



Fig 1. A dated chest at Frampton Manor.
Courtesy of Mr Rollo Clifford.

Frampton Manor, Frampton on Severn

Friday 28 July

Frampton Manor's earliest wing (closest to the entrance gate) dates from the 15th century. This was (not much) later joined to a large cross-wing behind, probably originally a barn (the back now painted a deep red 'ruddle' colour). The ground floor is in stone, with jettied timber framing above. Handsome brick Tudor chimney pots crown one gable. The hall floor is reputedly French stone, shipped to Frampton as ballast in returning wool-trade ships. In the hall windows, stained glass shows the arms of Coddington, early owners. The house was restored in 1925, just when enthusiasm for such vernacular manor houses was at its peak.

The furnishings of the house reflect the romantic tradition of the manor house, standardised in the late 19th century. These include a variety of English and other European pieces, including a set of late 17th century French chairs with embroidered covers in the style of 'bizarre' silks, alongside an elegantly simple, small-scale set of English oak chairs with vase splats. The chest dated 1624, possibly original to Frampton, was examined carefully (Fig 1). Its immensely thick back rail (approximately 3in.) is unusual.

Our notes had alerted us to a longcase clock by Mark Metcalfe of Askrigg in north Yorkshire. A very fine and large lignum vitae wassail bowl showed no splitting, despite the thinness of its walls. In the drawing room, the chimneypiece was made from carved stone said to have come from Llanthony Priory Secunda in Gloucester. On the first floor, in the room now known as Rosamund's Bower, were a number of walnut and cane chairs of the late 17th century, one in the small adjacent room stamped HF. In the family sitting room was a child's oak chair carved with a Romyne head and a smartly painted early 19th century sofa, with polychrome decoration on a black ground. A number of 'neat' eighteenth-century mahogany pieces, and items from a set of satinwood seat furniture, were presumably items moved from Frampton Court in the course of the 20th century.

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