harry P. Gaze (1886-91) as his named successor, formed an Emergency Committee (President, Treasurer - B.F. Woods, Alfred Pretty and Percy Clarke) with powers to act for the Council, if necessary before the next Meeting (Jan. '40).

There had been both cautious and constructive measures taken over the year. It was decided to postpone the compilation of a revised College Register; Alfred Pretty was granted an annual honorarium of £100 (and pledged himself 'to devote his health and life to furthering the welfare of our School and her sons'); the fitting of new oak doors for the Chapel, a memorial to Frank Garrard, was halted; it was resolved to present each School leaver with a copy of Booth's *The First Sixty Years* - a resolve which was to peter out as more years passed.

The Philip Austin-Sparks bequest (some £650) was put to fitting use in enabling the School to purchase two parcels of land, both of which, as well as affording building sites, offered protection from unwanted development. The availability of both had been brought to the notice of the Governors by Percy Clarke. One (£250) was the portion of land, Nesling's Field, lying between The Dip (below the Chapel) and Lower (New) Road, the other (£400) the wedge formed by Pembroke Road and Dennington Road, about one acre. A condition of the transfer of the purchase money from the Society to the Governors was that the smaller area should be known as The Austin-Sparks Memorial Field ('or similar') - a designation (Like Moreau Quad and Thomas Field) allowed to lapse with passing of the years. The Governors did, however, establish an Austin-Sparks Prize, offered annually for achievement in games.

The December, '39 issue of *The Framlinghamian* had, unsurprisingly, little to say about the war. The School was still 'carrying on comfortably and efficiently'; rugby fixtures included matches against An Army XV (3 times) and Suffolk Yeomanry. The O.F. Section included extracts from the few letters received from Old Boys 'on the high seas' and 'with the B.E.F. in France'; there were lists of serving members, fourteen in the Royal Navy, one hundred and twenty in the Army and thirty in the R.A.F. There was a melancholy list of some sixty O.F.s 'lost', not in war, but to the vigilant Secretary of the Society. At the College the time had yet to come when, after grace in

the Dining Hall, an announcement would be made of casualties suffered, or, happily, of distinctions won, and, on the notice-board near the sub-prefects' study, there would be posted a bulletin showing gain or loss.

That letters from O.F.s serving with the B.E.F should reach Pretty in time for publication before the end of the year says much for the affection the Society and the School attracted. The Expeditionary Force had arrived in France but a day after the U.K. declaration of war, but, of course, that was within the beginning not the end of activities in what came to be called 'the phoney war'. Before the year was out Polish cavalry had ridden against German tanks, the R.A.F. had dropped six million leaflets on Germany, the S.S. Athenia had been torpedoed and H.M.S. Courageous and Royal Oak lost, Russia had invaded Finland, the Graf Spee had been sunk off Montevideo and, perhaps most momentous of all, Germany and the Soviet Union had signed a Friendship Treaty.

Remote as some of these happenings seemed to be they could not but be inimical to the smooth and efficient running of the Society. When the year 1940 was out the President, H.P. Gaze, was obliged to write, 'Under present circumstances the activities of the Society from the social point of view have been much curtailed, indeed one might say abrogated'.

Early in that year reports of O.F. casualties began to come in, and the sad sequence of 'Killed in action', 'Killed on active service', 'Died of wounds', 'Died on active service', 'Missing', began. The first recorded death was that of Kenneth F. Fisk (1926-33), serving with the R.A.F. the reported loss of A.J.F. Ford (1923-29), 'Killed as a result of Enemy Action while on duty with the Auxiliary Fire Service' afforded a sombre and contemporary illustration of the scope of modern warfare. Among the missing was R.C. Whittaker (1931-37), holder of the D.F.C. He had not yet reached his twenty-first year. In all, eight O.F. casualties of war were recorded for 1940; three combatants were classified as 'missing'; there was one P.O.W., W.R. Rodwell (1904-07), who, residing in France, was incarcerated.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was won by three O.F.s, and the Distinguished Service Cross by Stanley Keane 'for daring and resource in the conduct of hazardous and successful operations by the Fleet Air Arm ...' John H. D'Albiac (1908-10), Air Vice Marshal, was given command of the British Forces in Greece.

By the end of 1940 it was reckoned that there were upwards of 280 O.F.s in uniform though it was sadly accepted that records were far from complete in spite of appeals made to all likely sources of information. The Society itself numbered 900 members.

The official report of the Council (for 1940) records that 'the work goes on quietly, but certainly'. The scheduled Council Meetings for January, April and July duly took place though an Emergency Committee (President, Deputy Treasurer and Secretary - with powers to co-opt) was established to conduct all essential business for the duration of the war.

This Emergency Committee meeting at the Blue Boar in Cambridge in

October, asked Officers and Committee to remain in office for the following year, '41. An informal lunch (at the invitation of the Deputy Treasurer) at which some twenty O.F.s were present, followed this meeting - the only social function of the year. The strictures of war had not reached South Africa. Not only was the Branch able to hold a meeting (March, '40. Ten present) but it found time and resources to send money to the School for the establishment of a prize. More than that, the acting President, R.T. ('Dickon') Hall (1902-05), the eldest of the four brothers who came to the College, undertook to accommodate and watch over any evacuee children Framlingham parents might care to entrust to him.

It was not going to be long before some parents, in spite of the awful warning given by the sinking of the Athenia, were impelled to think more seriously of this magnanimous offer. The epic of Dunkirk has been so fully documented that it may seem to be wrung out as a topic, but, as well as touching individuals and the people of this island as a whole, so firmly has it bearing on the School and hence the Society that it cannot go unnoticed here.

In the middle of May, 1940, when, according to the papers, the B.E.F. was 'sweeping on', the German lightning war, 'Blitzkrieg', brought about capitulation of the Dutch Army, the fall of Brussels, the breaking of the French line at Sedan and eventually the encirclement of the B.E.F. at Dunkirk. The Royal Navy and 'the little ships' succeeded in taking 338,226 off the beaches, a feat involving heroism and determination, and one which brought about many a touching act of compassion when the troops, many worn out, unshaven and soaked, were put down on our shores - the Women's Voluntary Service, for instance, provided countless cups of tea, served food, darned socks and washed feet.

The part played by Hervey Whitworth has been closely chronicled, but misunderstandings still persist. He, expert navigator, was asked by a Woodbridge parent to join a small ship sailing for Dunkirk. Clearing his going with one of the Governors he did indeed join the vessel, but when Harwich was reached word came through, 'No more boats needed'.

Some regarded the Headmaster's gesture as one of great gallantry, others as a serious act of negligence: at the end of the year ('40), with only 109 boarders and 25 day-boys in the School, Whitworth offered his resignation 'if it would further the interests of the School'. The Governors, apprehensive of his willingness to 'act as a civilian' in the event of an invasion, accepted it. Reginald W. Kirkman, a guest at O.F. Dinners of '33 and '34 and having the support of Frederick J. Jackson, became Headmaster. So great was the Governors' conviction that a new Head and a new policy might well bring an increase in numbers and that they now had the right man that the statutory requirement, that the vacancy should be advertised, was not observed.

Speculation about the reasons for Whitworth's replacement was put to rest some fifteen years later -

Rendham, Oct. 11th, 1955

The Editor, The Framlinghamian.

Dear Sir,

In his recent book, 'Rendall of Winchester', Canon Firth has described how in 1940, when I was Headmaster, I sailed my yacht to Dunkirk to take part in the famous evacuation of the Army. I regret to say that I did not have the honour of being numbered among those who took their small ships to Dunkirk on that occasion. The yacht I owned at the time was not of a kind acceptable to the authorities.

Canon Firth goes on to say that this mythical voyage of mine was later looked upon by the Governors as so serious an 'error of judgement' that they asked Dr. Rendall, their Chairman, to inform me that I must be replaced!

Since all this nonsense is published as serious history, it seems wise to state quite clearly that the fact that my Headmastership came to an end in December 1940 had no more to do with the operations off Dunkirk than with the battle of Trafalgar.

Yours faithfully,

W.H.A. Whitworth,  
Headmaster, 1929-40.

In the April, '40 edition of *The Framlinghamian* there appeared an article 'The School in Wartime' over the initials P.J.H.D. In it it was justly claimed that the School had been 'singularly fortunate in this Armageddon' and that 'the horrors of evacuation had not come'. It was a perceptive piece; '... There seems to be an ever-increasing tendency to consider school life is not worth living in war-time; perhaps some of the older members may need reminding that cool heads will be needed if the Blitzkrieg comes ...'

Both blitzkrieg and evacuation were to come. In spite of the Society's establishment of ten wartime bursaries (from the Moreau Fund) School numbers remained low and, after Dunkirk, with stories of invasion barges threading the waterways of Europe to threatening positions on the coast and of the fabrication of thousands of cardboard coffins, it was clear that, with diminishing numbers, the School's very survival was at risk. The summer term ('40) was curtailed, and after an early holiday the College evacuees, less than a hundred of them, were received (Aug. 6th) into the hospitality of Repton. This stay was but brief. Plans for a lasting integration did not materialise and, in spite of the local conviction that the Germans would attempt a landing on the east coast early in September, return to the College was made on Sept. 10th.

It had been a more than satisfactory exodus, and far from an exile. Certainly the move to Repton relieved the 'rapidly increasing tension' of which the Editor of the Magazine wrote. The same writer rather grudgingly declared later, 'We now know we need never have left'. There had been another transfer: at this time of the year Alfred Munnings usually exhibited in Venice, but this being out of the question (Mussolini had entered the war early in June), he showed in London. His 'Ascot' pictures - copies of which were given to the School - were among the exhibits.

Alfred Pretty's eightieth birthday (Dec. 11th) was observed and marked by a characteristic photograph in the Magazine, by newspaper coverage and the despatch of some fifty congratulatory telegrams. He was gratified by such notice but perhaps more

delighted by the steady building-up of correspondence from Old Boys in all parts of the free world.

There were no anxieties about the financial position of the Society. At this time (December, '40), though there had been a heavy increase in taxation, the market value of invested funds stood at £13,890, with investments well spread and, with the exception of those based on the prosperity and attitude of Buenos Aires and Tokio, presumably sound. The sum of £86 had been disbursed by the award of S.O.F. Scholarships; no demands had been made on the Benevolent Fund. The Treasurer was still B.F. Woods; his Hon. Auditor, R.W. Metcalf.

The year had in every way been one of upsets and anxieties. The College had experienced evacuation and a change of Headmaster; the Society, with the scattering of a large number of its members, had been obliged to alter its focus; the country had been rendered fearful, though defiant, by the implications of Dunkirk and shaken but immensely thankful and proud by the outcome of the Battle of Britain and the absorption of the fearful bombing that occasioned it. The year had seen the emergence of Churchill as the greatest of leaders ... 'We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end ... We shall never surrender ...' No one took these as empty words. He forged a secure, almost affectionate, link with a whole nation. And even the story (Alas! Not true) that he had quietly added, '... We shall beat the b-----s about the head with bottles: that's all we've got ...' did nothing to diminish the warm regard in which he was held.

One of the pressing tasks for the new Headmaster, Reginald Kirkman, was to widen the flow of new pupils. It had been expected that some of his Shoreham Grammar School boys would follow him, but the hope did not materialise. No doubt parents felt that Sussex was safer than Suffolk. Moreover, the course of the war was not altogether propitious. Malta was still defended; Lease-lend had been agreed by Roosevelt, bombs had been dropped on Berlin, but by March ('41) 500,000 tons of shipping had been sunk, the devious Darlan had become head of the Vichy government, and Hitler was declaring that the war would be over by the end of the year. He had temporarily abandoned his invasion plans, but in this country the memory of the destruction of Coventry remained.

To stabilise and encourage, the Society's Emergency Committee pledged a further £200 a year to the Governors for the establishment of more bursaries, at the same time expressing the hope that preference in selection might be given to sons of O.F.s. Via the Magazine the Society again urged non-members to join and asked O.F. fathers to be sure to send their sons to the School.

An Annual General Meeting was managed in May ('41) at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street (the Emergency Committee had met at the Blue Boar in Cambridge in February). There was a comparatively strong turn-out (30) and guests included Archibald Rose, Chairman of the Governors' Executive Committee and Reginald Kirkman. It was agreed that the Whitsun Gathering at the College would have to remain in abeyance and that the Society should forego the nominal annual rent (£10) asked of the College for the use of the Austin-Sparks Field.

There was, of course, much to talk about outside official business. The award of the D.S.O. to Percy Pickard and of the D.F.C. to C.D. Rash (1932-35) were of especial interest. The father of Charles Rash was at the School ('05) as were six of his uncles. The current Magazine had furnished, as best it could, news of O.F.s in uniform and had published summaries of what letters had reached Pretty. Of these there were many, but the most touching was from Robert Rodwell, still a P.O.W. of Oflag VIII. He wrote of old friends at the College and of his happy memories of the swimming-bath and cricket field.

What at the time could not be recorded of this meeting, is that it took place on the day after the heaviest and deadliest raid on London since air-attack began: 1,436 were killed, 1,792 injured. It was, however, the last German raid for some ten weeks.

The South African Branch conducted its A.G.M., in Johannesburg, at about the same time (President, R.T. Hall; Secretary, C.E.G. Benham (1891-97)). Only eight members were able to attend, but wider interest had not waned: Alfred Pretty had been delighted to receive a gift of fifty-five guineas, made up by subscription by as many as thirty-one O.F.s in South Africa.

By the end of the summer of '41 it was estimated that there were 360 O.F.s in the Services, though it was believed that this number fell well short of reality. There was no end to the war in sight: the Battle of the Atlantic was in progress; imports of food had dropped to two-thirds of their pre-war level. Japan had called up a million men. Germany was invading the Soviet Union. The School Magazine did not attempt to chart the course of the conflict, but its reports to some extent complemented the general news. The loss of R.H.F. Brown with H.M.S. Hood was rendered even more poignant by the publication of a letter received from him after the disaster, '... I may possibly have a shore job before long, but I would much rather finish this war somewhere afloat'. Against an entry describing the activities of the much-travelled E.A. Allison (1926-29) Pretty had added, '... and now here again to fight the common enemy of mankind. Good going, that. No wasted time here!'

The Magazine, prime purveyor of news and contacts to far-scattered O.F.s, was beginning to feel the pinch if not the crunch of war and was obliged to warn readers of a possible lack of paper and a 'considerable curtailment in 1942'. There was, however, no falling-off in Pretty's correspondence: in 1940 he had sent off 400 letters to O.F. Servicemen.

Among the interesting replies he received, two might be noticed here, one from C.L. Read (1884-94 - he was born in '77), the first Officer in commanding the School Corps (1901). Since interest in the Goldsmith Prize and Medal has recently been rekindled, it should perhaps be mentioned that Read won the Prize 13 times and the Medal 8 times. The other letter was from Frank Ziegele (1910-17), written in Perth, W. Australia (he was later, living in Singapore, interned by the Japanese for thirty months) and it is good to think that it might well have been written by any Old Boy overseas: '... I shall always treasure memories of Fram. with its old-world town, College and castle, and should like to place on record my appreciation of O.F. News in

the Mag ...' The depth of his affection for the old place was yet to be truly revealed.

Few calls were made on the Society's Benevolent Fund in the year '41 and the £200 grant for bursaries was as yet not fully effective. The Editor of the Magazine, Winstanley, insisted that 'an atmosphere of contented progress' pervaded the School and that life was 'gratifyingly similar to what it was three years ago'. It may be that the Guest for the Speech Day of '41, Field-Marshal Lord Ironside, brought with him a salutary whiff of the outside world. Of the war he observed, 'If Germany is smashed, commerce will suffer; if France collapses, art will suffer; but if England is smashed, justice will suffer'. He had advice for the boys: 'Be proud of your cap and tie'. Boys should be good mixers and should not be peculiar; if they were peculiar they would not get to the top. He of course could say nothing of the British-Soviet Pact, Arctic convoys to Russia or the infamous attack on Pearl Harbour.

At the end of '41 there were 951 members of the Society, and its securities were valued at £13,493. B.F. Woods, the Deputy Treasurer (soon to be named as President, to succeed Harry Gaze) produced interesting statistics arising from his office: the Magazine, including postage, cost the Society eight and a half (old) pence per copy; 'the cost of running the Society' was made up on the reckoning of five shillings and nine-pence-halfpenny per member per year.

It will be recalled that the Society held shares based in Tokio. The invasion of Burma by the Japanese and the irresistible drive to take Singapore (Feb. '42) and dominate the Indian Ocean was a disaster in more ways than one. Set against the appalling suffering and loss of life the diminution of interest from investment was as nothing. The Magazine 'Overseas Bag', once enriched by correspondents in the far east now had to be content with 'believe to be missing in Singapore', 'missing in Malaya', 'believed to be a P.O.W. in Singapore'. Amongst those trapped by the fall of that bastion were men of the Suffolk Regiment, and if you walk round the town of Framlingham today it is likely that this sprightly old man and that infirm veteran in your path could tell you a grim story.

The Society's Treasurer (who urged in vain that he should pay his own travelling expenses), seeking to salvage something from the evaporation of the Tokio Bonds, registered them with the Board of Trade 'in the possible event of the Government deciding to meet Japanese liabilities from frozen assets in this country' Also in vain.

Interest on the capital of the Moreau Bequest predictably suffered a stiff reduction by the swamping of Malaya. In '41 it amounted to £323; in the following year ('41) that sum was down to £268. The difference, however, was amply made up by the voluntary contributions (£230 in '42) of O.F.s to the Bursary Fund, which in '42 made grants amounting to £60.

The School was picking up in numbers but was obliged to re-adjust fees (Tuition and Boarding - £105; Day-boys - £30 p.a.) and to reduce allowances accorded to the sons of O.F.s. A handsome new prospectus was issued ('42) together with a reassuring account of 'The College in Wartime', but, through the Magazine, an appeal was made to Old Boys to send discarded sports equipment, and to present pupils to maintain what irreplaceable gear they had.

# Chapter VIII

## Wartime

When Reginald Kirkman was made an honorary member of the Society (Feb. 42) he was warm in his appreciation of the support he received, and especially so for the establishment of the bursaries. The Society would be pleased to know, he said, that they [the School?] had decided to send some material comforts to O.F. prisoners of war. [There were known to be five at the time]. Whether such parcels were ever received has yet to be learned, but parcels of 'things not easily, if at all, obtainable in England now', despatched by C.L. Read and others in the South African Branch, certainly did reach Pretty from time to time.

Generosity of a different kind was conveyed by a letter to the Society from Frank P. Sarjant (1874-77) and was directed towards a project, very much in mind just now, namely the provision of a new cricket pavilion for the School. Dr. Sarjant, who played in the College XIs, cricket and football, proposed to leave £1,200 in his will for the provision of the new building, but the Council, having other demands in mind, asked if Sarjant (who was 72 at the time) would agree to the sum being applied elsewhere should a new pavilion have been erected in the meantime. He agreed. He died in '47, aged 87 years, a Vice-president of the Society.

Age did not seem to be a burden to Alfred Pretty. As the war lengthened and widened so did his 'Overseas Postbag' and so did the appreciation of serving O.F.s who had been brought together through the (as far as possible) detailed correspondence columns in the Magazine. He was, moreover, still able to honour his assurance: 'O.F.s should note - every letter received from an O.F. overseas is acknowledge by return post and its arrival is recorded in the next issue of *The Framlinghamian*'. Marking his 83rd birthday (11.12.42) was the presentation of his portrait to the School 'by certain members of the S.O.F.'

Painted by John Gray, father of three former College pupils, it is an excellent likeness. The Earl of Stradbroke accepted the portrait on behalf of the School in a short ceremony attended by Governors, Officers of the Society and the Headmaster. Pretty, who was later accorded the honour of taking lunch with the School in Hall, asserted, 'The influence of Framlingham on his sons is continued after they leave school, as is evidenced by the huge correspondence carried on by the Old Boys' Society, with its 1,020 members, a number which increases almost daily' and he urged the company to remember daily in their thoughts and prayers those near and dear to them and their school, at home or in far distant lands, fighting to defeat the powers of evil.

At this time (Dec. '42) the Roll of Honour held eighteen names; there were reckoned to be at least ten prisoners of war. The School had been fortunate in not having to alter 'the standard of feeding', for in the early part of the year shipping losses

had been extremely high. The Defence of Stalingrad and the victory at El Alamein had been heartening, but at home the number of air-raid casualties (743 killed, 986 wounded between July and December) still caused deep concern. Among the many having to contend with air-raids was one whose name was going to be almost synonymous with that of the Society: Ventura George Bromage (1924-26), at the time a Senior Company Officer in the National Fire Service, and, following the A.G.M., a new member of the Society's Emergency Committee.

A film caught public attention at this time - 'Target for Tonight' with Wellington, 'F for Freddy', piloted by Wing Commander Percy Pickard, D.S.O., D.F.C. Pickard won a half-holiday for the School when he was awarded a bar to his D.S.O. and found time to come to the College for a guarded talk on his exploits.

The Magazine was always delighted to report the coming together of Old Boys serving in a war which seemed to scatter them at random. Not all such meetings had a happy outcome: it was the sombre duty of F/L H. Jim Smith (1924-27), Intelligence Officer, R.A.F. Manston to log the take-off of F/L G.R. Lane (1932-36) on operations, flying a Hurricane, and in due course to enter 'Missing' against his name.

The fighting man generally had little comprehension of the main course of the war, and while for him the bullet, the shell and the bomb were still as deadly, highly-placed observers of the struggle had no doubt that the year 1943 saw the Allied Forces turn the tide on all fronts.

The meetings of Churchill and Roosevelt ('Casablanca'; 'Trident') paved the way for an invasion of Europe; the siege of Stalingrad was lifted; the clearance of Papua ruled out a Japanese invasion of Australia; the invasion of Italy painfully cauterised a wound; the North Atlantic U-boats were slowly being mastered and there were cheering signs, such as the bombing of Berlin (March) and the destruction of the Eder and Möhne dams (May), that defence was no longer the prime consideration.

But the bombs continued to fall on this country (between January and March of '43 there were nearly a thousand killed and over a thousand wounded in raids; between October and December two hundred and fifty were killed and more than twice that number wounded) and sadly and slowly the O.F. casualty-list was extended. The Roll of Honour bore 30 names in March '43; by December of that year 37 were recorded, and the number of 'missing' and P.O.W.s had risen to 40.

As the number of casualties increased so too did the number of decorations and distinctions gained. It was reckoned that by the summer of '43 there were 556 O.F.s in uniform. What they were doing and exactly where they were could seldom be disclosed, but letters sent to the Chaplain (Rupert Kneese), the Headmaster, the President of the Society (B.F. Woods) and above all to Alfred Pretty's 'Overseas Bag', revealed that countries of origin included Africa, Canada, America, India ('Paiforce'), Malta, New Zealand and the Middle East. What interest and delight those letters gave to readers of the Magazine, where they were published, and usually, because of the shortage of paper, edited by Pretty, may be judged from the many observations evoked - William A. Cuthbert (1890-95): 'You little know the pleasure given in reading of the

movements of Old Boys, and especially of the great service rendered in a great cause. All this makes me long to meet again at our old School ...' Capt. Wilfrid Hobbs (1900-03), R.C.A.F.: 'I never think of Framlingham without a thrill, and that applies to the whole quaint and lovely countryside ...'

Pretty, by encouragement, mild bullying and certainly by example did all that he (or anyone else) could do to maintain a robust flow of letters to bind together a scattered Society. Often it was more than, 'Thank you for your letter; let's hear from you again soon'. When Lieut. P.J. Howard Dobson, writing from Iraq Forces observed 'the way to have the full delight of hearing from friends is to write to them ...' Pretty added, 'More know this than act up to it!'

It would not be possible, it would not be fitting, to attempt here to evaluate the particular services rendered by particular Old Boys in wartime. Some especial instances present themselves, however, and these must suffice to represent the whole body of Framlinghamians who strove in the common cause. As to those who died for that cause, some readers may recall the sober words of the poet Shirley - '... Sceptre and Crown must tumble down and in the dust be equal made with the poor crooked scythe and spade ... Only the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in their dust'. Death can elevate as well as level.

Percy Pickard was awarded a second Bar to his D.S.O. (March, '43) for his 'outstanding leadership, ability and fine fighting qualities'; Joseph G. Drew (1904-11), Town Clerk of Brighton, received an O.B.E., Civil Division ('43) because he 'had laboured night and day, and well into the night ... facing a trial such as few municipal officers have had to face ... in such duties in relation to Civil Defence as the Government may order'.

Among Pretty's correspondents in this year; '43, were Norman Salew (1917-20) and Alexander G. Liddle (1912-16), both senior Officers and both serving in Malta, "the glorious citadel", as Pretty put it, 'which has so nobly turned defence into attack'. By the end of '42 Malta's immediate perils had passed, but a lack of aircraft and a failure of supplies had caused the island to be subjected to a relentless bombing and a siege of a severity even surpassing that endured when, in 1565, the invading Turks were resisted for four months. The latter-day plight of Malta was recognised by the award to the whole island of the George Cross.

Servicemen are sometimes cynical when it is said of them that they are fighting for King and country, but of Jack Reade (1920-30), Head Prefect in his day, brilliant scholar, complete athlete, who was killed flying on Active Service in June '43, it may truly be said that he gave up a brilliant career (he was Private Secretary to the Minister of Supply) - not without dismaying opposition from his masters - to embrace a cause he felt to be overwhelmingly right.

The death of Reade sadly calls to mind that of Glyn Bateman Whittaker (1935-42). Like Reade, he was Head Prefect. He was a more than outstanding athlete and games-player. A Lieutenant in a Royal Marines Commando he died of wounds suffered at the Normandy landing of '44. He was but twenty-one years old. His loss is

mentioned at this stage because of a possible confusion in names.

Richard Clare Whittaker (1931-37), D.F.C., ('This officer has shown great courage and determination, completely disregarding his personal safety ...') was listed missing, believed killed, in 1943. George Arnold Whitaker (1928-32), again a Head Prefect and notable hockey player, was awarded the Military Cross in '42, and, having escaped from a P.O.W. camp, survived the war.

The Society looked after its own as best it could, never forgetting the first of its three objectives, namely 'to enable past members of the School to keep in touch with one another', but the third objective, 'to promote the interests of the School', though rendered elusive by conditions of war, was by no means totally obscured.

It came to the notice of the Council that Nesling's Farm (to be known as 'College Farm and not to be confused with Nesling's Field purchased in 1939), 35 acres adjoining School land, south of the Lodge at the bottom of the front drive, was for sale at the price of £2,150. Though this sum exceeded the estimated true value by some £400 and to meet it 'would put a great strain on the finances of the Society for some time' it was bought by the sale of £2,000 Consols and rented to the School. The hope and intention was that this and Little Lodge Farm would lead to the College's establishment of a Model Farm and a distinct leaning towards Agriculture in the curriculum. There was to be animal husbandry and corn production, and eventually 'some experience of fruit growing, bee-keeping and poultry, the use of modern machinery, and some insight into business methods'. The scheme would be in the charge of the teacher of Biology, and 'the Biological Master would act as liaison between the Headmaster and the Farmer'.

The Governor's letters of thanks to the Society takes perhaps a broader view - '... By this and other gracious gifts of lands surrounding the College the Society has ensured the preservation of the College buildings in their rural setting for all time - a priceless boon to future generations of Framlinghamians'.

Little Lodge Farm, 45 acres, N.E. of the College on the road to Countess Wells, was bought by the Governors in '43 and let to Mr. Robert Charsley, who, in fact did introduce a limited number of College boys to the rudiments of farming.

When, at the A.G.M. of '43 (Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street; February; 33 present) Bertie Woods still President and Treasurer, spoke of the strain to be put on the Society's finances by the purchase of Nesling's Farm he was possibly exercising the observation of prudence demanded of him, nothing more: the financial situation was sound enough. The Council had earlier (Jan. '43) granted £50 from the Endowment Fund for the provision of reference books for the College Library; Woods himself had revised the remote statistic that a single member cost the Society not five shillings and ninepence a year, but five shillings and twopence. There was, of course, the expected falling-off in the income from the Moreau Bequest, but private O.F. donations had helped to fill gaps.

As to the prosperity of the College, the intake of pupils was still increasing: at the opening of '43 there were 222 pupils, 180 of whom were boarders. Appeals were

still being made for sports equipment, not that it could not be afforded; it was, like paper, in short supply. Colonel A. G. Liddle (1912-16) had sent all his cricket gear before his posting to the Middle East.

The School Mission, the Fellowship of St. Christopher, did not find its way into the Society's official balance sheet. The Chaplain observed, 'Old Framlinghamian subs are well maintained, but the level is not high enough, and limited to a faithful few ... If a school cannot run a mission without its being regarded as a personal stunt of the Chaplain then it is time it were discontinued'.

A loss to the School (of the Deputy Chairman of the Governing Body) and to the Society (one who had been President, '32 and '33) fell in March of '43 when Frederick Jackson died suddenly. He had been a leading figure in Essex Freemasonry and had long supported proposals for the establishment of an O.F. Lodge. In his home town, Brentwood, he stood high in municipal esteem. He it was who had promoted the movement for the transference of the Headmastership to Reginald Kirkman. At the A.G.M. of '44 a minute's silence was observed for him, for Sir Thomas Ward (1875-80), Engineer and Irrigation Officer in India and, for the first time, for 'all O.F.s who have fallen on the various fronts'.

The Council decided to place memorial tablets to Jackson and to have Frank Rochfort Garrard in the College Chapel and were pleased to announce ('44) that the building of two new squash courts, at £300 each, would complete the tangible memorial. Jackson certainly left his own memorial: funds (some £2,000 capital) for the establishment of scholarship, and in '45 Woods, still Treasurer, announced that such a scholarship was 'in being'. In fact, it was not, and it sadly appears that yet another O.F. name has been submerged.

At the Council meeting of July, '43 (Great Eastern Hotel, 17 present) it was decided with enthusiasm that the Governors' suggestion that a Commemoration and Benefactors' Day should be observed and that Old Boys' Days, Whit-Mondays, would be most suitable for the observance, which would not be complete without a short religious service.

Sir George Elliston accepted the Presidency at the A.G.M. of February, '44 (Great Eastern Hotel, 2 p.m., 30 present). At that time there were 1,069 members in the Society, a figure judged 'satisfactory considering war casualties and other deaths'. This remarkable man, captured in a portrait group with his contemporaries, H.H. Le May and C.H. Scott, which may be seen at the College, had already held the office of President - in 1908, when he was but 33 years old. Now, thirty-six years later, he took the opportunity to observe that at the time of his first election the Society was a young man's Society. He now hoped that the young would continue to support that Society and that the membership would always remain representative of the different ages of Framlinghamians.

He had been a member of the College Corporation since 1940. He hoped to see the School emerge with an Agricultural background; he trusted that the Education Act would help to develop an individual character in Public Schools.

The year 1944 was to turn out to be a year of momentous events, but at its beginning the sombre O.F. statistics of the war read, 45 killed, 16 missing, 26 P.O.W.s or internees. No figures emerged to show the number of wounded. Perhaps in the fullness of time they may be revealed. A sad but proud note was added to the O.F. News in the March, '44 *Framlinghamian* - 'We extend our sincere sympathy to those O.F.s, each of whom has lost a son in the present war: the late Lionel Flowerdew, Roland Inskip, Stephen Murphy, Harold Paulley and Deane Ransome.'

In this year George Elliston received a knighthood; Alfred Munnings became President of the Royal Academy and was knighted; Augustine Shelton Agar assumed the Presidency of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich; Air Vice Marshal Sir John D'Albiac became Deputy Commander of the Mediterranean Tactical Air Force; Lieut. P.E. Newstead, R.N. (1928-33) of H.M. Submarine Trident was awarded the D.S.C.; Capt. R.B. Ricks (1922-28), a P.O.W., was awarded an M.C.; Claude Seton (1896-99), Chief Justice of Nyasaland, received a Knighthood; Glyn Whittaker visited his Old School - D Day lay some weeks ahead, and Percy Pickard was lost in 'one of the finest exploits in the history of the Royal Air Force', the liberation of resistance prisoners by bombing the walls of Amiens prison.

As well as the building of two squash courts proposed as a practical memorial to Jackson and Garrard it was now (in spite of the conjectured stagnation of funds brought about by the purchase of Nesling's Farm) put forward to the Council that a Pavilion Fund should be opened, based mainly on the balance of the Austin Sparks and Jubilee Commemoration Funds. The old wooden colonial-style pavilion, situated half way between the present brick pavilion and the old squash courts, had a certain charm, but admittedly lacked modern amenities. Few complaints had been voiced.

There was yet another fund to be considered. The South African Branch of the Society, anticipating, either through serious calculation or natural optimism, that it would be no waste of time to consider the state of affairs when the war ended, as it must soon, sent to the Society, through R.T. Hall, £200 in cash and 100 5% Consolidated Preference Shares in the Central Mining Company, for the Inauguration of the War Memorial Fund. The Branch stipulated that the money should go not on a memorial in bricks and mortar, but in bursaries. At the time of this very generous gesture the Society had already provided five Bursaries from the Endowment Fund and four from the Benevolent Fund.

To envisage the country, the Society and the College free from the hazards and restraints of war was thought either impossible or too premature; full implementation of the South African suggestion had to wait. Meanwhile that Branch sent more money, and further subscriptions came in to the Society's own Benevolent Funds.

That the war was surely moving towards its close, its triumphant close, was perhaps obvious to those in high command, but the year '44 at least suggested to the most pessimistic that even the longest river flows somewhere safe to sea. There had been the 'Little Blitz' in the early months, but then had come Invasion Day, 'D Day', June 6th, immediately after the fall of Rome. A landing in the south of France had fol-

lowed and then the liberation of Paris. The flying-bomb, the 'Doodle-bug', and the dreadful V2 rocket reminded a hopeful people that all was not over yet, nor did the December '44 Roll of Honour suggest a diminution in effort: 58 dead; 13 missing; 30 P.O.W.s or internees.

It was in this December that the Germans, having almost secretly built up a force of a quarter of a million men and a thousand tanks, made a frightening but vain attempt to regain position by an advance through the snow-clad Ardennes.

Perhaps some indication of the way in which fortunes were swinging might be gathered from the number of contacts made with serving O.F.s through the Magazine. In spite of the threat of severe or fatal paper-shortage the last number of '44 carried news of as many as 150 serving abroad, and 60 at home. Pretty's energy was extraordinary, but he was clearly getting tired. His appearances at Council Meetings were becoming fewer and he felt obliged to seek a successor to make sure that the continuity of his work was not broken.

In a letter published in the Magazine he reasonably pointed out that a replacement might soon be needed for the Society's Treasurer, Bertie Woods, who might well wish to return to South Africa (he had been the Modern Languages master at the Potchefstroom High School for Boys, Transvaal) and said of himself 'it is indeed possible I may be called elsewhere'. He claimed that he needed another 'news-gatherer'.

It was Woods who was responsible for the thoughtful large-print notice that also appeared in this Magazine - 'Will relatives of bereaved O.F.s note that the Council of the Society will be pleased to give whatever advice and help that is within their power in the matter of pensions and allowances'.

At the end of '44 the society's funds, by no means strained by the purchase of Nesling's Farm, were sound enough. The Endowment Fund had managed to get rid of its Tokio Debentures (£208) and, having acquired shares at 3½% in Portsmouth Water, held a capital of £1,100. The Life Membership Fund had a capital of £3,200; that of the Scholarship Fund (drawn upon to the extent of £74 in '44) stood at £2,250. The Benevolent Fund made grants amounting to £92 but held a capital of £200 in War Loans. Rent received from the College for Nesling's Farm was £47; the South African Branch War Memorial Fund, after the deduction of grants stood at £228.

The President chosen for '45 was Major J.H. Stransom. His Officers were, Secretary - V.G. Bromage; Treasurer - B.F. Woods; Auditors - R.W. Metcalf; Trustees - C.H. Scott, H.H. Le May.

The Council Meeting (Great Eastern Hotel, April 16th, '45) held under the Presidency of George Elliston, before the transfer of the office to John Stransom, had heard with understanding but with the deepest regret of the resignation of Alfred Pretty as Secretary. It was unanimously agreed (there were sixteen present at the meeting, though Pretty himself was unable to attend) that he should be invited to hold the post of Secretary emeritus and so to place his great knowledge of the School and its Old Boys at the disposal of the Society.

This situation Pretty accepted readily, declaring, 'Relieved of the details of secretarial work I intend to give myself wholeheartedly to correspondence with O.F.s, which I hope to increase considerably ...'

The Council sent him a letter of (admittedly) inadequate thanks for his services and recalled his generosity in presenting successive Presidents with a volume of paintings by Alfred Munnings. At this meeting tribute was also paid to the President of 1907, Arthur T. Frankish (1871-73) whose death, at the age of 86, was announced.

No decision was reached as to the application of the War Memorial monies sent by the South African Branch. It was understood that the Governors had a Building Scheme, ambitious enough and well worth waiting for. It was decided, however, to invite the School to retain the £25 raised by the sale of willows from Nesling's Farm.

The new Secretary, Ventura George Bromage, had pledged himself to keep the Overseas correspondence flowing and, of course, there was no falling-off in the number of letters coming in. It would not do to be too selective, but at this time two correspondents deserve special mention: Victor Hammick (1927-30), for his rare but eminently cheerful letters written, over four years, from Stalag 383, and F/O K.L. Trent (1935-38), D.F.C., for his amazing story of 'skill and determination throughout a notable sortie and devoted efforts to help comrades in distress'.

The A.G.M. was held at the Great Eastern Hotel in mid-April, '45, starting at 2.15 p.m. (travel after dark could still be difficult) when Stransom took over from Elliston, and Bromage from Pretty. There were 35 members present, but Pretty was not amongst them. The new President spoke with great warmth of the service of Alfred Pretty to the Society and called for young men to come forward to fill key offices; it had always been the policy of the Society, he asserted, that it should not be run by old fogies. He mentioned that he hoped that the College (whose numbers at the time were 290, of whom 250 were boarders) would take on a Agricultural basis, especially as Mr. Robert Charsley of Little Lodge Farm was being very helpful.

Arthur Howard Smith proposed the establishment of an Employment Agency for O.F.s.

It was announced that the design for the Society's blazer had been registered. Meanwhile Montgomery had crossed the Rhine; Roosevelt had died; the Russian winter offensive was gathering momentum.

From that point, grievous as it was that the American President could not witness the unfolding of events, the German war almost hastened to a conclusion. It is unseemly to dismiss such a profound and devastating conflict in a few lines. Hitler committed suicide on May 1st '45. Germany's unconditional surrender came a week later. A gratified nation, sombre at its losses, exultant at its deliverance, joined its leader, Winston Churchill, in the rejoicings of V.E. Day, May, 8th.

Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima, August, 6th, and on Nagasaki three days later brought about the Japanese surrender on August 14th.

There was still, of course, much to be done. There was still much for the Society to do, to welcome her sons back, to provide for those who still suffered, to

devise a fitting memorial for the dead and to conduct the administration of a thriving body.

A 'special, urgent' meeting of the Council was called in early June, '45 (Great Eastern Hotel, again) to consider what the President saw as a threat to the present character and status of the College. The Education Act of '44, launched by R.A. Butler, Conservative Minister of Education, provided, in broad terms, among other things, that following an exam. (the famous/notorious '11+ exam') suitable candidates for a Grammar School would be revealed. The Fleming Report recommended the acceptance by Public Schools (up to 25% of their intake) of pupils from Grant-aided Primary Schools.

The twenty-two present at the meeting were invited to go fully into the situation, which the President thought to be a 'crisis in the history of Framlingham', (though he admitted that naturally none of them was fully aware of the entire provision of the Act) before submitting a letter to the Governors recommending a particular course of action.

After lengthy discussion it was decided to write without stating any particular preference for any one scheme, but, expressing confidence in the Governors, hoping that the standing and character of the School would be preserved.

Now these resolutions are reported here not that anything revolutionary or even noteworthy came out of the proposals of the Act and the Report as far as the College was concerned, but because they may give an insight into the thinking of the day.

The letter, signed by the President, does in fact seem to recommend a course of action, or a course of action to be avoided. It spoke of the 'strong mutual regard' which existed between the Governing Body and the Society, which for so long had formed the happy circumstances in which Old Boys had been enabled to work for the rising progress of their old school. It was profoundly hoped that the decisions at which the Governors would eventually arrive would retain certain aspects in the status of the School which formed such a sure foundation for the continued affection felt by Framlingham for its sons. What the Council looked for [and perhaps this was their main point] was 'the safeguarding of the School's character and prestige from being lowered by too high a quota of primary school entries'.

The War Memorial Committee met in July: Stransom, Gaze, L.S. Bellamy. Their first resolution was that they should seek the views of the younger generation, 'say, someone aged about 25, with war experience'. The overriding aims of the chosen memorial should be, i, to provide for the sons of O.F.s killed or incapacitated, ii, to set up a suitable memorial to the fallen, iii, the improvement in the School buildings. A Council meeting (Sept. '45. Great Eastern Hotel. Fifteen present, including Alfred Pretty) concurred with these resolutions but was unwilling to grant school fees to the sons of O.F.s incapacitated by war. A brochure (probably to be written by John Booth) *would be published* in conjunction with 'The Governors' Appeal Plan'. This would give the history of the School and would show planned amenities, thereby 'increasing

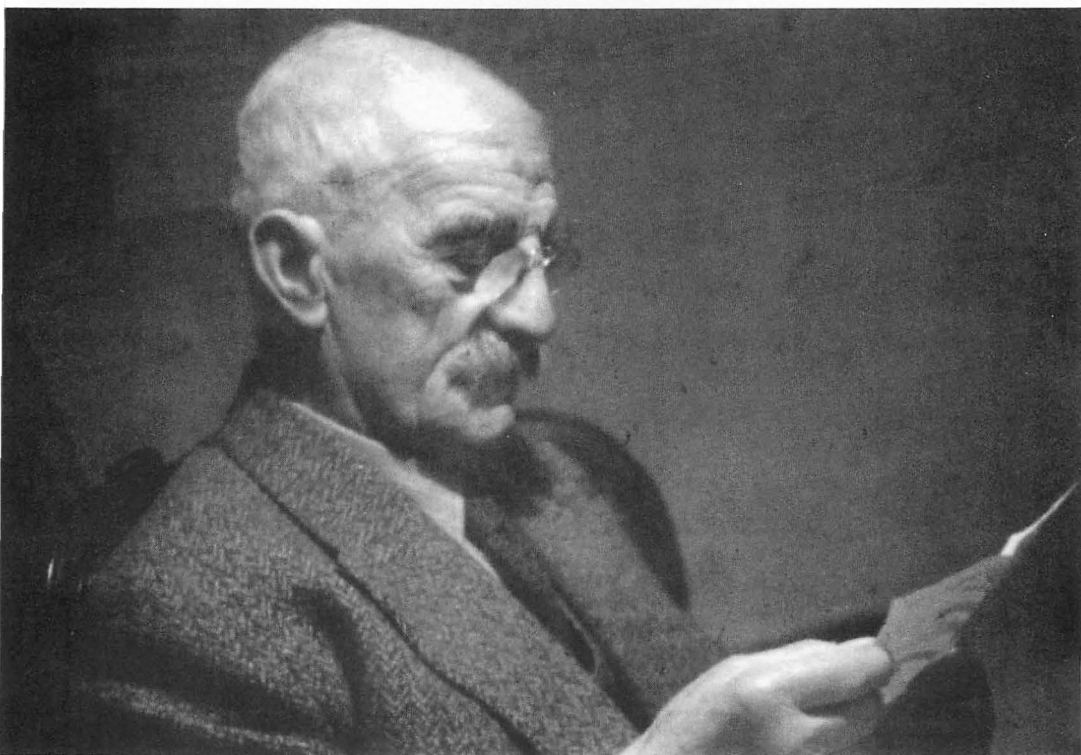
its status and importance in conjunction with the '44 Education Act'.

At the same meeting it was resolved to set up the suggested Employment Agency, to resume the holding of Whit-Monday Gatherings - Reginald Kirkman's suggestion - but no mention of a 'Benefactors' Day'. Consideration of the establishment of a College Masonic Lodge was deferred, as was research for a new College Register.

The time was not yet ready for the full expression of recognition and appreciation of what Old Framlinghamians had done in the war. The Roll of Honour bore seventy-three names, and there were decorations and distinctions in abundance. But for most it seemed enough to try to take in that there was no longer reason to echo Kipling's words, 'The Hun is at the gate!' And when Alfred Pretty announced that the Flowerdew family had presented to the School the Victoria Cross awarded to Capt. G.A. Flowerdew in 1918 there were many who justly felt that the gift was of the profoundest significance.



*Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac, President of the Society, speaking at the dedication of Brandeston Hall in September 1948 when the H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone unveiled the stone above recording the occasion. Brandeston is the Society's lasting memorial to two hundred and thirty three old boys killed in two world wars.*



*Alfred Pretty died in 1950, the year when the Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The commemoration booklet contained this photograph, the image by which he is generally remembered.*



SOCIETY OF  
OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS

Jubilee  
Commemoration  
Booklet

1900—1950

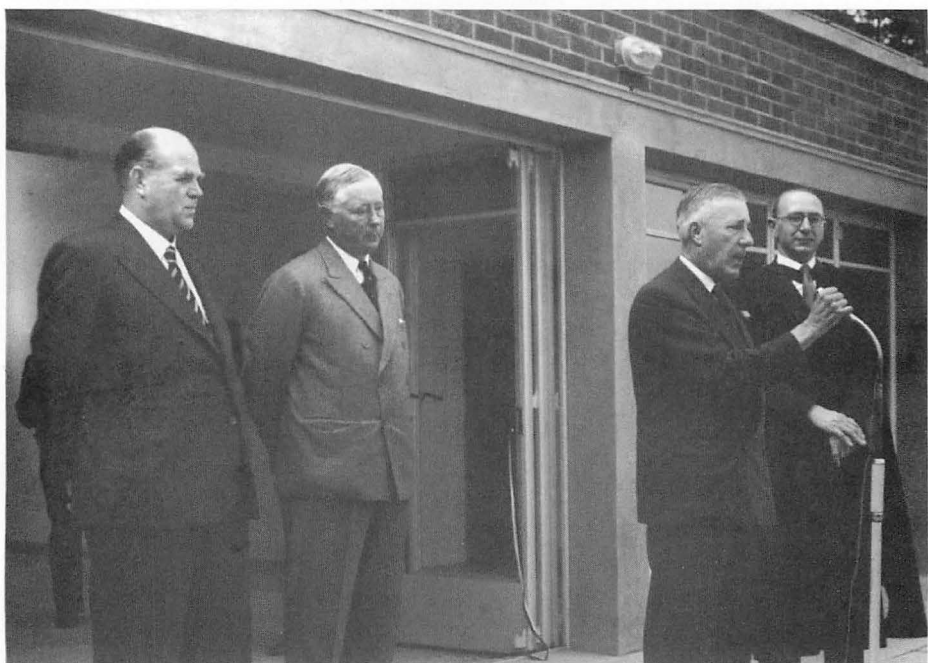


OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS  
SOCIETY OF

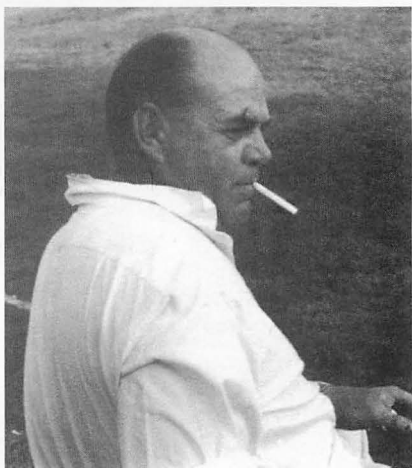
50th Anniversary  
**Winter Dinner**

at the  
PARK LANE HOTEL, LONDON, W.1.  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1950

President: SIR FREDERICK KINTER, K.C.V.O.  
PRESIDENT: SIR FREDERICK KINTER, K.C.V.O.



*The handing-over (above) of the new cricket pavilion, a gift from the Society, took place in 1957. The Hon. Andrew Vanneck, Chairman of the Governors, is at the microphone with Headmaster Porter to his left. The Duke of Norfolk and Ventura 'Brom' Bromage (standing together) respectively opened the building and presented it to the school. Below Bromage in more familiar pose playing cricket for the O.F.s*



# Chapter IX

## Mending and Making

Some will recall that in the year following the cessation of hostilities it seemed that we were worse off than we had been in the war years. This may well have been true on the domestic front - certain rationing persisted and there was a general scarcity of household goods and building materials - but of course there was at last some scope for enterprise, a real possibility that constructive thinking would oust wishful thinking to produce material results.

In 1946 the College Governors published their plans for a substantial extension to the School and a marked improvement in its amenities.

There was to be a new School Hall (for which the original drawing was accepted and exhibited at the Academy Exhibition of '46), a new Junior House for eighty boarders; five new class-rooms would be included. At a later date a Speech Room, Music School and Gymnasium would be built.

John Booth, instructed by the governors, produced an illustrated Appeal brochure (May, '46) setting out the scheme and making plain its many undeniably attractive features. Satisfying as the project was, however, it had to give way to one at once daring but rich with possibilities: Brandeston Hall, it was disclosed, was shortly to be up for purchase. Thus it was that the Governors found themselves apparently committed to one scheme, the building of a House within the confines of the College grounds, whilst becoming increasingly attracted to the possible acquisition of a mansion with twenty-six acres of parkland and gardens some three and a half miles away.

Much could be written about Brandeston Hall, its woodland setting, the young Deben threading its way through the grounds, the brickwork and the rookery. The fact that the Hall was almost completely destroyed by fire (1847) and what we see now is in truth but a replica of the original Tudor mansion does not seem to detract from its serene dignity.

The Manor of Brandeston had passed through eight unbroken generations of the Revett family before it was bought by Charles Austin in 1842. Austin, 'one of the most eminent lawyers of his time', was about to take up retirement when his new home was razed. He devoted his remaining years to the restoration and replication of the old mansion. His retirement was active in other ways: he was High Steward of Ipswich (welcoming the Prince Consort on his visit in 1851); he was Justice for the County; he was a Founder of the College, his name being inscribed on the Royal Charter of 1864; he it was who presented the prizes at the School's first Speech Day, and it was from his grandson, Major Charles Austin, that the Hall was conveyed to the Governors in 1947.

The Society's War Memorial Fund, it will be remembered, had really been inaugurated by the South African Branch as early as '44. Before that year was out it

had raised £225 and sent £25 to the parent Society in support of the professed aim to secure the College education for sons of O.F.s killed or incapacitated in or by the war.

The home Society's War Memorial Fund Committee, set up in July '45, was pledged to further the three aims of the project though the condition imposed on one of them, that the sons of O.F.s incapacitated by war action should not be eligible for a grant, was quietly dropped so that the wording of the Appeal Brochure of '49 showed a more magnanimous approach: '... Financial provision for the education at Framlingham of the sons of Old Boys who fell, or who suffered grave injuries or loss arising out of the war'.

The third aim of the Fund, 'the raising of a sum sufficient to meet the cost of one of the buildings with which the Governors planned to extend the College' (it had originally read 'the improvement of School buildings') was of course satisfied by the Brandeston project, and, indeed, to fund-raisers and contributors alike, it was a source of satisfaction that something definite, in bricks and mortar, rather than plans on paper, had now to be considered and would constitute the Old Framlinghamians' War Memorial Gift to the College, in memory of two hundred and twenty-seven Old Boys and Masters who fell in two world wars.

The purchase of the Hall and upwards of twenty-six acres of park-land and garden was completed early in 1947, the original improvement scheme, the building of a Junior House and classrooms within the confines of the College, having, of course, been dropped. The price was £12,000 and it was reckoned that a further £3,000 would be needed for converting and equipping to meet the demands of a school. The fabric was insured for £50,000 (at the time of the 1847 fire the contractors had insured it with the Guardian Fire Office for £1,500); a caretaker was engaged and the arable-land put down to grass for playing fields. It was accepted that a condition of sale was that the belt of trees flanking the highway in front of the Hall should not, except under necessity, be cut down.

At the time of the purchase the O.F. Fund stood at £2,758 in cash, and £411 in Covenants. It was calculated that in seven years ( provided that tax remained at nine shillings in the £) these sums would grow to £8,000. The Council resolved (March, '47; R.S. Le May, President) that after the remaining aims of the Fund (Education, and a Memorial in the Chapel) had been achieved all monies should be devoted to payment for the Hall, loans (at Bank rate of interest) being made to the Governors if necessary. John Booth was entrusted with the task of producing a second Appeal brochure.

In July of '47 the handling of the Fund was readjusted, to the unanimous satisfaction of the eighteen Council members who attended the meeting at the Public School Club, Piccadilly. An account would be opened with Barclays' Bank, in conjunction with the College 'Brandeston Hall' account. Into this all receipts of the Fund would be paid and any overdraft charges on the College account would be reduced by the interest on the Society's account. The Governors would be asked to make an annual donation to the S.O.F. Fund equivalent to the interest saved by reason of the balance standing to the credit of that Fund.

In October '47 the Society's War Memorial Fund Sub-Committee was dissolved and replaced by a War Memorial Sub-Committee (J.H. Stransom, A. Howard-Smith and R.D. Inskip, safely home from military duties and now in retirement). This did not mean that fund-raising was no longer a wholly-demanding activity, but that emphasis should now be placed on analysing and administering to the educational needs of O.F. families hard-pressed through the war and on drawing up plans for a War Memorial in the School Chapel.

The call upon the Fund (handled by Stransom) for families in need was gratifyingly low; at no point were there more than four boys receiving assistance. Names of recipients were understandably not recorded on balance-sheets, and since the Society was already making grants for school fees and awarding bursaries the extent of assistance given is not always clear.

At the end of 1945 the Society's Scholarship Fund held a capital of £2,200 (in consols) with a cash balance of £118; the Benevolent Fund held £200 in War Loans, with £216 in cash; The Endowment Fund stood at £2,100 in capital (consols, debentures, New Zealand stock, Portsmouth Water) with a cash balance of £115, and the South African Branch War Memorial Fund held one hundred Central Mining and Investment Corporation 5% Preference Shares and a cash balance of £239.

It was from this fund that resources were drawn to meet what claims there were under the 'deprived by war' project, and, indeed, it was not found wanting. Fed by subscriptions from South Africa as well as from this country it answered calls for some ten years when, 1956, no claims being made, its £100 capital was taken into the general War Memorial Fund.

In 1944 a grant of £24 was made towards the school fees of 'the son of an O.F. killed in action'. This, of course, was an on-going commitment. In '46 there was a "special loan" (£10) to the widow of an O.F. In '48 the sum of £50 was granted; this became £60 p.a. for four years.

The Benevolent Fund made grants of £98 and £178 in '47 and '48 in support of an undisclosed project or personal applicant.

The design and positioning of the Chapel War Memorial was entrusted to Basil A. Hatcher, O.F. (1916-19), A.R.I.B.A., who eventually submitted three types, two in oak, one in stone. In spite of the fact that the 1914-18 Memorial was fashioned in alabaster and marble the choice for the second was natural oak. It was agreed that it would suffice to show names and decorations only, and these would be inscribed under four headings, Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Civil Defence.

Four of the names on the College Memorial are to be found on the Parish Memorial in Framlingham Churchyard.

Meanwhile the raising of funds for the purchase and handing-over of Brandeston Hall of course continued. The Appeal brochure of '46, under the name of J.H. Stransom, who was the Society's President, spoke of the Society's anxiety to 'give the fullest support to the appeal which has been issued by the Governors in connection with the New Buildings and War Memorial proposals ...' was moderately effective, but

it gained impetus when the vague 'New Buildings' was replaced by 'Brandeston Hall'. Even then there had been times when Inskip, leader of the Appeal Committee, and his colleagues (John D'Albiac was President, 1948 and '49) had experienced not a little anxiety.

The first pupils entered Brandeston Hall on Sept. 20th, 1948. The School was formally opened, and dedicated as a War Memorial on July 2nd, 1949, and two weeks after that date, at a Council Meeting held at the Public Schools Club, it was resolved that 'as two of the objects for which the War Memorial Committee was constituted have now been accomplished [The third was 'the education of the sons of the fallen'], that is, the unveiling of the 1939-45 War Memorial in the School Chapel and the dedication of Brandeston Hall as Junior House for Framlingham, the War Memorial committee be, and hereby is dissolved'.

At this stage the sum of £11,000 had been subscribed to the Memorial Fund, including £1,000 from Hugh Le May (originally intended for the building of new squash courts), but reckoning that £2,500 to £3,000 would still be needed to cover the expense of appeals and the provision of certain School fees, it was estimated that a further £3-4,000 had to be raised before the purchase-price of Brandeston Hall was realised.

A further resolution, that the S.O.F. undertook to complete the purchase, was made (though there were three dissentients), and that of course meant that the Appeal was still in force. The self-imposed obligation to supplement or cover school fees was, however, undertaken by the Governors, but it may be that their intention was to assume responsibility only when the Society's Appeal was closed. As late as '53 Stransom reported that £838 had already been expended on the project and that it was estimated that a further £700 would be needed to complete and close it in '56.

In July, 1950 the Society was able to hand over £5,000 to the College Governors towards the purchase of Brandeston Hall. They accepted this sum as full discharge of the Society's obligation to them. This did not close the lengthy and thoughtful negotiations; the Society pledged itself to pay over to the School any monies available from the Fund, and indeed it did so, £5,000 in '51, £500 in '52, £1,500 in '53, and lesser sums after that. The balance sheet for 1957 shows that the balance in the South African Fund (£105) was transferred to the main Memorial Fund, which was finally closed after the handing over to the Governors of the sum of £8,078, 19 shillings and 3 pence.

Lest it be supposed that the Society was wholly engaged in the exercise of lofty matters three of its provisions might suffice to show that it was not unmindful of the concerns of individuals. S.O.F. News for Spring, 1944, called upon bereaved relatives of O.F.s to note that the Council of the S.O.F. would be pleased to give whatever advice and help within its power in the matter of pensions and allowances. Before Brandeston Hall was opened to pupils it was agreed that the first boy to cross the threshold at the beginning of the first term (he was Peter M.G. Stewart (1948-53), with R.J. Blyth (1948-54) a close second) should be given an inscribed plaque to mark the

occasion and should, in the fullness of time, be granted free Life Membership of the Society. When the time came for the official opening of the Hall and the dedication of the War Memorial in the College Chapel it was made known to relatives of those being remembered, who would be obliged to travel some distance, that the Society would be glad to cover the expenses of their travel and accommodation.

The day of unveiling of the Chapel Memorial and the Dedication of Brandeston Hall, July 2nd, 1949, was at once exciting, gratifying and moving.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess, and Major General the Right Honourable the Earl of Athlone were welcomed at the College by the Headmaster, the Governors and Officers of the Society including, of course, those who had been instrumental in the raising of funds and contributing to the management of the Brandeston project. The formalities were observed by the salute and inspection of a Guard of Honour.

In the presence of relatives and friends of the fallen, Governors, O.F.s, staff and Prefects the Earl unveiled the 1939-45 War Memorial panel at a Chapel service of remarkable poignancy. The Venerable Archdeacon Browne delivered the address.

In the afternoon Sir Frank Garrett welcomed the Princess to Brandeston Hall speaking of the royal links with East Anglia and the inseparable ties which the College, through the memory of Prince Albert, enjoyed with the Throne. Brandeston Hall, he said, was now not only a proud possession, it was a very part of Framlingham, a magnificent gift of the Society of Old Framlinghamians and a sacred memorial to all the men of the School who gave their lives in two world wars.

Sir John D'Albiac, President of the S.O.F., spoke of the pride he shared with fellow Old Boys that the Society had been able to secure for the College a noble house and the acres of free England in which it stood, honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness and of the Earl.

Princess Alice then unveiled the tablet over the porch. Designed and composed by Dr Rendall, it foretells of a great future for Brandeston Hall and records the pride and happiness when it was declared open ... 'The royal and gracious Alice, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, opened ... this Venerable House'. Of the Old Boys, whose memorial it was, the Princess affirmed that on that day in the hearts of many taking part in the inauguration ceremony there would be present very vividly the gay young lads who spent their early carefree years at the College before going forth into that fierce conflict from which, for many, there was no returning.

Dr Rendall then spoke of the commemorative inscriptions recording the opening and with moving sincerity declaimed the Latin lines of the tablet soon to be unveiled in the Dining Room by Her Royal Highness, which, translated, reads, 'Remember, O boys, for all time, the two hundred and thirty-four foster-sons of your School who died gloriously in two great wars. This House is their memorial. Their swords are in your keeping'.

It had been a day of great kinship, dignity and honour - for the College, the Society and for those remembered. Of all that was said, it would, perhaps, be the words

of Archdeacon Browne that would live longest in the memory.

'We parents are proud of our boys - the School has honoured their memory - and we hope that the boys who come to this School will be proud of Old Framlinghamians whose names are inscribed on both War Memorials and be encouraged to dedicate their lives in the same great cause ...'

It will be recalled that Archdeacon Browne's son, Robert Harold Percy, was lost at the sinking of H.M.S. Hood.

Sir Frederick Minter followed Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac as President of the Society in 1950. One of his earliest honours was to unveil the tablet in the College Dining Hall commemorating the presentation of Brandeston Hall by the S.O.F.

Speaking of the ties of loyalty and affection which bound the Society and the School together, he said, 'In presenting Brandeston to our School, we Old Boys are trying in some measure to repay the priceless gifts we received here - the greatness of virtue, the hardihood of courage and the love of duty, which are the foundations of character'.

Dr. Rendall then read to the School the noble lines on the tablet, which he himself had composed. They recall the gift of the Hall, 'to be for all time a very part of our foundation and also an enduring memorial of nigh twelvescore men of the School who in two great wars gave their lives for the freedom of the world. Greater love hath no man than this'.

Among those present at the ceremony was Alfred Pretty, gratified to be there, but looking very frail. Five months after the ceremony at Brandeston he had celebrated his 90th birthday (December, 11th), a joyous occasion, mellowed by old friendships. A luncheon followed by a reception was held at the Crown Hotel. General Inskip made the arrangements, Colonel Clarke welcomed the guests, John Stransom proposed the toast to 'A.P.', and David Foreman served the drinks. There were received over sixty congratulatory telegrams and innumerable gifts. In his reply to the toast in his honour Pretty characteristically exhorted his guests to work for the School and the Society, which would mean that at the same time they would all be working for the good of all their fellows.

It is doubtful if they needed such urging. Guests included Charles Scott, L. Mark Liell, J. Mason Martin, A. Howard Smith, H.P. Gaze, J.G. Richards, V.G. Bromage, E.H.P. Jolly and Dr. H.H. Fisk - a band more devoted to the interests of the School and the Society could hardly be imagined!

There were, of course, sincere if jovial speculation on repeating the birthday celebrations in ten years' time, but time was to have its revenge, for Pretty died almost exactly fifty years from the day when he set on foot the creation of the Society of Old Framlinghamians. Still in his ninetieth year, he died at his home in Pembroke Road, within walking distance of the College, on November 10th, 1950.

When, in 1951, Leonard Mark Liell (1919-27) was President of the Society he redirected the emphasis of the customary Whit Monday Gathering service in the Chapel to bring out the Commemorative element. The address on that occasion was

given by Canon Howard Dobson who found it 'entirely right and proper that Christian men gathered together in reunion should begin with this Commemoration ... May this Commemoration of all the good things, the School has given you and done in you and for you, strengthen you in your service to God ...'

The Whitsun Service of the following year (when James Waugh Butters, 1898-04, was President) was 'extremely well attended' and was noted in the Council Report for the year as a Commemorative Service which may be regarded as constituting a regular and significant feature of the Annual Whitsuntide Gathering'. Archdeacon Browne spoke of the great services rendered to the School and to the Society by Alfred Pretty to whose memory he subsequently unveiled a tablet.

A Pretty Memorial Fund, set up soon after his death, was readily subscribed to. The investment of £455 in War Stock brought in enough interest to provide for the annual award of a prize for English, a medal for Shooting, occasional expenditure on aids to shooting (such as the telescope and stand bought in '57) and a tangible memorial in the Chapel. This was designed by B.A. Thatcher. Simple in style and wording, the tablet, in its economy nonetheless conveys the length and breadth of its subject's aspirations and achievements -

ALFRED PRETTY (O.F.), 1859-1950,  
WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THIS SCHOOL,  
AND TO OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANs

The first official Society function to be held after the war was the A.G.M. and Dinner held at Pimm's Restaurant, The Red House, Bishopsgate, in February, 1946. The 'business' agenda was surprisingly of no great length. John Stransom was elected President for a second year; V.N. Bromage was re-elected as Secretary and J.C. Sheldrake became Treasurer in the place of Bertie Fountain Woods who was planning to return to South Africa, the scene and background of his life.

The enthusiasm and prudence of Woods during his period of office when 'O.F.s were scattered to the four winds, disguised by rank and uniform, their home addresses bombed or evacuated', had stabilised finances and even helped to increase membership numbers. Even this was not enough. On his departure he made a gift to the Society - shares to the value of £350.

It was announced at this meeting that 'our staunch friend', Dr. Rendall, was relinquishing the Chairmanship of the College Governors and that his place would be taken by Sir George Elliston - the first O.F. to attain this honour. This remarkable man - he had twice held the Presidency of the Society (1908, 1944) - rich in honours and experience, was present at the Dinner as were H.H. Le May and C.H. Scott, school companions who would shortly (1948) be the subject of the Francis Hodge portrait now to be seen at the College.

Well over one hundred O.F.s attended the function - a touching reminder of the urge towards companionship given by war.

There was no Whitsun Gathering in 1946 because a Government decree had named the Saturday as Victory Celebration Day, but the last Saturday of June was chosen instead for the Suffolk A.G.M. and a cricket match (Drawn. 'A noteworthy feature of the Old Boys' bowling', said the waggish Magazine critic, 'apart from E.R. Milner-Moore's maiden, was that Howard bowled 21 overs for 19 runs'). The most noteworthy part of the Meeting was the signing, by John Stransom, President, of the minutes of the previous Suffolk meeting, held seven years earlier when Spencer Pelham Flowerdew, brother of Gordon Muriel Flowerdew, was President. Those minutes were of no great consequence, dealing mainly with the design of the O.F. blazer, but the preservation of continuity was very satisfying. There were 50 O.F.s present at the 1939 Gathering, 70 at that of 1946.

The A.G.M. and Dinner of 1947 was held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, in February, attracting over 120 Old Boys, many in uniform. The new President was Dr. R.S. Le May (1898-02), the great authority on Siam and Buddhist sculpture.

At the business meeting Sir Alfred Munnings, then President of the Royal Academy, and Bruce Gibbon (1898-04), once tea and rubber planter in Ceylon, were made Vice-Presidents. Among those present was R.T. (Dickon) Hall (1902-05), one of the four Hall brothers who had settled in South Africa. Dickon had been largely instrumental in the forming of the S.A. Branch of the S.O.F. and the early inception of a War Memorial Fund. He had come to this country primarily for medical reasons but, unhappily, died but a month after the London Gathering.

At the Annual Dinner of '47 Reginald Kirkman, responding to the toast of 'The School', drew attention to the Fund raised to assist the ailing Philip Mead and to the needs of the School Mission.

The Fellowship of St. Christopher, based at Chiswick, had been picked out by Rupert Kneese, the College Chaplain, as a cause - it looked after homeless working lads - to which the School might readily respond. Often it seemed that only his enthusiasm and driving force kept the school project alive, and often, while applauding the support given by individual Old Boys, he mildly deplored the Society's unwillingness to take an official stance.

John Stransom, in his Presidency, visited Chiswick House early in '47. His conclusion was that the Mission was 'doing a very excellent job of work'. Rupert Kneese, he said was 'very anxious to get the School's relations with the Mission on a sound basis and hoped that the S.O.F. would be able to interest themselves in this aim'. Kneese was invited to address the next Whitsun Gathering.

This he did, and felt able to announce in the Magazine later, 'It is with great pleasure that we can say that the School Mission has now the official recognition of the Old Framlinghamian Society'. Recognition was, however, one thing - contribution another.

At the London Dinner of '52, the Warden of Chiswick House, Arthur Hardacre, who had more than once addressed the School in chapel, was invited to respond to the toast of 'The Guests', but it was not until '54 that a more substantial

recognition was made. R.D. Inskip, President in that year, had always taken a lively interest in the Fellowship. He caused an appeal leaflet to be circulated via the Magazine and himself wrote an article telling how impressed he had been by his visits to Chiswick, and, disarmingly ('... I would not regard the appeal as one of those on which immediate action is required ...') but firmly asking for contributions of cash or clothing. He declared that the Society would join the School officially in support of the Mission.

A search of Financial Statements for that year and subsequent years reveals no relevant entry. At that time the Benevolent Fund held a balance of £460.

The Chaplain's undisguised disappointment at the Society's apparent disregard for such a worthy cause aroused comment from some who considered that the making or withholding of subscription in this case was a personal matter and that the Chaplain's attitude was not conducive to benevolence.

The Old Framlinghamian Golf Society got off on a surer footing. It may be that there were Old Boys who remembered Alfred Towle's sporting course laid out round the college in the 20s, but in late '49 there was enough enthusiasm for the game and the Society for the formation of a committee (R.D.I. Scott (1924-30), F.H. Bell (1921-28) and J.C. Sheldrake (1925-29) - strongly led by D.G. Lamb (1927-32), who was elected Secretary - and the declaration of aims and rules.

The hope was that the newly-formed Society could compete in the Halford Hewitt Public Schools Tournament, but it was emphasised that the object was to arrange meetings for golfers of all handicaps. The Committee felt that the primary object of golf was enjoyment and exercise.

Support came quickly, and by the end of '50 there were sixty members. The inaugural meeting was held at the Warren Golf Club, near Chelmsford on a Sunday in April '50 when twenty-five members competed in a Four Ball Better Ball competition. Trophies had been given by Frederick Minter and Reginald Le May, and there were other prizes. After the competition a Meeting of the Society invited Minter to be their President (he was President of the Full Society at the time); J.E.A. Belcher was elected Captain; Lamb, who was accorded a vote of thanks for his enterprise and hard work in forming the Society, was named as Vice-Captain and Secretary.

Alternate meetings at the Warren and Thorpeness Golf Club followed, but it was not until 1953 that the O.F. team (ten members) joined the 58 others to compete for the Halford Hewitt Cup on the Royal Cinq Ports course at Deal. Drawn against Edinburgh Academy they made a strong but unavailing challenge. It did, though, look as surely as could be, that the O.F. Golfing Society was well established.

The establishment of an O.F. Masonic Lodge did not come about with such ease. In 1945, following a letter to the School Magazine in '43, the Council received a letter from H. Austin Kingwell (1927-32) asking if there was any likelihood of forming an O.F. Lodge, and the Council decided that 'great difficulties lay ahead of any such project'. Later in the following year the Headmaster (Reginald Kirkman, himself a Freemason) announced that he had been approached by members of the S.O.F. 'with

regard to the formation of a Masonic Lodge' and asked brethren interested in this project kindly to communicate with him. The next we hear is that 'a very successful and well-attended meeting was held [Great Western Hotel, Nov. '47], officers appointed and a date fixed for consecration'.

On Saturday, April 10th, 1948, the Old Framlinghamians' Lodge, No. 6646, was consecrated by the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Sydney A. White. The ceremony took place in the School Assembly Hall and attracted Brethren from all parts of the Province and further afield. As the Freemasons' Chronicle put it, 'There was for the Province of Suffolk, as also in the annals of the County, all the significance of a memorable and historic milestone to be found, and in more than one sense, in the event of the consecration of the Old Framlinghamian Lodge, witnessed within the College itself, Suffolk's own Public School, before a rally of Old Boys numbered among the Founders, and many other Brethren, come to join in the auspicious occasion ...'

Subsequent meetings were to take place at the School, at the Freemasons' Hall in Ipswich, and sometimes the Offices of The Supreme Council for England and Wales at St. James'.

Over the years secretaries of the Society seem to have had no difficulty in choosing meeting-places for gatherings in London. Though, for obvious reasons, the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, was the choice of Suffolk members, the custom seems to have been established to choose a West End restaurant or hotel of some repute. The Public Schools Club, then with the prestigious address of 100, Piccadilly, was often favoured [Bedrooms at twelve shillings and sixpence a night; Breakfast three shillings; Tea one shilling], and, to this Club the Society, at a cost of £8, presented in 1947 a Shield bearing the School crest, with the name of Framlingham and the year of foundation, 1864, underneath - to hang with shields of other Public Schools in the Bar.

Hanging in the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1935 was a splendid oil, 'Homage to A.P. Herbert', in which the central figure was a beaming, almost regal David Foreman. This portrait, too good to miss, was eventually purchased (1948) jointly by the School and the Society, whose declared intention was that it should hang as a memorial to R.T. Dickon Hall, whose untimely death was still lamented. This remarkable picture may be seen at the School; no reference to Dickon Hall will be found.

When David Foreman himself died, seven years later, the Society presented to the School a teak seat in his memory. Affixed to it was a brass tablet (long since removed) bearing the quotation, 'O good old man! how well in thee appears the constant service of the antique world'. Some now might like to be reminded of the words which follow '... Thou art not for the fashion of these times, when none will sweat but for promotion'.

The antique world was indeed slipping away; the year 1950 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Society. Attempts had been successful, largely through John Booth, in producing a revised School Register, though response had been sluggish. It was, of course, possible to identify every member of the Society, though in some cases

addresses were elusive. At the close of the year '50 the total membership (how the number would have delighted Alfred Pretty!) was one thousand three hundred and ten. The new Register named 5,864 O.F.s.

The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in a temporary and a permanent way: by the holding of a Dinner Dance and the publication of a Jubilee Commemoration Booklet.

The Dinner Dance, held at the Park Lane Hotel in November, 1950, attracted some 340 guests. Welcomed by Sir John and Lady D'Albiac and Lady Minter (Sir Frederick, the President, being in Mombassa), they were addressed by The Hon. A.A. Vanneck, Chairman of the Governors. He echoed the regret of all those present that the recent death of Alfred Pretty robbed them of the company of one whose work and enthusiasm had been largely instrumental in building the Society to its present status. He knew of no other Old Boys' Society which had done so much for their school.

Sir John D'Albiac, replying, said how glad they were to have the Chairman of the Governors with them and how well it illustrated the extremely cordial relations which existed between the Governing Body and the Society.

Messages of congratulation and good wishes from O.F.s in all parts of the world were read. At the Dinner (the menu of which included 'Cérises Jubilé'), in accordance with Alfred Pretty's last wishes the silver rose bowl, presented to the Society by P.W. Flick (1889-90), was placed in the centre of the high table.

During the Dinner light music was played; there was a cabaret and dancing afterwards to the Dance Orchestra of Sydney Jerome.

The Jubilee Commemoration Booklet was sent to every O.F. known to the Society. A foreword by Frederick Minter, President, justly claimed that there were few who would not find in it something that would bring back memories. It bore the Society's greetings and good wishes.

A characteristic photograph of Pretty and small but vivid illustrations complemented a text which outlined the stages of the Society's growth, named its officers and summarised its benefactions. All looked well for the Society's next fifty years.

The College marked the end of 1950 by holding a Christmas Ball. It was primarily purely for pleasure, but when expenses had been paid a donation was made to the National Playing Fields Association.

# Chapter X

## ‘The glow of benevolence’

**T**he Society’s ‘Jubilee Commemoration Booklet’ included several pages under the heading ‘Benefactions’. The list, the items of which have been noted briefly already, included the War Memorials, Tablets in the Chapel, Brandeston Hall (for the purchase of which the Society was still making contributions), the purchase of freehold land, the gift or renovation of squash- and tennis-courts and the swimming-bath, O.F. Scholarships and Bursaries, Memorial Prizes and Challenge Cups (some of which were, of course, presented to the School by individuals rather than by the Society). And it may well be supposed that there was neither the need nor the expectation for further benevolence.

However, one of the professed objects of the Society is ‘to promote the interests of the School in every possible way’. The latitude offered by that aim has been fully exploited, not only in substantial projects but also in small, unobtrusive gestures which, nonetheless, point back to a kindly and thoughtful source. It might not be too fanciful to consider the Society to be a benevolent uncle keeping an eye on his nephew (and later, his niece), the School.

A Pretty Memorial Fund, with the object of covering the cost of and annually-awarded prize for English, a medal for Shooting and a plaque in the Chapel was almost over-subscribed when it was opened in ‘51. Within a year the awards and the memorial tablet were in place.

It will be remembered that it was in ‘51 that Leonard Liell, President, instigated the Commemoration Service to be held at the O.F. Whit Monday Gatherings, and how right and proper it was, Old Boys felt, that the well-known names, Kerrison, Stradbroke, Rendlesham and Garrett should be recalled as men, not as mere labels. It may well be that this feeling for the past lay behind the gift (not, in fact, by the Society, but by ‘anonymous O.F. donors’) of a splendid Honours Book wherein would be recorded the names and achievements of all those who had served the School well in any department. The book and its case were in fact presented by Col. James Butters, President of the Society (‘52) to Reginald Kirkman, who pledged himself to see that the pages were turned at regular intervals.

No appeal was made to save the Wickham Market-Framlingham branch-line which, after 92 years of service, was closed to the public in ‘52, but the opening of a Fund for the repair of Framlingham Church, St Michael’s, did not go unnoticed by the Society. A donation of twenty-five guineas was made and the appeal was brought to the notice of all members.

Two faithful College servants were remembered and, by honorarium rewarded, on their retirement; the redoubtable David Foreman in ‘52 and kind Miss Barnes

who, in '55, gave up the genial management of the Linen Room (from where, if you gained her favour, you could climb the ladder to the clock-tower, and to the clicking of Peck's clock, survey the Suffolk scene).

The centenary of the birth of Dr. Inskip was observed and honoured in December, '52. O.F.s had already marked his stature - by the gift of the Whitney Smith bust and the Myra Luxmoore portrait - but it was felt that a memorial in the Chapel was called for. At the Whitsun Gathering of '52 the Revd. Canon Browne-Wilkinson (1901-02, himself a remarkable man, holder of the Military Cross and the first O.F. to broadcast) dedicated a tablet to the Headmaster, benevolent, paternal and wise, who, in the opinion of many, saved the College from extinction.

Later the President unveiled a handsome carved board giving the names of those boys who had learned to swim while at School and who had subsequently saved lives.

The Society gave another board to the College five years later, in '58, when Alfred H.G. Howe (1908-09) was President. This was a 'comprehensive score-board' for the Back, and though not everyone agreed as to its siting, it was by common consent a great improvement on the conventional village number-plate-and-hook system, both in operation and in visibility. The Society marked the Coronation ('53) by holding a Ball at the Park Lane Hotel and by presenting the School with four copper birch-trees, planted in the N.E. corner of the Back by the Chairman of the Governors, the Head Prefect - K.I. Mackenzie, Reginald Kirkman and the Society's President, Arthur Howard Smith. At the Ball, after loyal toasts were drunk, The Hon. Andrew Vanneck, Chairman of the Governors, in proposing the Toast of the Society, emphasised 'the very happy relationship that existed between the Governing Body and the S.O.F.' Thanking the Society for many benefactions in the past he wished it well for the future.

Howard Smith expressed the Society's pleasure at having with them as guests the Chairman of the Governors, the Headmaster and the Headmaster of Brandeston, David Kittermaster, and some of the College staff. He felt it was a fitting occasion to pay tribute to his 'permanent officials', V.G. Bromage, Secretary, and John Sheldrake, Treasurer. The two hundred and fifty guests thought so, too.

Mention must be made of an 'individual' O.F. gift (1953) - a sum sufficient to pay for the construction of a Handicraft Room. The donor, Hugh Le May, who had already presented challenge cups for Shooting and Boxing, originally wished to see his gift translated into squash courts, but post-war building was still restricted and in this case the Ministry was unbending.

When Rupert Kneese, Chaplain, retired in '53 the Society formally expressed its appreciation of his thirty-three years' service to the College by the presentation of a gold wrist-watch at the A.G.M. of '54. He had, in truth, been a controversial figure, but his zeal and his many enthusiasms - his spiritual work, Scouting, School and Colts rugby, Housemastership (Rendlesham), Shooting, his own creation, the Quilibet Cricket Club and his watchful eye over the bearing of all the boys in the School - these were of immense value and rightly recognised. Some will remember him for being

obliged to carve corrections to errors in French syntax on a block of wood; many will remember his fearless personality.

Meanwhile, donations to the School Mission seemed to have settled to a regular annual contribution of twenty guineas.

Before Reginald Kirkman retired in '55 he set on foot a Chapel Appeal Fund for improvement and renovation. Work was completed in time for a dedication by the Bishop of the Diocese at the O.F. Commemoration Service of '56. A false ceiling concealed the stark rafters, the floor had been re-laid, the lighting improved and the old varnished pews replaced by oak. Contributors to the Fund had been asked to consider donating an entire pew. The Society gave two. James Mason Martin (1888-94), an early member of the S.O.F. and eventually a Governor of the College, always an admirer and benefactor, gave a pair of noble entrance doors.

Kirkman retired in 1956, when Air Commodore Arthur Vere Harvey (1917-20), C.B.E., M.P., was President of the Society. The A.G.M. and Dinner (Public School Club, February) of that year was of special interest, for guests were urged to remember the past and look to the future. The new Headmaster, W. Stanley Porter, was there, as were John Silver, Head Prefect, Reginald Kirkman and Major Charles S. Pryor, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Governors, who, responding to the toast to the guests, thanked the Society for their keen and generous interest in the School. The Society presented the retired Headmaster with tokens of rest after a job well done - two armchairs and a tea-trolley.

In launching a Fund for the provision of a new cricket pavilion, 'a building worthy of the School and its surroundings, and a credit to the Society', the President asserted that supporting such a fund was to take a wonderful opportunity to express the appreciation which all O.F.s felt for the generous hospitality extended to them whenever they returned to the School. The Fund Committee recognised the inadequacy of the present building.

It is true that most cricketers did accept that the old, 'colonial style' wooden pavilion was by modern standards lacking in amenities, but many felt that it had a certain charm and an atmosphere well in keeping with its surroundings and the game itself.

The Fund prospered, and in that same year ('57) when the Duke of Norfolk came to present the prizes on Speech Day (June) he was naturally invited to declare the pavilion open. This he did, declaring that it gave him great pleasure to do so in such a lovely setting, and to think of the fun and companionship that would go with it.

The Society's President for that year, V.G. Bromage, 'Brom', formally presented the building to the College in the person of Sir Frederick Minter, who, as an O.F. and as a Governor found himself 'in the rather dubious position of thanking himself for his own gift'.

The Duke brought the occasion to a happy conclusion by asking the Headmaster to 'fit in just one more half holiday for just one more game of cricket' and promising to send a bat and a ball to the batsman and bowler selected at the end of the season. The bat was eventually won by A.G. Wright (1948-57) and the ball by J.D.F.

Larter (1951-57).

The Society rounded off its gift in the following year by providing white railings for the pavilion terrace. It has been observed that not all O.F. benefactions or acts of kindness or consideration were on a large scale. There was the telegram sent to Princess Alice on her Golden Wedding day; there was the telegram sent to the South Africa Branch, meeting at Salisbury; the cross of poppies placed by the Chapel War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 1959 ('it is intended to perpetuate this annual ceremony'); Roland Inskip found time to ask colleagues for foreign stamps that came their way - so that he could pass them on to the boys of Brandeston Hall.

Though the war cast a long shadow - on the material side, some classes of rationing persisted: clothes rationing until 1949, petrol until 1950; sugar until 1953 and general food rationing until 1954 - by the beginning of the second half of the century the Society had settled into a kind of routine of procedures and practices, no less acceptable for being predictable.

You could expect the Annual General Meeting and a London Dinner, with the naming of a new President and the election of Officers, to take place in February. At Whitsun there would be the Suffolk Gathering and Meeting. Branch Suppers would almost certainly be held in London, Chelmsford, Ipswich or Framlingham (at The Crown). Sporting activities would be pursued - cricket, rugger, hockey, golf, shooting - and all, with innovations and new interests, faithfully recorded in the School Magazine.

The Society's capabilities and wide interest in sport were undoubtedly nourished by the annual matches, cricket, rugger, hockey and squash, against the School. Although travel restrictions persisted as late as '48 these fixtures had been restored by '46 and honoured without recourse to the services of those reliable 'all-rounders, Mr.A.N. Other and Mr. O.N.E. More.

In '48 the Society, undoubtedly heartened and encouraged by Norman Borrett's third successive Amateur championship, felt strong enough to enter a team in the Londonderry Squash Cup Competition. Oscar J.M. Ford (1936-41) organised it, and in due course the V (N.F. Borrett; J.D. Molyneux, 1933-38; O.J.M. Ford; M.R. Garrard, 1936-42; L. Hinds, 1937-42), passed into the second round, having beaten the Old Aldenhamians in the first. Though the winning of the Cup never looked likely, many rounds were played and enjoyed and many interesting Old Boy contacts were made.

The O.F. Golfing Society, formed, it will be remembered, in '49, felt strong enough in three years to compete in the Halford Hewitt Cup Competition. Elected to the membership of the Public Schools Golfing Societies in '52 and, in '53, playing its first round (against Edinburgh Academy), the O.F. team (ten players, supported by Howard Smith and Bromage) drove into the first of many matches that would over the years bring them into friendly rivalry with some of the most experienced Old Boy players in the country. Less demanding, perhaps were matches played against Old Felstedians and Old Ipswichians.

Shooting officially became one of the Society's sporting interests when, in '51, the President, Mark Liell, approached Henry B. Sear (1927-32) with a view to his putting together a team to compete in the Veterans' Competition held annually at Bisley after the Ashburton shoot. Sear successfully called for enthusiasts, especially those who had been in the School Shooting VIII, and moderate results were achieved, but in '55, though there were some outstanding individual successes (Sear himself and E.H. Baker (1943-50) being chosen subsequently to shoot for England's National Team, and D.H. Blumson (1949-54) gaining a place in the Queen's '100') there was no team success, indeed, through lack of support, no team.

Support and enthusiasm were subdued until '59 when J.P.D. Robin Podd (1943-55) became Secretary and Captain. Of his endeavours the report ran - 'We are glad to observe that the O.F. Shooting Society is now comparable with our Golfing Society in enthusiasm and is one which has already put the name of Framlingham on the map of the Shooting World. This happy state of affairs is entirely due to J.P.D. Podd who has put an enormous amount of work into not only raising the teams but in creating interest among O.F.s'.

It was possible to enter two teams for the 1960 Veterans' Competition at Bisley. The O.F. first team came joint third, scoring 238 against the 242 of the winning team, Tonbridge.

The 1961 Competition was a triumph for the O.F. Veterans (Sear, Podd, Baker, S. Brown and M. Thompson) who won the trophy, 'the largest shield we have ever seen', with a score of 237 - a lead of 4 points. There were fifty-seven schools competing.

O. F. Lawn Tennis (the 'Lawn' was to fall into desuetude before many years were out) became "organised" in 1954 when the Society entered a team in the D'Abernon Tennis Cup Competition, run by the Public Schools Old Boys Lawn Tennis Association. If you wanted to play you wrote to Secretary Bromage.

No remarkable results were achieved over the years, but indeed the entering of the Competition was in itself commendable. The first O.F. team to compete comprised H.E. Truman and M.J.R. Evans; W.P. Markham and A. Rosen; and P. Markham and C.W. Wharton.

Behind the sporting scene the administration of the Society had of course to go on. Officers had to be elected and retirements allowed.

Charles Scott and H.H. Le May, both trustees, retired from office in '51. Theirs had been a remarkable association, for they had been identified with the Society's affairs since its formation in 1900. The remaining Trustees at the time were L.M. Liell (also President), A Howard Smith and R.W. Metcalf. The Secretary was V. G. Bromage, the Treasurer J.C. Shelldrake, and the Auditor was K.K. Knight. Little had changed by the end of '60. A new President, of course, F.H. Bell, and J.P. Davey (1936-40) had replaced K.K. Knight as Auditor.

The number of members rose steadily over the ten years '50 to '60. At the end of '51 (L.M. Liell, President) it stood at 1,343; at the end of '55 (Robert W. Metcalf,

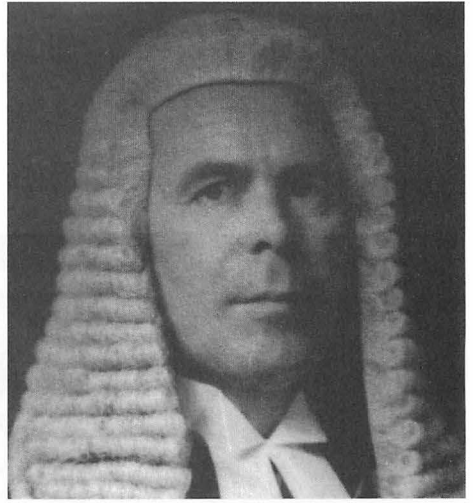


*The College has been fortunate in its benefactors among the Society's members. Here, in a photograph taken on O.F. Day 1910, are three of those whose names are still remembered: The front row, left to right, consists of C. W. Wallace (1870-71) who founded the scholarship in his name, E. G. Mawby (1889-97) after whom the Mawby Prize was named by the Society and E. E. Moreau (1871-72) whose bequests to both the College and the Society were generous*

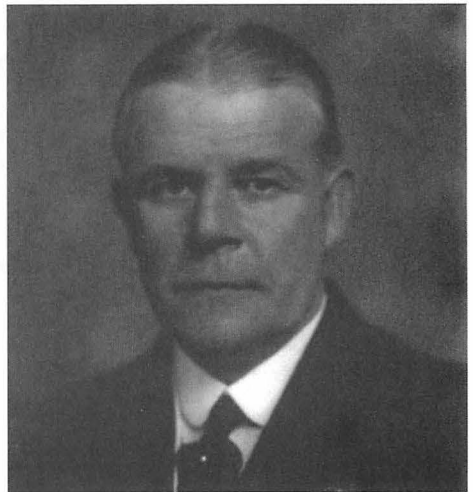


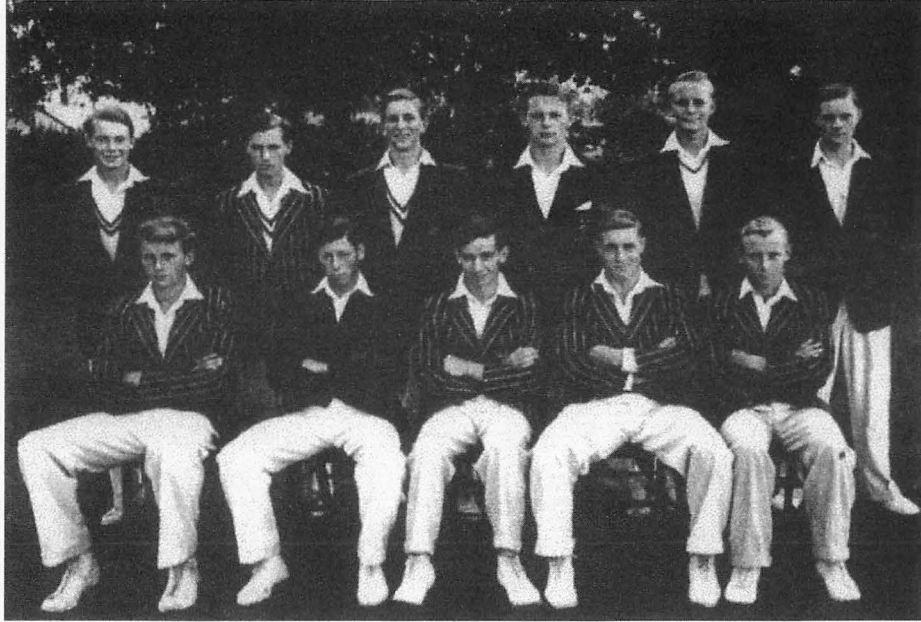
*Framlingham old boys have particularly distinguished themselves as senior officers in the armed forces. Here, taken from the Society's archives, are pictures of four of them who have each also been President of the Society. Clockwise from top left, major General Sir Alexander Wallace KCB, Order of the Nile (Grand Officer) (1870-74), President of the Society in 1917 and latterly a school governor; Major General Roland Inskip CB, CIE, DSO, MC (1894-1902) who was the Society's President in 1954; General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson GCB (1933-40) the Society's President in 1973 and 1974 and subsequently Chairman of the College's governing body; Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac KCVO, KBE, CB, DSO (1908-10) who was the Society's President in 1948.*





*Matching the military successes O.F.s have also made their marks in more unusual fields. Clockwise from top left, Dawson Waugh (1885-89), a member of the Newmarket dynasty of O.F.s He trained winners of many of the classic horse races including the Derby; Sir Claud Seton Kt (1896-99) who was Chief Justice and Chief Judicial Commissioner for the Western Pacific; Sir James Walton (1898-99), surgeon to both King George V and King George VI and Sir Alfred Munnings KCVO, Kt, PRA, RWS (1891-92) whose paintings of horses in particular are highly regarded.*





*The photograph of the College cricket team in 1957 is remarkable in that three of the members became international sportsmen. Only David Larter (1951-57), front row left, who played for Northampton and England, was honoured in that sport. Andrew Hancock (1952-58), front row second from right, will be remembered for his last minute try which won the Calcutta cup for England's rugby team in 1965. Norman Porter (1950-57) was seven times capped for Scotland on the hockey field.*

1917-21, President), 1,484; by December, '59 (John C. Sheldrake, 1925-29, President) 1636 - an increase of 52 over the previous year - and, by the end of '60 (Francis H. Bell, President), 1,660.

Personal honours had not been lacking. Arthur Vere Harvey received a Knighthood in '57; Frederick Minter became a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order in '58, the year in which Sir John D'Albiac was made Chairman of the Governing Body. In the sporting world there were personal achievements, too. Norman Borrett won the title of Amateur Squash Champion (for the fifth successive time) in '51, the year in which N.G. Mayhew was awarded his hockey Blue at Cambridge. In '50 H.E. Truman became the R.A.F. Champion in both Tennis and Squash, and in the following year J.D.F. Larter (1951-57) was selected to play for the M.C.C. in the coming tour of New Zealand.

At a different level there was a very notable achievement by Alasdair E. Aston (1941-48) whose poem (published in full in the Magazine of July, '53), *Gloriana Rediviva*, obtained the Chancellor's Medal for English Verse, at Cambridge.

Two links with the past were broken when Rupert Kneese died in '57 (the year in which he delivered the Whitsun Commemoration address) and Charles Thomas in '58. Thomas, who had taught at the College for 37 years. A fine ball-games player and a shrewd sportsman who enjoyed every game he played, he died in harness, still teaching chemistry - and probably enjoying that, too.

A link with the past was, however, strengthened when two former College masters, H. Harris Jones (who introduced the school to Rugged) and F.S.O. Broughton attended the 1960 London Dinner.

Further afield old associations and memories were rekindled at the inaugural Dinner (September, '58) at Salisbury of a Southern Rhodesian Branch of the Society. The organisers were Dr. A.S. Dods (1927-32), and Alan B. Richardson (1934-40). Twelve O.F.s were able to be present. Of them the Council asserted, 'Those attending jointly travelled many hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to be there, another example of the keenness and endurance of O.F.s wherever they may be'.

# Chapter XI

## Towards the College Centenary

**A**t the Annual General Meeting and Dinner of 1961 (Public Schools Club, February) when H.J. Jim Smith took over the Presidency from Francis Bell, an important announcement was made by the Chairman of the Governing Body, Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac. The College, he said, would celebrate its centenary in 1964 and to mark this an appeal was being launched to provide funds for further improvements at the School and for the building of a new School Hall. The sum of £75,000 had been set as the target for the Appeal Fund. A committee had been formed, with Maj. General R.D. Inskip as chairman and Sir Frederick Minter as vice-chairman.

Sir John asked all friends of Framlingham, both local and national, to support the project and General Inskip announced that three Old Boys had each donated the sum of £1,000 to the fund.

Once the concept of building a new hall had engaged the mind, the occasion for it, namely, the passage of a hundred years in the School's history, tended to be forgotten. Some, however, were reminded of the circumstances in which that history began.

On the death of Prince Albert in December, 1861, it was naturally and unanimously agreed by the gentry and citizens of Suffolk that in some form a county memorial should be raised.

We are told that to the wife of Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison came the inspired idea that the memorial should be in the form of a school. Following the initiative of the Earl of Stradbroke, upon whom a deputation called, a requisition was signed by 'nearly seven hundred persons, comprising the Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy and Principal Yeomen of the county', and a meeting was held in March, '62, in the Council Chamber of Ipswich Town Hall. Here Kerrison proposed that 'a County Memorial be raised in honour of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and that a School or College for the Scientific or Practical Instruction of the Middle Classes at a moderate cost would well accord with the views of the illustrious Prince and would be of permanent benefit to the County'.

It may well be supposed that when the proposal had been accepted there was an enormous amount of work to be done before the first boys filed into the new classrooms. Happily, 'subscriptions were received in such volume as to provide assurance of general approval and practical support. A sum of six thousand pounds was subscribed in the Council Chamber before the company separated ...'

In due course a Charter was granted by Queen Victoria on the 30th of July 1864, and, under the Headmastership of the Revd. Albert Daymond, the School opened

on April 19th, 1865.

General Inskip, Chairman of the Appeal Committee, did not enjoy quite the same response as his illustrious predecessor, but there was a steady flow of subscriptions, enough to allow him to publish at regular intervals figures and names of subscribers, figures sufficiently robust to encourage others. By July of '61 the sum received was £20,000; by April of '62, £30,098; by July of '63, £41,814; by January, '64, £47,468 ('... It is gratifying to report that some Firms in which O.F.s are interested have recently given donations. Will other O.F.s likewise engaged please do what they can in this respect ...'). Early in '64 ('... we have under six months in which to reach our target of £75,000 ...') Inskip published an elegant brochure bearing a picture of the building under construction, giving a list of some 850 subscribers, stating that the Countess of Athlone had consented to open the new Hall on June, 26th and assuring all subscribers that invitations would be sent to them.

The Appeal failed to raise the required sums in time, but it was kept open and by the spring of '65 Inskip was able to announce that the total received had risen to £63,572. In 1963 there had been a lull, but rather than hand over to a firm of professional collectors he decided to carry on as usual, come what may.

From then onwards all went well, 'culminating in a magnificent donation from the Council of the S.O.F. which made certain that our primary object, the payment of the cost of the new Assembly Hall, would be achieved.'

Throughout the course of the appeal many donations had, touchingly, been made in memoriam; the O.F. Masonic Lodge had raised £920 to purchase chairs; the School Appeal Fête (July '63), on a day of sunshine when supporters 'turned up in their thousands' to enjoy the huge number of entertainments offered (largely promoted and controlled by Martin Irving, Hon. O.F.) had raised the sum of £2,500.

The raising of funds for the Centenary project did not become a preoccupation of the Society, though Inskip lost no opportunity to address members assembled for an O.F. function. The Whitsun Gathering ('61) was such an occasion. The Commemoration Service was conducted by the Revd. Martin Bulstrode, Rector of St Michael's, Framlingham, and a Governor. The lesson was read, as was now the custom, by the President (at this time, Jim Smith), who also unveiled the Society's tablet to the late Headmaster, William Hervey Allen Whitworth.

The London Supper, well attended, took place, as was now the custom, at 'Brom's West-end Pub', The Crown, in Brewer Street, (at a cost of eight shillings and sixpence), but the Essex Supper made a successful transference (there were 50 Old Boys present, including the President and Inskip) from Chelmsford to The Red Lion at Colchester. The Suffolk Supper (December, after the School Rugger match) took place not at the School, but at The Crown Hotel and attracted as many as 75 Old Boys including the President, Inskip, the new Treasurer, Humphrey Truman, and nine members of the College staff.

Sporting activities, as far as results were concerned, might best have been applauded with what Nanki-Poo termed 'modified rapture', for in the case of competi-

tion for the Londonderry, D'Aberton and Halford-Hewitt Trophies survival beyond the second round was unusual. However, zeal in the game and the event was not blunted nor were fresh contacts forgotten - and they included Old Boys of Lancing, Whitgift, Blundell's, Hailebury, Bryanston and Charterhouse.

The hardihood of the golfers was tested in '63 when the Society was drawn to play (Workshop) at 8.00 a.m. at Brancaster, in October, in an early round of the newly-established competition set up by the Public Schools Old Boys' Golf Association, for the Grafton Morrish Trophy.

Not every contest was so demanding. Within the Golf Society there were prizes to be won at, perhaps, an easier pace: The Le May Trophy, (D.G. Lamb, in '63), the Coronation Trophy, the Junior Trophy (V.G. Bromage, in '63) and the Foursomes' Prize.

Only Shooting gained a maximum award. The captain and manager, J.P.D. Podd, was confident that, having won the Veterans' Shield at Bisley (in '61), the team could do it again, and, what was perhaps more, enter as many as four teams in the competition. In '63 both objects were achieved: the 'A' team (W.D.J. Pank, 1956-61; J.P.D. Podd; H.P. Sear, and J.A. Horton) won the Shield (with a score of 238) and indeed four O.F. teams did compete.

For the 'D' team it was necessary to call upon the services of Mr. A.N. Other to make up numbers. By happy chance there was among the spectators an O.F. He was seventy years old and had never fired the kind of rifle in use at the time. He sportingly accepted the invitation to shoot, took the No.5 placing and scored 35. This was E.A. Coulson Stevens who was at the School in 1904 under Inskip, had served in W.W.II, and in W.W.I had served in the London Rifle Brigade.

It should perhaps be mentioned that 'team expenses' were creeping up. The Council's Financial Statement for '61 shows them at £97; by the end of '64 the figure was £137. Membership numbers, however, were also increasing. At the end of '61 they stood at 1,676; by '65 there were 1,802 - not a high proportion of the total number of Old Boys, but significant enough. John Booth, giving a talk on the College to the Framlingham Local History and Preservation Society in '63, when there were 1,758 names on the S.O.F. roll, reckoned that at that time more than 7,000 boys had 'passed through the College gates' since 1865.

Certainly the numbers attending the Society's 'outside' Suppers were going up. In '62, when John McIntyre (1924-27) was President, the A.G.M. Dinner was attended by 110 Old Boys; the Suffolk Supper at the Framlingham Crown brought in 56; the London Supper at the Brewer Street Crown in January attracted more than fifty; the Colchester, Red Lion, accommodated well over sixty.

Secretary Bromage, however, was not satisfied that every single living Old Boy had been urged to join the Society. Early in '63, under the simple heading, 'The addresses of the following O.F.s are requested ...' he caused to be published in the Magazine a list, of enormous length, of Old Boys who had (in many cases, most surprisingly) somehow joined the ranks of those with no known address.

The regular Whitsun Gathering, of '62, at which the Revd. Brian Manthorp (1945-52) gave the Commemoration Address, was very well attended, and the December Suffolk Supper, held at the White Hart, Wickham Market, (which, by itself would have made but a muted call to the wayfarer) reached a new height in numbers - 75 Old Boys and 10 College staff.

The College administrative staff and the College itself suffered a great loss in this year by the retirement of Edward Palmer - after thirty years and three Headmasters. This self-effacing, patient, anxious man, good friend of the Society, had guided the College, and sometimes advised the S.O.F., through difficult times, constructive times and time of great achievement. The Society acknowledged its debt to him by a presentation at the A.G.M. Dinner of '63 (Public Schools Club, February 22nd, when Douglas G. Lamb was named as the new President). He did not, however, give up his service to the College - he agreed to take on the secretaryship of the Centenary Appeal Fund. His place as Bursar was taken by Major T.F. Farthing.

At the same occasion services as Treasurer of many kinds rendered to the Society over the years by John C. Sheldrake received formal recognition by the presentation of a silver cruet set.

There were other appointments and achievements at this time. Col. Percy Clarke was appointed Chairman of the Governing Body; Bromage and Harvey became members of the Corporation. David Larter was invited to join the M.C.C. team to tour Australia and New Zealand in '62-'63 ('some people think I bowl wildly, but I like to think I'm coming along ...'), thereby gaining a place in the O.F. Celebrity Gallery housed in the Society's Room in the new pavilion.

In 1963 Norman Mayhew played hockey for Suffolk. N.H. Porter for Scotland, N.A.D. Buck (1951-55) for Sussex, and J.R. Anderton (1954-59) for Essex.

There was, in this year, little activity for one of the School's three holders of the Victoria Cross: it was learned that W.H. Hewitt, Major William Henry Hewitt, V.C., had suffered a broken hip, and besides being in incessant pain was sorely pressed to afford adequate nursing. The Society brought it about that funds became available for Mrs. Hewitt to secure help and hence sufficient sleep. On a less personal basis the Society was able to help Brandeston by the gift ('64) of a Grundig Wireless set [It was still 'wireless', not 'radio'] and performed a humane service for College squash-players, long afflicted by chilly limbs and sweating walls, by providing for the enclosure of the gallery (but at the same time obliterating the engraved stones recording the donors of the courts).

Walter Winstanley gave up the editorship of the Magazine in '63 after thirty-eight years at that desk. Since all O.F. news came to him before publication (there was as yet no independent magazine or news-letter) it might well be supposed that he, probably better than anyone, knew of the Society's inmost being, its officers and most of its other ranks. The Society had learned to value his understanding approach and cheerful greeting. A loss of another kind was experienced by the death of Sir John D'Albiac, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., President of the Society in '48 and '49, a Governor of

the School and for some years Chairman of the Governing Body. Of wide experience in both the military and civilian world - he had served in all three services; he had been the Commandant, the first, of London Airport - his judgement and advice had been of immense value and his influence of great worth.

Peter Claude Sneath (1928-33) was the chosen President for the year '64, the School's great centenary year. The Society had been in the light if not in the heat of preparations though many Old Boys, of course, came to the celebrations conducted on a day (June, 26th) blessed with sunshine and alive with eager anticipation.

One item of the week-end programme was a cricket match, O.F.s v. The School (The Old Boys won easily this time) - postponed from its usual Whitsun fixture. It was decided, too, to suspend the Commemoration Service for a year notwithstanding the significance of the present one. No other O.F. Gathering was affected, the Old Framlinghamians' Masonic Lodge in fact increased their number of meetings to four in the year, two at the School, one at the Newmarket Masonic Hall and one at the Lucullus Restaurant in the City.

The programme for the Centenary celebrations and the visit of Princess Alice to mark them consisted of a Thanksgiving Service, conducted by the Lord Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, a concert, a dramatic Retrospect recalling the hundred years' life of the College, a ball in a vast marquee set up (with a sporting, sloping floor) on the Front, and fireworks.

The formal opening of the Hall was performed by H.R.H. at the invitation of Colonel Percy Clarke, Chairman of the Governors, and it was entirely fitting that he should extend the invitation: his father had been among the first pupils to enter the School; he himself, having joined in 1890, had watched and fostered the growth of the College for upwards of three quarters of a century.

The official O.F. Observer wrote of the whole occasion, 'It was a day which will live long in the memories of all who were lucky enough to have spent it at Framlingham; a day when Framlinghamians of every vintage felt proud of their heritage'.

A letter (the style of which might identify the writer) signed 'Albertian' was later published in the Magazine. It suggested that the designation 'Centenary Hall' should give way to 'Athlone Hall'. And so it did.

## Chapter XII

### 1965-1969: Relinquishing the Crown

**C**oncentration of thought and energy on the College centenary celebrations did nothing to retard the forward impetus of the Society, and for some years after '64 the trend was towards expansion and innovation.

The President for '65 was Frederick Seale (1923-27); his Secretary, V.G. Bromage; his Treasurer, Humphrey Truman. Seale, a Principal Inspector of Taxes, was truly a link with the old pattern of College sport: in his day he had been captain of both Football and Fives. There were over one hundred O.F.s at the Annual Dinner (Public Schools Club, February) as well as six members of the College staff and the Head Prefect, I.C.F. May (1956-65). Unhappily, 'Tim' Inskip was not present, he was feeling not strong enough, but Seale thanked him for his management of the Centenary Fund, praising him for his refusal to resort to 'those parasites of the body charity - the professional Appeal Organisers', and in due course his words reached the General. At that time the Fund had reached £63,712.

The Whitsun Gathering attracted 30 O.F.s to the School. The Commemoration Service, at which the President by custom read the Lesson, was conducted by the Revd. William H. Loveless (1933-38) who had turned to the Church Ministry in '61 after war-service in the course of which he was wounded in Normandy in June '44. We may look at the opening words of his address, remembering that the VIth Form was present at the service and he obviously had that in mind, and also, perhaps remembering our own school-boy frame of mind when the preacher climbed the pulpit steps.

'What is your reaction to a Commemoration Service preacher, or Speech Day address giver? I well remember what mine used to be when a boy at Framlingham. As he slowly mounted the pulpit, or stood upon the stage, heavy with the weight of his important message, - it used to seem to me - I would be thinking 'Now, come on ... let's have it. I know we're going to go through exhortation ... supplication ... peroration ... but, whatever it is, get on with it. The most you can hope from me is that I'll still be listening at the end'. In short, as a boy, I didn't like these sorts of preachers or speakers; and nor did many of the other boys then. Why? And why do many boys now - still - I know - think the same?

'The answer that I believe I would have given had you asked me that question when I was actually at Framlingham as a boy was that even though the speakers may not have been insincere - I wasn't cynical enough to think that - nevertheless there was a sort of unreality about so much of what they said ...'

The second half of the decade, '61-'70, saw a marked increase in the number of 'branch' suppers and in the attendance at those already established. For reasons still

obscure, only in one year, '67, was there disappointment: Sussex, Norfolk and Essex ('No support from the Colchester area') falling short in numbers. It was, however, suggested that the TV appearance of 'Miss World' had something to do with it.

In '65 the Suffolk Supper was held at Wickham Market - a suitable occasion for presentations, to mark long and faithful service, to Ernest Stiff, boilerman, and George Seggons, groundsman. (The former could remember the behaviour of a steam engine installed in 1908, which he lamented, 'still had teething troubles'; the latter could remember the time when a horse, wearing great leather 'boots' was employed to pull the mowing-machine on the Back). The Essex Supper, 35 attended, was held at the Spread Eagle Hotel at Witham. The London Supper had to be given a new home and was held at the Cliffords Inn Club [Joining fee, £21] in the City.

The reason why the London Supper had to be held 'elsewhere' is best explained by reproducing part of the lament (by "H.J.S.") which was published in the Magazine -

### ABDICATION

'A voluntary relinquishing of the Crown' says the dictionary. Any abdication is calculated to spread alarm and despondency among some sections of the community, and the departure of the Bromages from the Crown in Brewer Street was no exception. The lease, we are told, ran out, and so did Brom, on the 28th of October, 1964.

'Thus ended a period of nearly sixteen years during which Old Framlinghamians enjoyed the benefits of an unofficial headquarters, rendezvous and pied-à-terre scarcely a hundred yards from Piccadilly Circus. How accustomed we grew to the regular announcement in these pages that the next London Supper would be held on such and such a date at The Crown, Brewer Street. How casually we turned up to those functions, many of us without even giving warning of our intention to appear, to be welcomed and well-fed, whether our numbers were fourteen or forty. We had little regard for the catering problems that we posed; Carmen was always there, in full command of every situation, presiding over our meal with calm efficiency and ready and able to chat, to charm or to chide as the occasion demanded.

'At other times, in our ones and twos, we would drop in to the bar at lunch-time or in the evening, for a glass of beer and a gossip with Brom. We were almost certain to meet, or to have just missed, one or two fellow Framlinghamians. We would learn who was home from abroad, who had died or got married or divorced, who was ill, who was complaining to whom about what, and who had changed his job or played for his county. We in our turn would give Brom our own little snippets of information to supplement his saga...

'... But to us Framlinghamians the Crown was primarily our hostelry; it was the home and the place of business of our Secretary, and it became our second home. It was as inconvenient structurally as it was geographically conven-

ient, but if the Bromages could put up with its deficiencies who were we to complain?

'Now we are bereft, deposed; the Crown has been snatched from us and ours, paradoxically, are the heads that uneasy lie. Our first thoughts and expressions must be of gratitude to Brom and Carmen, and in more recent year Neville, for their unfailing friendship and service to all Framlinghamians. Then we must try to find another meeting place. It will never be quite the same; unless, of course, the Bromage family returns to the catering fray. Perhaps that is too much to expect, but hope is a soothing emotion;

In fact the Bromage family did return to the 'catering fray', setting up home at The Plough and Sail by Snape Bridge, to the gratification of the many O.F.s who found them there. The value of The Crown in Brewer Street to the Society was amply illustrated by a letter sent to the Magazine by Neville Bromage ('Young Brom'. His father being 'Brom') in 1969 when he had taken over from K.K. Knight as Assistant Secretary. He points out that the vital flow of O.F. news into and out of The Crown having stopped, the Society has lost part of its flourishing communication system. He calls for O.F. news of all sorts to be sent in. 'The O.F. Council needs younger blood in it, but as recent leavers seem to be very reticent about writing to let us know of their activities, we do not know who to invite to serve. The Old Boys' Association is still a very active Society; if all who leave would keep in touch, instead of just a few, it would remain that way ...'

The President for the year '66, Arthur D.C. Burbidge, (with a new Treasurer, A. Howard Smith), who, like his predecessor had been Captain of Fives when he was at School (1920-24), introduced a persuasive way of introducing recent school-leavers to the hospitality of the Society - they should attend a London Supper as guests. To the November London Supper as many as 65 O.F.s came, and there were 14 'new-boy' guests.

The experiment was repeated in the following year when ten recent leavers came as guests to the October Supper (K.K. Knight was the London organiser). At this time there was an attempt made to fill the gap caused by the 'abdication' of The Crown:

'It may be of interest to O.F.s living in the London area to know that it has become the custom amongst many younger O.F.s to meet at The Marlborough Arms, Chelsea, on Wednesday evening where D. Ricketts (1957-60) will look forward to meeting any newcomers'.

In '68 the London Suppers were held at Ye Olde Cock Tavern in Fleet Street. John W. Edwards (1945-55) took over their management, but in spite of his efforts to ensure greater numbers (in '69 he sent 250 letters to members who should have been interested) they seldom exceeded fifty.

A similar effort was made by Ben H. Thompson (1927-31) in '69 when he contacted 200 O.F.s who might well have come to the November Suffolk Supper at The Crown. In the event the average number, 45, attended. There was in fact a slight falling-off of interest in Suffolk meetings. By '69 the Whitsun (or 'Spring Bank-holi-

day') Commemoration Service had lapsed 'through lack of support'. In '66 the address was given by the Revd. David J. Pitcher (1944-51), which should in itself have ensured continuity of the event. In '67, when Major W.H. Hewitt's V.C. was entrusted to the School by his widow, the Revd. M.A. Johnson (1950-55) took the service, followed in '68 by the Revd. D.P. McNeice. It may be that the fact that Whitsun and the new Spring Bank Holiday seldom coincided seemed to rob both of a fixed place in the calendar and created difficulties in planning, but, for whatever reason, though the spring gathering was maintained, the founders and benefactors of the College failed to attract further official recognition.

There was no Suffolk Supper after the hockey match with the School in the spring of '68, but by common impulse some forty Old Boys gathered at 'Brom's new pub', the Plough and Sail, at Snape and such was the satisfaction with the occasion, that "though it would be a pity to abandon an official Suffolk Supper altogether", it was generally agreed that after the winter rugger match against the School the Plough and Sail would be the rendezvous to make for. In the event, however, the rugger Supper was held at the local Crown - attended, in spite of Ben Thompson's efforts, by only 20 O.F.s and six staff.

Thanks largely to the organising abilities of Brian D. Rosen (1940-46), a Sussex branch of the Society held its inaugural Dinner at the Hayworth Hotel, Haywards Heath, in the winter of '66. Twenty-five O.F.s were present, including the President, A.D.C. Burbidge, and Reginald Kirkman. The continuity of the occasion was not allowed to lapse even though numbers began to fall. In '70 a new centre was chosen - Farmers at Scaynes Hill.

When Tom G. Saul (1919-24) became President in '67 he successfully set on foot another branch of the Society, the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire branch. (He himself was a Bishops Stortford man). Its inaugural meeting was held in April at the Roebuck Motor Hotel in Stevenage. Forty O.F.s attended and the occasion was pronounced a great success.

Only twenty-five members came to the autumn Supper, and a disappointing twenty to the '68 spring Gathering. When numbers failed to rise for the October meeting, although it had been 'another most enjoyable evening', it was thought that a change of venue might be worth trying. The Hatfield Lodge Hotel was chosen for April.

The move did not succeed in bringing numbers up, but though only eighteen attended the October, '69 event there was no question of complete collapse.

The Norfolk Branch of the Society, once so influential, held what it called an "Inaugural" Dinner at the Lamb Inn, Norwich, in February, '67. Arthur Burbidge had four days left before he handed over the Presidency of the Society to Tom G. Saul, but he it was who presided over the fifty-five members on this night.

Less than half that number came to the second Norfolk Supper (Sept. '67), presided over by Tom Saul, and the absence of younger members was regretfully noted. Tribute was paid to Arthur Howard Smith who had died but two days before. He had

been tireless in his devotion to the Society and to the School, of which he was latterly a Governor. The printing of the Magazine had been his care, and its meticulous production may be credited to him. He had served ten years as a Territorial Officer and he had held many prominent posts in Freemasonry. The Society did well to honour him.

The next Norfolk Supper (March, '68) was deemed 'very successful' (27 members and 3 guests, including the Headmaster, W.S. Porter and the 'new' President, K.K. Knight, who spoke of the need to attract younger members to the Society), but it was nonetheless decided 'to put the Norfolk branch on a more business looking basis', with a view to greater administrative efficiency and the recruitment of recent leavers. To this end a small committee, led by J.P.A. Clymer, was set up, and, later, R. Hammersley (1944-49) became Secretary.

What emerged was in fact not an inrush of young members but a generous project for the good of the School - the provision of a new, regulation-sized squash-court (the two existing courts, some may remember, lacked full length and width and, for visiting players, baffled cunning lobs by their low roof). The enterprise and its funding was put to members who attended the next Supper (Boar's Head, Norwich, September, '68) and was 'carried unanimously'. It was understood that if Norfolk would undertake to provide one court, the Society would finance the building of a second.

Exactly how many O.F.s were at that Supper has not been recorded, but it seems that age rather than youth was the engaging interest, largely because among the guests was Godfrey William Weston, who was at the School from 1896 to 1898. He spoke of the hardships of his early years, recalling especially 'the lot of the under-privileged at the lower end of the table, where you often just got bread'. His audience, according to the official account of the function, was made up of a selection of positions in Norfolk covering all branches of the business and agricultural life of the county, Doctors, Builders, Accountants, Corn and Seed Merchants, Farmers, Solicitors, Bank Managers and Holiday Camp Proprietors.

Two years were to elapse before a Norfolk Supper was heard of again.

The Old Framlinghamians Lodge thrived quietly and it was hard to believe that by '69 it would have reached its twenty-first year of existence. Meetings at the College, at the Abercorn Rooms in London, at Newmarket, and at the Masonic Hall in Framlingham had attracted satisfying numbers. The Secretary, Ralph Bobby (1917-20) viewed the future 'with a firm but humble confidence'. The actual celebration of the anniversary, clouded a little by the recent death of Brian Castle (1922-25), a founder, and the earlier death of Leonard J. Martin (1915-22), founder, first master and devoted supporter, was marked by the presence of Sir Allan Adair, Assistant Grand Master, one 'known, respected and loved in his native Province of Suffolk', and one keenly interested in the fortunes of the College.

The fortunes and progress of O.F. sport, might, perhaps unreasonably, be judged by the amounts the Society's Treasurer paid out annually under the heading of 'Team and Games Expenses'. In '65 the sum of £112; by '67, £174; by '69 £188.

In terms of trophies won the O.F. Bisley 'Veterans', guided still by J.P.D. Podd, enjoyed the most successes. In '65 the A team won the Aggregate Competition (with a score of 231/250; 30 entries) and there were wins for the B (223/250) and C (223/250) teams, too. The following year produced modest results though Podd personally won the Kinnaird Trophy and triumphed yet again in the year after that, winning the Individual Members' Prize and 'The English XX Jewels' in the Suffolk Shoot.

In '68 the Bisley 'C' team won again, and in '69, in spite of having to use hardly up-to-date rifles (the School Bisley rifles had already been renovated through a £50 grant from the Alfred Pretty Memorial Fund) three out of the four teams entered were successful.

The Old Framlinghamians Golfing Society, not always able to raise a team or to qualify, still strove for the Grafton Morrish Trophy. Entry into the Halford Hewitt Competition was less exacting though progress to the third round remained elusive. In '65, when V.G. Bromage was Captain and C.F. Sneath was Secretary, and there were upwards of thirty members, great jubilation was expressed at the defeat of Gresham's in the first round, but Blundell's put an end to further advancement.

Meetings were held, spring and autumn, sometimes at Aldeburgh, usually at Thorpeness. It was a matter of great satisfaction when, in '66 (P. Giles was Captain), a match was played against the School, and the fixture regarded as permanent. The game was taken seriously enough at the College for advantage to be taken of the Golf Foundation's willingness to pay half the fees of a professional instructor.

Competitions within the Society were well supported; when matches were played on the Thorpeness course it was found that the Dolphin Hotel afforded a comfortable rendezvous for reviewing the fortunes of the day. So pleasant did the Halford Hewitt teams find the George and Dragon at Fordwich, near Canterbury, that they presented the College shield to join others on its walls as a token of esteem.

The squash court promised by the Norfolk Branch and its twin pledged by the Society, two splendid courts, were handed over (October, '69) to the Chairman of the Governors, Major C.S. Pryor, by John Clymer, for Norfolk, and Norman Bellamy, the current President of the Society. Future donors might like to know that each court cost £4,000.

Old Framlinghamian Hockey enjoyed something of a revival in '65 thanks to the efforts of J. Robin Anderton (1954-59). Regular opponents were the Old Aldenhamians, the Old Stortfordians and, of course the School. There was no home ground and numbers were thin - in '67, for instance, the Magazine records but thirteen names under 'The following have played ...' heading.

Norman Porter took over the management in '69 when nearly twenty players were available (even so, it was usually necessary to import guests to keep up the playing numbers to eleven, even for Sunday fixtures). Members of Club teams will not be surprised to learn that strong appeals had to be made for the provision of umpires. A generous grant from the Society covered the cost of new pads and kickers.

Over the period '65-'69 there were memorable individual achievements in the

sporting world: J.P.F. Larter playing cricket for England, A.J.G. Parsons and N.H. Porter playing hockey for Wales and Scotland, and - an unforgettable moment in sporting history - the try that saved the Calcutta Cup match in '65 when Andrew Hancock completed his great run.

Marking a different level of endeavour and determination came the award ('68) of the Military Cross to Lt. R.D.L. Vaughan-Griffith, (1960-64), The Queen's Own Hussars, for gallantry at Mansoura, in Aden.

John Booth, historian, archivist, author of *Framlingham College - The First Sixty Years*, Shakespeare Scholar, general literary handyman for the Society, died in '65. Percy Clarke, soldier, thirty years a Governor, past President of the Society, champion of day-boys, was tragically killed in a motor accident in the same year. Augustine W. Shelton Agar, V.C., D.S.O., R.N., President of the Society in 1929, died in December '68, at the age of 78. His autobiography, 'Footprints in the Sea' (1960), a signed copy of which he presented to the College library, modestly reveals the scope of his exploits. A death (April, '68) closer to many Old Boys was that of Edward Reginald Milner - Moore, Rex, (1919-25), for forty years a keen supporter of the Society, cricketer and familiar figure.

If platitudes are acceptable it may be observed that the years were marching on. Bromage and Howard Smith became Governors in '67, Winstanley retired in that year and was honoured by the Society by a presentation and the privilege of speaking on 'The School' at the A.G.M. Dinner; Inskip, who in '48 took over the administration of the remarkable Overseas Bag which nourished the Society by publishing O.F. letters from all over the world, was obliged, on medical advice, to retire from that work. In Tom Saul (who, at the time, was President) he found a worthy successor.

The Society made a presentation to David Kittermaster on his retirement ('69) as Headmaster of Brandeston Hall; it gave the School Sanatorium a television set (something of a novelty) in '68 and funded the issue (£2,050) of a new College Register; it planted more trees on the Back, helped the College Sailing Club to maintain a boathouse, supported the St. Christopher Mission and (as did the Old Framlinghamians' Lodge) contributed towards the purchase of a new Chapel organ.

In '65 the Society conferred Honorary Life membership on Clifford Constable Woolard (1880-85) who was ninety-three years old and its oldest member. In '67 it was in receipt of part of the final item of distribution of the Moreau Estate - £30,500.

A letter from the Treasurer of the time, A.D.C. Burbidge, published in the Summer, '68 edition of the Magazine, reminds us that behind sports activities and the social whirl crouched the ever-demanding figure of Necessity ...

'I should like to draw the attention of Annual Members to the fact that the rules of the Society require subscriptions to be paid annually. Non payment invites suspension.

'A recent survey of the Membership Register showed that some 300 members were in arrears with their subscriptions. On reminders being issued 40 have since paid [Five shillings a year].

‘When it is realised that the cost of printing and distributing the three Magazines a year, alone, is in the region of eight shillings for every member, it will be seen that the Society is already bearing a loss ...’

A look at the Society’s Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, ‘69, is, however, reassuring -

The value of investments was	£53,485
Various balances came to	£ 1,924
so Total resources amounted to	£55,510

There was, however, an outstanding debt (£5,524), the overspending on the Squash Court Fund. The investments were all in various Funds, not ‘free’, and though some of them foundered (The Leyland Motor Corporation, for instance), in the main they were at worst prudent, at best more than safe. Midland Bank, I.C.I., Courtaulds’, Distillers’, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, for example, were not only safe and sound, they were full of promise, too.

# Chapter XIII

## 1970-75 Anxieties and Achievements

**T**he first half of the new decade saw growing concerns over the strength of the membership. There was no anxiety over the financial situation though that was of course bound up with numbers, recruitment and what one scribe horribly called 'the death list'. The basic unease was not that members were failing to pay their subs, but that school-leavers were not joining the Society in numbers. In the sporting world there arose, more than once, that bane in the life of secretaries and organisers - a lack of applicants to make up a team, or, perhaps worse, the failure of pledged players to turn up.

For the Herts. and Beds. Supper of March, '70, the organiser, Tom Saul, sent fifty notices of the event - fourteen members turned up for the occasion; of the remainder many 'never even bothered to reply'.

The A.G.M. and Dinner (Public Schools Club. February) were well supported, with Norman F. Borrett the new President, backed by officers of the previous year (Neville Bromage now firmly established as Assistant Secretary), and a guest list which included Porter, Broad, the Bursar-Major T.L. Farthing - and the Head Prefect, Jeremy Page, but when winter came, and with it the organising of the O.F.s v The School Rugger Match and Supper, there were but five applications for the Supper, and the same number volunteering to play.

This was the first time since the war that the match and the supper had lapsed, the failure of the rugger to materialise being a matter of particular regret, for it was the games against the School, cricket, hockey, rugger and squash, that did much to hold O.F. teams together.

The Council let it be known that such a thin response was inimical to the life of the Society and that there was a certain indebtedness - 'Without recent leavers returning to play - ties will break ... It should be remembered that the S.O.F. has financed many of the facilities enjoyed at School'.

It was also put forward that the Society needed to 'revitalise ties with the College' and ideas were asked for (a car-rally, a dance and a barbecue were suggested).

The O.F. Hockey team was affected, Norman Porter lamenting ('70) that although fifty players of the game were on his list he could not field eleven able-bodied O.F.s at a time. In '71 frost ruled out the annual game against the School, and no Supper was arranged. Norman Porter, manager and factotum of O.F. Hockey, handed over his position to Martin G.D. Lamb (1957-66).

In '72 two teams were fielded against the School (both games lost), the matches being played on a Sunday, but later in that year Lamb found himself, with an ambitious fixture-list, Broxbourne, Surbiton, Southgate, Whitley Village, 'unable to select

our side because of lack of numbers’.

It could not be maintained that a general malaise had overtaken the Society, but it may be significant that the Squash Court Appeal appealed to only 121 O.F.s (out of a total of 1,586 on the books) and (late ‘70) left the sum of £1,800 still owing to the Governors.

The Squash Court was still being paid for by the Society in ‘73 when Major General Patrick J. Howard-Dobson was well into the first of his two years of office. (To invite the President to serve again was by no means uncommon. The first President, Herbert Pretty, had in fact held office for three consecutive years. There was a long list of distinguished Presidents who had been asked for ‘another year’ - Wallace, Scott, Moreau, Pretty, Agar, Jackson, Woods, and, the most recent, D’Albiac). But now another Appeal, of great magnitude, had come up.

This was to raise funds for general improvements and for the building of a Sports Hall. The Governors were putting their trust largely into the efforts of professional fund-raisers, but the Society, characteristically, associated itself with the effort, especially as it had to do primarily with physical excellence and achievement (other parts of the project were to convert the house once occupied by the Bursar, Netherby, into a sanatorium, to change the existing sanatorium into a boarding-house, and to refurbish the swimming-pool). It was reckoned that £150,000 was needed, but the financial climate - mortgages at 11%, inflation, the imposition of VAT and the increase of income tax - was hardly favourable. The Governors, at one stage, considered the selling-off of property owned in the town. As for the professionals, among other enterprises they wrote to 2,200 potential donors - and received 700 replies.

The Society, who in that year (‘73) had already given a scrumming-machine to the School (an observer remarked that if the boys put as much energy into the real thing as they put into the machine - they would be invincible) entered into the Appeal with customary zeal, but somehow, in spite of the Speech Day praise given by the Earl of Stradbroke to the Society for its magnificent support given to the Governors over the last half century, it seemed to have failed to catch the interest of members. So it was (‘74) that Pat Howard Dobson, urged by the Council, published a chiding letter in the Magazine.

He was surprised and disappointed at the scale of support given to the appeal. The squash court was not yet paid for. ‘If the College is to prosper it will need new buildings and facilities ... the Society has a great name for generosity and I cannot believe we shall be found wanting this time’.

In ‘71, when Benjamin H. Thompson was President, there was, some may remember, a crippling postal strike, the malign effect of which was felt by every branch of the Society (not to mention home-sick schoolboys). It was particularly deplored by Tom Saul, running the all-embracing Overseas Bag. He did not, however, blame the Post Office entirely for the fall in correspondence. Early in ‘73 he found himself wondering why the number of incoming letters was so meagre. ‘More letters, please!’ was his cry. And he grieved at the silence of younger members who were in foreign parts.

Unaccountably, the flow gathered more weight at the end of the year '73, but by the end of '75 correspondence had fallen off considerably, to Saul's dismay, for experience had shown him now valuable first-hand overseas news was to prospective young O.F. emigrants.

Since '71 there had been a growing dissatisfaction - on the part of the Society - with the School Magazine, *The Framlinghamian*, the sole purveyor of O.F. news. Criticism was levelled at it from almost every angle - its size, its shape, its contents, its style, its failure to appear on time. Since the Society paid half the production costs, perhaps comment on the 'School half' of the magazine could be regarded as something more than gratuitous. Some thought the magazine 'could be brought more up to the current way of reporting news and events' (without saying what that was). Some likened the general tone to that of *The Boy's Own Paper*. (Those who remembered that fascinating journal wished that there was some truth in the allegation). Some found the many pages devoted to 'original work' (much of it 'free verse' and untutored illustration) shallow or puerile.

Costs of production had doubled by '75, and the Society, as sponsors of the Magazine, finding that it was obliged to spend 70% of its annual available income on meeting them, negotiated for a more manageable arrangement.

The result was that the Summer, '75 edition reverted to the 'booklet' size (approx. Crown octavo) of four years earlier, that no 'original work' appeared and that the usual number of pages was reduced. Cheaper and lighter paper was employed. The Editorial for this number was pessimistic, but the editorial staff declared itself 'determined to keep *The Framlinghamian* alive in whatever form as a record of College life and as a method of contact between O.F.s and friends of the College throughout the world ...'

Now it might be supposed that in some insidious way the Society was crumbling, that falling numbers, cancelled matches, failure to volunteer to make up a team or even to turn up was somehow draining it of vitality. But this was not so. There were lapses, but they were no more than small eddies in the river's steady surge, and, what was more was that something could be learned from them.

The greatest threat to the Society, to any society, was, of course, falling numbers. It had long been felt that what is cruelly called 'natural wastage' was not being balanced by a healthy intake of school-leavers. When, in '75, Cmdr. John R. Simpson, R.N., was chosen as President (A.G.M.. Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, March), it being the seventy-fifth year of the Society's existence, among the toasts pledged at the Dinner was, of course one to the new President and one, with special reference to the year, to Alfred Pretty. The thoughts of some present turned not to the past, but to the future. What would the Society be like when another seventy-five years had elapsed? An answer, a satisfying answer, seemed to depend on recruitment.

To this end John Simpson published a Presidential letter in the Magazine (Summer, '75) outlining the advantages open to members of the Society and inviting participation. Here is part of it -

'... In this 75th Anniversary year of the Society, the Council have been thinking about what we need to do to ensure its continued vitality over the next 75 years. We believe that the overriding need is to draw more O.F.s into the activities of the Society and, in particular, those who have recently left the school. With this in view, we have taken the following decisions:

**Council:** O.F.s will have an opportunity, before the A.G.M. each year, of nominating candidates for election to the Council. Nomination forms will be printed in the Christmas issue of the magazine.

A representative (normally the Head Boy) of those leaving the school at the end of the Summer Term will be invited to attend Council Meetings as a co-opted member for one year.

**County Suppers:** The Society will stand half the cost of attending a County Supper for O.F.s in their first year after leaving. (For those of you who have not been to a County Supper, you are missing a good thing). It is too expensive to write to O.F.s individually on the off-chance that they might be interested but details are published in the magazine and the Supper Secretaries (addresses below) will be delighted to hear from you.

**Careers:** Over the years, many O.F.s have had a great deal of help from other members of the Society but, with the appointment of a new Careers Master at the College, we want to mobilise this help in a more organised way.

If you are willing -

to visit the College to give a talk or take part in a discussion (even if you are still under training yourself); to give an opportunity for a boy to spend a week or so to get the feel of a particular job;

to offer advice and counselling to individuals;

to offer openings;

please get in touch with me. At this stage we shall just be compiling a register of potential help and advice. Whether and when you are actually called on will depend on the needs of the school.

I should also be interested to hear from O.F.s, such as those leaving the Services or coming down from University, who would like help or advice in the choice of a career.

Finally, if you have any thoughts about what the Society could or should be doing, please write to me or Brom or any member of the Council'.

To make sure that no school-leaver failed to join the Society because he was unaware of what it offered a 'recruiting officer' was appointed in the person of John J. Maulden (1945-50). It was hoped that at the end of each school-year the President would find the opportunity to talk with potential members.

The President's open letter promised to make nomination for election to the Council a matter that could be considered well before an A.G.M., and, sure enough, a nomination form appeared in the next issue of the Magazine, the opportunity being taken to point out that election was for a period of three years, that retiring Council

members were not eligible until a further year had elapsed, and that Council meetings were held four times a year, in January, April, July and October, usually in London.

To make sure that no member missed the chance of attending a County Supper a list of organisers was, as Simpson promised, promulgated with his letter. And here it is -

Suffolk - Ben Thompson; Essex - Norman Bellamy; London - Andrew Moore; Herts. and Beds. - Tom Saul; Norfolk - Peter Liell

In short, the Society is easy to join; having joined you can have a hand in the way it is run; it has a lot to offer you; you may be able to help other members.

To the fanciful there is the smallest hint of the existence of a so-far unconsidered element that might be brought into play to increase the attraction of the Society. After the rugger match against the School in '72 ('Lost, 26-12. A fast game with the O.F.s tiring in the second half, playing up-hill') an informal Supper was held at the Melton Grange Hotel. There were 105 present. This was the first time girlfriends and wives were invited and it proved a great success.

In the following year when the O.F. Veterans competed at Bisley, as usual, (the 'D' team doing well) the report of their efforts included a telling observation: 'It was very nice to have a sprinkling of feminine support there'.

Perhaps the numbers of youthful applicants for membership of the Society had been falling off because they perceived that it lacked what Johnson called "the balm of labour" - female praise.

A concession was made to youth (or could it have been to all men whose girth has progressed with the years?) when, for the Annual Dinner of '74, the order of the day was no longer "Dinner-jackets", but 'Lounge-suits'. Economists might like to learn that prices also progressed with the years. In '72 the Dinner charge was £2.50 (we are now in 'new' money); in '75 it was £3.75; in '76, £4; in '77 it was £4.50. Instruction as to dress was subsequently left to choice - Dinner-jacket or Lounge-suit.

At this time the customary choice of restaurant for London Dinners was the Devonshire Stone House in Bishopsgate, but there was no automatic choice for the Framlingham area. The '71 Rugger Dinner was held at the White Hart in Wickham Market. It followed a hard game in which a strong team, raised by Brian L. Arthur (1952-58), had beaten the School, and though the occasion was classed as 'informal' and the assembly was naturally joyful there was propriety enough to give a fitting welcome to Laurance, Laurie, I. Rimmer, who had taken over the Headmastership on the retirement of Stanley Porter. The Chairman of the Governors was there, as was the Headmaster of Brandeston Hall and the Head Prefect, A.G.K. Knight (1963-72).

There was, however, a shadow over the evening at the remembrance of John H. Mayhew (1929-32), staunch O.F., with three brothers and three sons at the College, and of Tim Inskip, both of whom had died but a few days previously.

Major General Roland D. Inskip, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., 'Tim' Inskip, was a champion of the Society and of the School. He came to the College in 1894, his father being Headmaster, and left in 1902 for Sandhurst, service in India and in two

world wars [Details of this part of his career are to be found in his autobiographical Magazine article, Spring, '73, edited by Pat Howard-Dobson].

For the Society he ran the Overseas Bag, after Pretty; he conducted the Athlone Hall Appeal and served as President in 1954. He was a kindly, loved man, of great stature and sincere personality. Even in retirement he was a busy man, but, occupied as he was by his work for the British Legion and the College, he found time to collect foreign stamps for Brandeston boys.

He played cricket for Sandhurst, the Army and the O.F.s and he probably enjoyed (though he never endorsed) the legend that just as Albert Trott had hit a ball over the pavilion at Lord's so he himself batting on the Back had hit a ball over the School building.

Reginald Kirkman, remembered for his guidance of the School in the war years, and with a permanent memorial in the refurbished College chapel, and a place in the annals of the Old Framlinghamians' Lodge, died in '72, the year in which the Society made a presentation (a carpet for his study) to Stanley Porter. Lieut. Col. Alan C. Newson, D.S.O., D.S.C. (1920-28) was the chosen President for that year, and it was in the after-dinner speeches of the A.G.M. that Rimmer was able to disclose the uses to which some of the monies of the Frank Ziegele bequest would be directed. The fact is mentioned here because most old Old Boys have vivid but chilly recollections of their dormitories, and here was the Head describing how they would now be fitted with cubicles!

The splendid war record of Alan Newson, like that of Tim Inskip, deserves close scrutiny.

Major T.L. Farthing, Bursar, died suddenly in June, '73 - a distressing and serious set-back to the many College negotiations going on at the time, and a sore blow to his many friends. The Governors recognised his service and skills by naming the recently-purchased meadow (3H acres, adjoining the swimming-pool, £4,000) - the Penny-Farthing Field.

Perhaps the most grievous blow to fall at this time was sustained in '74. Readers of the account of the O.F. rugby match of '73 against the School will come across a passage of utmost poignancy, '... a College mistake led up to a ruck on their line from which B. Arthur slipped over for a try well-converted by Ellis ...' Brian Arthur and Bryan Ellis (1940-55), both members of a Bury St. Edmunds touring XV, were killed in the Paris air disaster of March, '74.

In their memory the Society and the School, after much discussion, set up the annual award for the most promising junior rugger-player in the College. The first presentation of the 'Ellis Arthur Prize', was made to B. George at the Suffolk Supper, this time held at the School, in November, '74.

This Supper was held following the match against the School (winners, 20-0; 'O.F.s outplayed') to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Rugger at Framlingham, V.G. Bromage, Brom, who played in the first match in 1924, kicking off. Hugh Harris Jones was the master at the College entrusted with making the change from soccer. He, too,

was a member of that XV in which Brom played. Unfortunately, his constant cry, 'Keep it going! Keep it going!', did not win the game for the School, who ('losing heart towards the end of the game') lost, 22.8, to Ipswich Town R.F.C. The recent death of Harris Jones was also remembered at the Supper.

It has to be said that the Council were dismayed to receive a letter from the Headmaster after the College Supper mildly deploring the behaviour of some of the younger O.F.s during the evening, and also quietly suggesting that the O.F. XV had not made full use of its talents.

In July, '75, the Society celebrated its 75th anniversary - by a cricket match against the School, tea on the Back, the Suffolk annual Meeting and a Ball in the evening, with a guest-list of Governors, Heads, Housemasters and administrative officers.

By happy chance O.F.s in New Zealand were trying to gather their forces for a meeting in this anniversary year. Thanks to the efforts of Bryan Bulpitt (1926-28) the first Dinner of N.Z.O.F.s was held in Wellington in July, '75. It was by no means a full house, but two stalwarts, Lloyd Kenyon (1926-29) and Oscar J. M. Ford (1936-41) were there, to everyone's pleasure, and were signatories to a message of anniversary congratulations to John Simpson, the President.

The Rhodesian Branch, too, held an Anniversary Dinner (Salisbury, Oct. '75; the 18th such Gathering). The principal guest was Mrs. Percy Pickard [Thirty-one years had passed since Group Captain Percy Charles Pickard, D.S.O., D.F.C (1926-32), had been killed in the breaching of the walls of Amiens prison. Those who survived the day honoured him for 'one of the finest exploits in the history of the Royal Air Force']. There was strong support; O.F.s and their wives were very appreciative of the letter of good wishes from John Simpson. Dr. Alan Dods (1927-32) was in the Chair, the Secretary was Alan Richardson, (1934-40), retiring after ten years in that office, and handing over to Guy Brooke-Smith (1941-44).

Over the period 1970-75 there was hardly a single sporting section of the Society that did not suffer or enjoy fluctuating fortunes. We find the Rifle Club confessing ('70) that its record in the Grafton Morrish Competition was 'abysmal', but considering '73 to be a more active year, with the new rifles and equipment given by the Society 'coming into their own'. In '74, shooting for the Fletcher Cup, the A team came 13th out of 22 entries, but C and D teams could raise only three marksmen instead of the required five. In '75, in spite of the reduction in the size of the target area (the bullseye at 500 yards being only 11 ins. Across), the C team came 2nd out of 13 entrants. Later on in that year 'we excelled ourselves' to win the 'Q' Cup.

The Hockey Club was obliged to admit 'lack of support' in '75, the Secretary, Martin Lamb nobly and generously suggesting that he himself was 'not blameless' - 'a certain amount of youthful enthusiasm being lost during each successive season!' His successor David Carr, however, thanked him for 'his great efforts in keeping the Club going. Undoubtedly without him we would be floundering by now'.

We have looked at little at the fortunes of the Golf Society, with R.J. Blyth's

becoming Captain and then Secretary. An eight-a-side match against the School in '75 seemed to indicate that the game was indeed flourishing, but even so the Society looked for 'keen and experienced players'.

At a different level the Old Framlinghamians' Lodge flourished unobtrusively. The loss of a founder-member ('70), Donald T Potter (1912-15), and of Reginald Kirkman was keenly felt, but growth in membership was steady, and successful meetings at the College, at Newmarket, Woodbridge and Great Yarmouth were well supported. A donation (£100) was made to the Norfolk O.F.s Squash-court fund.

Of the Branch Societies only that of Sussex seems to have foundered, after a successful meeting at Scaynes Hill in '70, the year when the Essex branch was celebrating its 40th anniversary (at The Spread Eagle, Witham), Norman Bellamy calling for a toast to its founders, H.J. Smith, L.M. Liell and L.S. Bellamy.

There were eighty-five O.F.s at the Annual London Dinner of '74. Among the guests was a member of the Governing Body on whose influence the School would presently place much reliance. This was Maj. Gen. S.B. Dye, C.B.E., M.C. The Governors were at the time considering the prospects of independence for the College - a momentous step - and looking forward to the summer of '75 when H.R.H. Princess Alice would formally declare open the new Sports Hall.

The A.G.M. which preceded the '74 Dinner gave approval to a change in the subscription rate for Life Membership (from five guineas to £10) and advised members that balance sheets would not be promulgated widely, but were available on application.

Two honours, personal, but enjoyed by the whole Society, were accorded to two past presidents - in '71 Air Commodore Sir A. De Vere Harvey became Lord Harvey of Prestbury, C.B.E., and in '74, a Knighthood, Lieut. Gen. Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, K.C.B.

In '75 Sir Pat and Kenneth Knight became Governors of the College, and John Simpson was welcomed to the Corporation.

## Chapter XIV

# Looking Backwards and Forwards, Independence and Persons of the Feminine Gender

**H**istory does not suddenly cease. When the Romans destroyed Carthage (in 140 B.C. - as every schoolboy knows) they not only removed brick from brick and stone from stone, they ploughed up the fertile areas and sowed them with salt. But scholars deny that Carthage died, and excavators and archeologists still prize open her story.

The Society did not cease to be, or even flounder when the year '75 was out. It is true that some, a few, members were wondering what the future held, what it could offer in a socially changing world, what the Society could do to attract or hold younger members, but roots sent down over seventy-five years were not likely to wither in ten. As '75 merged into '76 so the momentum of the Society asserted itself, and advances and setbacks, sorrows and joys, took their accustomed places in Time's procession.

When, at the college Speech Day of '74, the Earl of Stradbroke announced that with effect from the 1st of April, '75, the College would become an Independent School, he was releasing the outcome of hours of deliberation and months of anxious thought. The Society had not disassociated itself from the problems involved - there were, after all, O.F.s on the Governing Body - but neither had it initiated discussion nor launched a ballot.

It could, of course, be agreed, with good reason, that this was none of the Society's business, but the move did involve money, as we shall see in a minute, and if the Society was to help the College it was primarily (though far from totally) through money that it could do it. However, two bald statements in the Council's Annual Reports, indicate perhaps the depth of involvement. The first, '74, read, '... it was announced that Framlingham College would go independent" (to 'go independent" became the accepted expression. To 'assume independence" was thought a trifle pompous). The second statement, '75, was simply, "During the year Framlingham College became Independent'.

There were other things for the Society to ponder on, two, especially - the value and quality of the purveyor of O.F. news and views, the School Magazine, and the implications and rewards of the School's 'going co-educational'.

The deep consideration given by the Governors to the concept of independence had to do first with the financial benefits and disadvantages entailed in accepting the Direct Grant system, and then on the size and nature of the intake of pupils should

the system be abandoned.

Discussions had started as early as '71, but it was not until '74 that the Headmaster (Rimmer) submitted a report to the Governors. He believed the Direct Grant system was doomed. The East Suffolk Education Authority, which was already sending L.E.A. pupils not to the College but to the Thomas Mills Grammar School, was moving towards Comprehensive education; it was true that rejection of the Grant would entail an immediate loss of £47,000 a year, but to stay with it (and its demise was imminent) ruled out, by its regulations, the building-up of financial reserves, whereas independence would provide the opportunity to plan for a surplus of income over expenditure.

Some of the merits claimed for the Direct Grant were presented - and rejected - by the Headmaster: it led to a better mix than that to be found in independent schools; it bound local communities and did not encourage snobbery; the day-boy element brought a breath of fresh air and a different life-style from 'the old school tie Public School net'. These attributes could be dismissed as incentives to inverted snobbery or a complete nonsense, for any Direct Grant or independent school depended primarily on the personality or character of its leaders.

The Committee (led by H. Jim Smith) set up to consider these things came out firmly and conclusively:

If Framlingham was to remain anything like the kind of school which its founders and subsequent benefactors intended it to be, those responsible for its future dare not leave it any longer at the mercy of the state.

Direct Grant was under the sentence of death. If independence were delayed until that sentence was carried out it could well be too late to save Framlingham from closure.

Independence was feasible. It would not be without its problems and worries, but if the Governors, Headmaster and staff proceeded with courage and determination it would succeed.

Emerging inevitably from the discussions and the decision was the question of finance and the desirability of co-education for the College. It had come up in the Direct Grant discussions of '66 when the Governors felt bound to resist any proposal that could lead to the changing of the whole nature of the College. Now it must be faced again. Rimmer urged that, independence secured, there should not be inflexibility in ideas or approach, for in one or two years it might be necessary to take in more day-boys and to accept girls. Day-girls, said the Bursar, could probably be taken in immediately; room for boarders would probably not be hard to find.

While these matters were simmering, discussions on another topic, also having to do with independence, were occupying the Council. Since the early 70s there had been a growing dissatisfaction with *The Framlinghamian*, the School Magazine, and this uneasiness was not to be assuaged until '78 when O.F. news found publication, not in the pages of the magazine, but in an independent Newsletter. It was not so much

the literary qualities of the School journal that were in question but rather the expense incurred by the Society in honouring its agreement to pay half the cost of publication. The arrangement was that the Magazine should be of 40 pages (of which O.F. News should occupy 8), and if that number was exceeded, then the School must pay for the excess. This agreement was not always observed. There was, too, a more vexing matter: Tom Saul, Director of the Society-nourishing Overseas Bag, and fully aware that rising costs must be borne in mind when editing the dozens of letters he received, found that his editing was being edited and cut when it was no longer in his hands.

As to the quality of the Magazine, there were of course lapses, contributions under the heading, 'Original Work', coming heavily under critical fire. Sometimes there was no Editorial, sometimes no page-numbers, too often no index, and there was a trying period when there was an infiltration of affectionately shortened Christian names and names given in sportive familiarity, so we read of the exploits of 'Bertie' and 'Splodge' and 'Cyclops' - flattering, perhaps, to those named, but a source of irritation to the ill-informed reader.

One Council-member considered that the Magazine (presumably he meant the O.F. part) was of no interest to present College boys, and could not a News-letter be just as useful? Another, much later, was of the opinion that it was time to take drastic steps and [Glum reading, this, for Editors!] not to keep trying to produce a magazine which became quite inferior to other school magazines. One member made the point that a prospective parent, perusing a poor Magazine, would look elsewhere for a suitable school.

A committee was formed. Various suggestions for cutting costs were entertained - there should be but one issue a year, the paper should be thinner, less glossy, the page-size should be reduced, that advertisements should be accepted. This last suggestion was at length adopted, but not until '87. Neville Bromage nobly took on the duties of Advertising Manager, but the project did not catch on with businesses and was soon dropped.

The conclusion of the whole matter was the publication of a letter in the spring, '79, edition of *The Framlinghamian* -

**A Message to the Boys of the School from the President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians, Mr. G.C.H. Osborne**

For the first time you will not see any reference to the Old Framlinghamian Society in the School magazine. Please don't think the S.O.F. has suddenly gone into a decline. The Society continues to be very active, and, for reasons which have been previously explained, all O.F. news will be contained in our News Letter, published twice year (Spring and Autumn) - copies of which will be available in the Library and Reading Room. Please read it!

It is very important when you leave the College to keep in touch with your contemporaries and Framlingham. By joining the Society you can do both.

If you require information, contact me or the Hon. Secretary, Neville Bromage, whose address you may find at the back of the magazine.

Bobby Osborne

[Graham Osborne (1948-51) succeeded John Edwards as President after the A.G.M. of March, '79. His Officers were, Treasurer, John Horton (1956-60), replacing R.J. Overend, who, through pressure of work elsewhere, had had to resign, J.P. Davey, who was re-elected as Treasurer and Neville Bromage, who remained as Secretary].

The first *O.F. Newsletter* was published early in the year in accordance with the President's announcement, its first Editor being Piers Hedley, claiming to be a novice, acknowledging his editorial debt to H. Jim Smith and Overseas Bag editor, Tom Saul, and presenting a compact, well-informed journal, space being found for 'College News in Brief'. It was indeed brief, but at least it was there, and subsequent issues, some reproducing Speech Day reports, some very grudging with their College news (even the Duke of Norfolk's visit in 1980 failed to get a mention) were not unmindful of the mother institution. There was, alas, little or no reciprocity, and what the Society had done, was doing or hoped to do was rarely conveyed through the School's own magazine.

The *O.F. Newsletter* eventually (1990) became *The Old Framlinghamian Magazine*, and in spite of having always to be mindful of rising costs, has flourished exceedingly.

Of wider and deeper concern to the Society was the notion and possibility of co-education for the College, a project which emerged, as we have seen, from consideration of what lay ahead after independence had been achieved.

The first the Council heard officially of the concept was at a meeting in January, '76 when Jim Smith announced that the Governors were looking into the possibility of Girls going to Framlingham. [The Secretary, recording the minutes of that meeting, pays the girls an early and pleasant compliment by according to them a capital G. Girls]. He had been appointed Chairman of a sub-committee to investigate the feasibility of such a move. He pointed out that it would be from Brandeston Hall through the College and that both Headmasters were in favour of the scheme and that already the wife of a Governor had been co-opted on to the Committee 'to tell of the needs of girls in schools'.

He asked Council-members to let him have their views in writing and suggested that all members of the Society should be informed of what was in train and should be invited to express an opinion.

The sub-committee went to great lengths to gain information sufficient to present an all-embracing report. Visits were made to schools which were already wholly or partially co-educational; letters were sent to O.F.s and prospective parents, and observations were recorded at a debate conducted at the College (whose most senior boys were against co-education).

The report, though clearly favouring the introduction of girls, but technically disinterested, was presented to the Governors in June, '76. Of the 1,500 O.F.s who had been given the opportunity of presenting their views 59 replied. Thirty were in favour, twenty-nine (a few vehemently) were against.

In September, '76, three girls joined the College Sixth form; in March, '77 the

Rules of the Society were amended - Rules 3: 'All past references in these rules to persons of masculine gender shall be deemed also to include references to persons of feminine gender'. In September, '77 fourteen day-girls joined Brandeston Hall. At the end of their first term Ronald Jones, Headmaster was able to record, '... They have fitted in so easily that it might always have been thus'.

In happy days, would that time could stand still! But its unremitting process throws up the palatable and the unacceptable, the grievous and the joyous.

In '76 on Air Vice Marshal Aubrey Sidney-Wilmot, O.B.E. (1924-32), Director of Legal Services, R.A.F., was conferred the Companionship of Bath; in '77 Sir Pat Howard-Dobson became Quarter Master-General in the rank of General.

In July, '76, there died Sir Frederick Minter, G.S.V.O., in his 90th year, President of the Society in 1950, Governor of the College since '37, a man of wide interests, much influence and extraordinary generosity. A civil engineer and building contractor, he was able to make use of his vast experience in advising the Governors on major building issues. He gave more than advice - a fact to which the Minter squash-court bears witness.

Ventura George Bromage, 'Brom', died in August, '76, at the age of 67. He was at the School from 1924 to '26, played Hockey for the XI and was Captain of Swimming for two years. Honorary Secretary of the Society since '45, he became President in '57, but maintained his secretarial post until his death. First a member of the Corporation, he was elected to the Governing Body in '67.

His death was unexpected and sudden. Such was his commanding yet genial presence that it was hard to accept that so warm a personality could cease to be there to radiate sound advice and good will. In Old Boys' cricket and hockey he was a formidable and shrewd defender. In his various capacities within the Society, at meetings, in The Crown or The Plough and Sail, on the games-field, it would be true to say that he was not a member of the Society but, rather, that he was the personification of that affectionate Society itself.

At first, with the passing of Pretty and Bromage, there seemed to be withdrawn from the Society the reassurance of continuing stability. In the process of time whatever gaps they left were filled by what they had done and stood for and by the steady influence of the younger Bromage and succeeding Presidents.

With the strength of three quarters of a century of endeavour and achievement behind it the Society found itself with sure foundations but in an assuredly changing world.

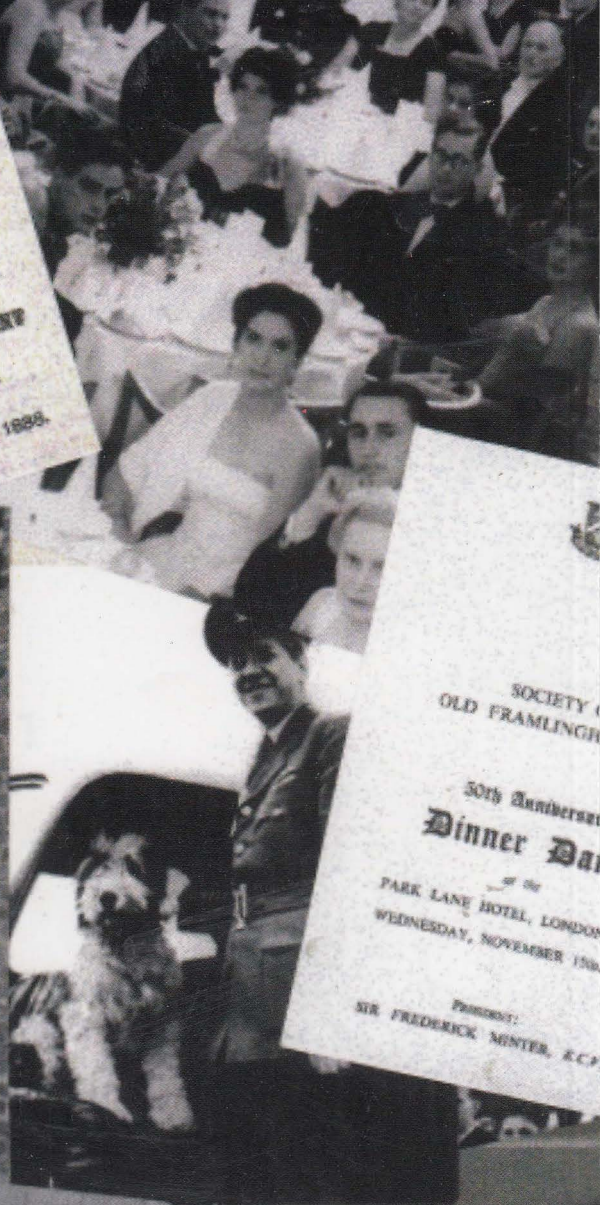
When the college celebrated its centenary in '64 the script of the Dramatic Retrospect was prefaced by a passage, simple but sincere, which, happily, might have been written for the Society today-

'You are the heirs of a great past, but the future is yours, and is your high responsibility.

Each of you must try to be a good citizen in a good city. To this end, you must make the best of all your powers. Strive to grow in strength, in knowledge

and in grace. If you persist bravely in this endeavour you will work worthily for your School, your Family, your Country and for mankind. So to live, in whatever sphere, must be noble and may be great.'

OLD  
**Framlinghamians' Club**  
First Annual Dinner  
AT  
**THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT**  
(PRINCE OF WALES SALON)  
Thursday, 8th January, 1888.



SOCIETY OF  
OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS  
50th Anniversary  
**Dinner**  
at the  
PARK LANE HOTEL, LONDON  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1888  
PRESIDENT:  
SIR FREDERICK MINTER, K.C.P.

