

## BARSTABLE HUNDRED – SCRIPT

### Picture 01 – Opening Screen and preamble.



This was the division of a 'Shire' for Administrative, Military and/or Judicial purposes under the Common Law of the time.

Introduced by the Saxons between 613 and 1017, a 'Hundred' had enough land to sustain approximately one hundred households, headed by a Eolder (Elder)' and defined as the land covered by one hundred 'Hides'.

The Office was not hereditary, but by the tenth century, selected from among a few families and within each 'Hundred' there was a meeting place where the men discussed local issues and Judicial trials were enacted.

Larger or more populous 'Hundreds' were split into divisions or 'Half-Hundred's'. All 'Hundred's' were divided into 'Tithing's' containing ten households.

Above the 'Hundred' was the Shire under the 'Shire-Reeve' (or Sheriff). Hundred boundaries were independent of Parish and County boundaries, although often aligned, meaning that a 'Hundred' could be split between counties, or a Parish could be split between 'Hundreds'.

### WHAT IS A 'HIDE' ?

The basic unit called a 'Hide' was enough land to support one family and varied in size from 60 to 120 'old acres' or (6 to 12 hectares) dependant on land quality and used to assess geld (tax). Each hide was divided into four parts, called Virgates.

### Picture 02 – Aethelstan.



Each 'Hundred' had a separate Council that met monthly on Judicial and Taxation matters.

The Domesday Survey of 1086, listed nineteen 'Hundred's, corresponding with those that we know and the 'hundred' of Witbrictesherna was re-named Dengie. (Dengie Peninsular or Dengie Hundred today).

### Picture 03 – The Parishes of Barstable at the first census in 1841.



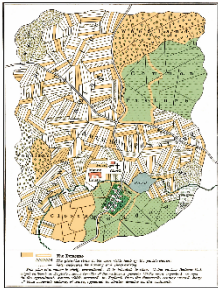
Up to 1844, the Parishes of Barstable total recorded population was just over 15,000 people.

Barstable or 'Berdestapla' means 'by a pole' indicating a meeting place. The Barstable Hundred then comprised of 35 Parishes.

There is evidence that the Saxons came to Essex, particularly place names ending in 'ing' and 'ham' whilst many of the rivers, the Stow, the Ter, the Cam, the Brain and the Layer are ancient British names.

The Manors of Barstable included those surrounding Canvey, namely Bowers Gifford, Corringham and South and North Benfleet with also parts of Thundersley.

#### **Picture 04 – Field plan or Demense.**



**Demense** - "Lord, Master of the household" was the land retained by the Lord of the Manor for his own use under his own management.

**Royal Demense** - Following the conquest, the King made immediate grants of very large parcels of land in the form of feudal baronies.

**Farm** - Thus for an annual fixed payment by him to the exchequer, known as "the Farm", the Sheriff was free to extract and retain whatever additional revenue he was able from the land "farmed."

**Tithing** - The group's leader or spokesman was known as a "tithingman". In modern times, these ancient 'hundreds' still mostly retain their historic boundaries.

#### **Picture 05 – People terms used.**



##### **Bordars and Cottagers -**

In England, the Domesday book of 1086, uses Bordari (Bordar) and Cottari (Cottager) deriving from the native Anglo-Saxon tongue where "border" derived from the French.

At the time of Domesday, England comprised of 12% freeholders, 35% Serfs or Villeins, 30% Cotters and Bordars and 9% slaves.

**Free-men** - or free-tenants held their land by one of a variety of contracts of feudal land tenure and were essentially rent-paying tenant farmers who owned little or no service to the Lord.

**Serfdom** - It was a condition of bondage which developed primarily in the Middle Ages in Europe and lasted in some countries until the mid-nineteenth century. Serfs formed the lowest class of feudal society.

**Villein (or Villain)** - They had more rights than the lowest class of serf but existed under different legal restrictions that differentiated them from free-men.

## Picture 06 – The ‘Reeve’.



Anglo-Saxon England, the Reeve was a senior official with local responsibilities under the Crown, for example as the Chief Magistrate of a town or district.

After the conquest it was an office held by a man of lower rank, appointed as manager or overseer of the peasants.

Different types of ‘Reeves’ were attested, high-reeve, town-reeve, port-reeve, shire-reeve (predecessor to the Sheriff).

## Picture 07 – TEXT ONLY LIST - The Parishes or Manors of Barstable.

Benfleet North	Basseldon Chappelry
Benfleet South	Laindon Hills
Bowers Gifford	Lee Chapel
Bulphan	Mucking
Great Burstead	Nevendon
Billericay Chapelry	Orsett
Little Burstead	Pitsea
Chadwell St. Mary	Ramsden Bellhouse
Doddinghurst	Ramsden Crays
Downham	Shenfield
Dunton	Stanford-le-Hope
Fobbing	Thundersley (part)
Horndon on the Hill	Little Thurrock
West Horndon	East Tilbury
Hutton	West Tilbury
Ingrave	Vange
Laindon	Wickford

## Picture 08 – A look at some of the Vange Parish history.



From what we read in Domesday Book about Vange it does not appear that there was any church there as early as 1089.

Indeed the very small number of inhabitants there at the time - twenty-three all told - would scarcely justify the building of a church.

The inhabitants evidently got a living by catching and selling fish, rearing sheep on the dry parts of the marsh, and by fees charged for grinding corn at their windmill.

## Picture 09 – Cash’s Well.



Its structure, resembling a Grecian Temple, was once out in the open, but now is amongst trees and deteriorating.

The mineral water was first obtained from a well sunk to the rear of Hovells Farm House, Vange in 1899, this farm house still

stands, is believed to have stood on its present site for around 400 years and a Mr King was the owner in 1899.

The water drawn from the well at this time, although seemingly clear, was found to have a peculiar taste and smell and when boiled left sediment at the bottom of the container.

Evidently Mr King used the water the following year (1900) for his cattle, when there were very dry conditions, the cattle thrived on the water for three months, and at the end of this period they were found to be in exceptional condition.

This came to the attention of Mr Edwin Cash who was the owner of a plot of land on higher ground to the south of Hovells Farm house.

He had a future commercial venture in mind as he approached Mr King with the intention of having a sample of the well water tested at his own cost, this was agreed. The water was found to be high in mineral content.

It was around the early part of 1920 that Mr Cash advertised his business address as; Vange Wells, Vange Corner Estate, London Road, Fobbing. A further bottle label of March 1923 indicates the company was registered and was advertised as; The Vange Water Co. Ltd, Foster Lane, Cheapside, London, EC2.

### **Picture 10 – The Old Manor House Thundersely. (Circa. 1920)**



In 1068 the 'Suen' (Sweyne) family, who were wealthy landowners in the Rayleigh area, were granted the Manor of Thundersley by William I.

Held 'until the disgrace of Suen's grandson, Henry of Essex, who forfeited the Manor due to cowardice in battle'.

It then reverted to the Crown, as royal parkland (hunting grounds). These lands had long been popular for hunting as wildlife proliferated on the wooded plains and ridges.

King John (reigned 1199 – 1216) in particular used to hunt in Thundersley. The hunting lodges were Jarvis Hall (probably what is now the old barn), and King John's palace, the site of which is thought to be down Kingston Way.

William Parr was Marquess of Northampton, and Earl of Essex. He was also the brother of Queen Consort Catherine Parr, the sixth and final wife of Henry VIII.

William Parr cut down and sold the trees on the land for use in building ships for the Royal Navy.

Perhaps an earlier Manor House was built in this decade of the sixteenth century, when the land was 'disparked' (the trees were cleared), as the date of the current Manor House is not known for sure, it is shown as c.1600 on the Grade II Listing.

William Parr was implicated in the plot to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne after the death of Edward VI in 1553, and was sentenced to death, by Mary I when she ascended to the throne.

This, however, was not carried out, and he was released in the autumn stripped of his land and titles.

In 1553, Mary gave the Manor of Thundersley to her First Lady of the Bedchamber, Susan Tonge, 'who was the youngest daughter of Richard White of Hutton and Maud Tyrell, the daughter of Sir William Tyrell of Herongate, Essex'.

Susan's family were also related by marriage to Sir William Petre of Ingatestone Hall, Essex.

### **Picture 11 – St. Mary the Virgin South Benfleet.**



The oldest part is the Nave which dates to around the 12th century.

Over the next 100 years, the Chancel was built; it later received various alterations and refurbishments in the 1400s. The three-stage west tower was the last stone section of the building to be built, in around the 1300s.

There were numerous repairs made in the 1600s and further refurbishments carried out in the 1800 and 1900s, most notably by the English architect Sir Charles Nicholson.



### **Picture 12 - St Mary's Church Wind Vane after repairs**



The vicar, asked the TV programme “The Repair Shop” if they would look at it. They agreed. On Wednesday 28th August 2019 it was taken to their HQ.

It was returned to the church on Saturday 25th January 2020 and the programme appeared on TV on Wednesday 24th January 2021.

The Repair Shop metal expert Dominic Chinea has done an amazing job of rescuing the wind vane. Our thanks to him and the programme.

### **Picture 13 - St. Margaret's of Antioch Church Bowers Gifford**



Prior to the Norman Conquest the lands were held by the Abbey of Westminster, and at the time of Domesday in 1086, the land belongs to Ralph Peverel and others.

The name Bowers Gifford probably originates from cottages that formerly belonged to William Giffard and are recorded in the feet of fines for the county in 1242.

It was a noble family, which later commemorated the death of Sir John Giffard, son of Richard, on a splendid brass. Six feet long, with unfortunately the head missing today, Sir John fought at the battle of Crecy in 1346.

Bowers Gifford was one of many parishes in the ancient Barstable Hundred, which extended broadly along Thames-side from South Benfleet and Canvey Island westwards to Chadwell and Little Thurrock.

The church stands close to old Bowers Hall, which estate was owned in more modern times by the Spitty family. Thomas Spitty yeoman farmer and churchwarden in 1754 lived at Bowers Hall, the traditional moated manor house for the successive squires of Bowers Gifford.

Thomas Spitty married Hannah Park of Thundersley Hall, and one of their two sons built the fine red-brick Georgian house on land that became Sadler's Farm. The farmhouse still stands today.

### **Picture 14 – St. Mary the virgin Bulphan**



The Saxon word 'fan' or 'fann' has changed over the years to 'fen', meaning low, marshy land or a low-lying district. Bulphan has retained the sound 'phan' although it is sometimes spelt Bulvan.

At the time of the Domesday survey it was called Bulgenen meaning marshland in a fortified place. The land at Bulphan belonged to the Abbey of Barking.

By the reflux of the tide, considerably overflows the countryside producing the marsh lands of Orsett and Bulphan fens; and there is a tradition that formerly, in high tides, boats could sail up this stream as far as Orsett Hall.

Bulphan is rich in moated houses. On Ingrave Road are Garlesters and Appletons Farm (15th century) (now Ye Olde Plough House Motel) and Spring Farm on the Orsett Road which is moated on 3 sides.

The first parson was Peter de Elm 1290 to 1292 and the first Rector was Reginald de Gatcomb 1303. The present church of St Mary the Virgin was built in the 15th century.

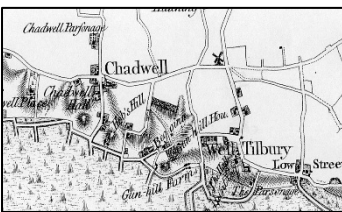
### **Bulphan Hall**



The hall stood east of the church and further east the Manor House known as the Wick, where lived Edward Bury, gentleman of the Kings Bedchamber and Justice of the Peace.

In 1540 under Henry VIII Bulphan's fertile grassland was transferred to him. Along Fen Lane is Brandon Hall, the former Rectory, in Victorian Gothic red brick.

### **PICTURE 15 - Chadwell St. Mary**



The southern part of the parish was originally a natural salt marsh adjacent to the River Thames which is tidal and saline at this point.

Decaying vegetation together with mud and silt from the river were deposited from the end of the most recent ice age until the marshes were reclaimed sometime before the 14th century.

Biggin is a late medieval hamlet on the edge of the marshes that was part of the traditional parish and remains so ecclesiastically (in terms of Anglican church).

Not much is known of the occupation in Chadwell until the Saxon period of British history. Artifacts found (some of which are in the local museum in Grays) show that the area was inhabited in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

It is known that there was a sizeable non-military Roman settlement to the south of the road between Chadwell and West Tilbury.

In the early Roman period, sea-levels dropped, making the marshes inhabitable and there may have been a Roman settlement on the site of what is now Tilbury Docks.

### **Picture 16 – St. Mary Chadwell St. Mary.**



#### **Origins of the parish name**

The place-name 'Chadwell' is first attested in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it appears as *Celdewella*, meaning 'cold spring'. 'St Mary', referring to the parish church, was added to the name in Victorian times to reduce confusion with Chadwell Heath.

There is, however, another more romantic, but less academically respectable story as to how the name of Chadwell originated.

Mercians, whose bishopric was at Tilbury. He built churches in several places, two of which were at Ithancester (Bradwell on Sea) and Tilbury.

The church at Bradwell, St Peter on the Wall, is still standing, but the site of the church at Tilbury is not known. Cedd was one of four brothers, all of whom were priests, the others being Chad, Caelin and Cynibill.

Although St Cedd was certainly active in the Thurrock area, there is no evidence that Chad ever visited Essex.

The confusion may have arisen because a large part of what we know today as Tilbury was in the Parish of Chadwell St Mary; indeed until the early part of the 20th century St Mary's was the Parish Church for the developments around Tilbury Docks.

#### **Manors**

The Domesday Book records, that at the time of the survey, the Bishop of London and Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux held the two manors in this parish.



Later the land was divided into four manors, Chadwell, Ingleby, Longhouse and Biggin (the last three names are kept in perpetuity by local road names).

The manor of Ingleby was bought by Peter Symonds in the 1580s and was bequeathed by him to found Christ's Hospital in Winchester.

The Manor of Longhouse, otherwise Chadwell Place, is first mentioned in the reign of Henry VI (1422-1461) and was held by Sir Thomas Tyrell on his death in 1476.

The Manor of Biggin originally Byggynge was on the lefthand side of the road from Chadwell to Little Thurrock.