

Bradford on Avon Museum

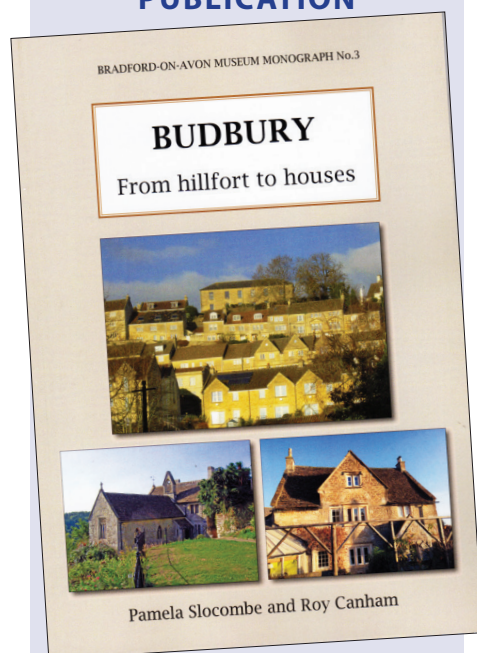
The *Museletter*



Spring 2019

www.bradfordonavonmuseum.co.uk

MUSEUM'S LATEST PUBLICATION



The first section of this new museum booklet is on the archaeology of Budbury from the prehistoric to the medieval periods and is by Roy Canham, formerly Wiltshire County Archaeologist. The rest of the chapters cover the written history of the area from the medieval period to the 20th century. Budbury manor, which included Newtown and the hillside above, Wine Street, Winsley Road and Bearfield, had fields stretching west to Ashley. This part of the booklet is by Pam Slocombe using surveys and research carried out for the archive of Wiltshire Buildings Record with additional material from Roger Mawby, Peter Mann, Margaret Dobson and others.

At the end of the Saxon period Budbury manor was held directly under the king by a thane or knight. The manor house, today 4 Budbury Place, was rebuilt in the 15th century, probably by Robert Ashley, a prominent man who became MP for Wiltshire in 1419.

The later history is linked to the careers of the clothiers Paul and Anthony Methuen and George Bethel. Later still, the Jones family of quarrymen and builders played their part by exploiting the underlying stone and starting the house-building which would dominate the whole area in the 20th century.

A Bradford-made clock

On a damp and misty day the Hon. Curator ventured across the Severn Bridge and up narrow lanes on the steep slopes of the Wye valley beyond Tintern. His mission was to collect a long-case clock from a cottage on the hillside.

Old directories show a number of clock and watch makers operating here through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. A clock that was made in Bradford on Avon has been close to the top of the Museum's wish-list for many years.

So, it was particularly exciting to have an email enquiry via the Museum's website regarding a local long-case clock and, during subsequent correspondence, to find that the owners generously wished to donate it to the Museum.

What we have is a 30-hour long-case clock that was made here by Joshua Rudd in the 1750s or 1760s, in an oak case that may have been made a little later in the 18th century. It has a brass face, decorated with decidedly naïve engravings of sun, moon, flowers and birds and shows hours, minutes and the day of the month.

There seems to have been a whole family of clock and watch makers called Rudd. Joshua sr. and his wife Rose had six children who were christened at Holy Trinity parish church between 1737 and 1752; he died in 1780. There is a long case clock in The Hall which he made in 1769 and other clocks by him are known. His eldest son, Edward, was born in 1742 and was working in Melksham from at least 1766 and died in 1786. Joshua jr. was the fourth child and was probably born around 1745 and, if he made clocks in Bradford, would have finished his apprenticeship in about 1766. Another Rudd, Tillum Rudd, was working in Warminster in the 1760s.

The booklet has 80 pages and is fully illustrated. It is priced £7.50. A launch will be held on 30th March from 10.30 and 12.30pm after which copies will be available from the Museum, Ex Libris bookshop or Valerie Holden at Budbury, telephone 01225 869159.

It had been inherited from Katharine MacKean, who once ran the "China Hen" antique shop in Woolley Street with Elizabeth Stephenson. The pair are revered today as leading lights in the formation of the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust and the "Hens Orchard", next to the Tithe Barn at Barton Farm, is named in their memory.

Of course, fitting another thing into the Museum's cramped space meant some emergency rejigging. Two large pictures had to be moved along and, unfortunately, a 19th century print of The Hall and an oil painting by Sir Ambrose Elton have had to be relegated to a cupboard.

Roger Clark



Deer Parks of the Bradford Hundred

Hunting was a popular pastime for England's Saxon and medieval rulers. King Canute, who reigned between 1016 and 1035, forbade others to hunt on his land whilst allowing them the freedom to hunt on theirs. Norman kings however, set aside large areas, known as forests, where only they could hunt deer and boar, which were governed by draconian Forest Laws to protect deer and to deter poaching. The Saxons used deer-folds to hold deer before a hunt but the Normans went one step further by establishing parks where deer were bred and hunted.

Before 1272 landowners outside a forest could create their own hunting park whilst landowners within a forest needed to obtain a licence to empark from the monarch which allowed them to hunt 'Beasts of the Chase', red and fallow deer and wild boar. Eating and gifting venison was a significant status symbol and deer were often caught in nets and then killed rather than being hunted with dogs. After 1272 a licence was required to establish any park.

Other wild animals were covered by a grant of 'Free Warren' which allowed landowners to hunt 'Beasts of the Warren', roe deer, hares, rabbits, foxes and wild cats anywhere on their own land. The Abbess of Shaftesbury was granted Free Warren over her lands including Bradford on Avon in 1293.

Evidence for the existence of Norman deer parks or Saxon deer-folds can be found in place and field names. These may contain not only the obvious park or chase but also leapgate, hedge, rail and stile. A leapgate was a section of lower fence combined with a ditch and bank which allowed deer to jump over the fence, while restricting the movement of sheep and cattle. These sometimes allowed movement in both directions but more often only allowed entry into a park. Hedge and rail refer to the type of barrier which topped the earth mound created when the ditch was dug around a park. Stiles allowed people but not deer to cross the park boundary.

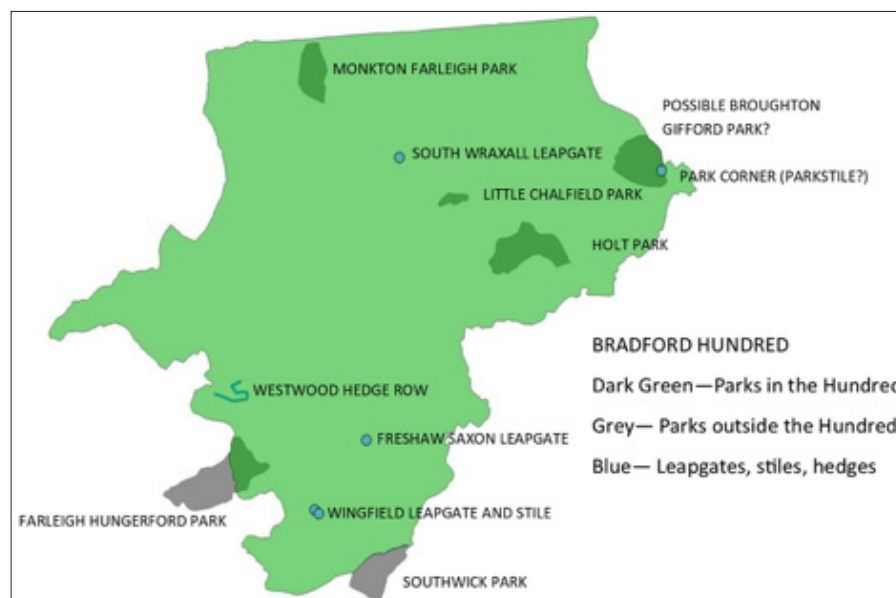
Bradford was a royal estate on the borders of ancient Selwood Forest before the year 1001. A Charter from King Aethelred in the year 987 granted the estates of Westwood, Wittenham and Rowley to his huntsman Leofwine. These estates had a leapgate on the boundary between Westwood and Trowle. This leapgate was apparently still being maintained in 1190 when Hetholf of Trowle was allowed to

pasture four oxen on the hill in return for maintaining a leapgate using the Abbey's timber. Bradford's charter of 1001 also has a leapgate on its boundary between Holt and the River Avon. Wingfield has two adjacent fields, Lip (from leapgate) Mead and Corner Stile, and South Wraxall has a Lippotts Hill. There is a significant group of hedge field-names (Hedge Row) bordering Avoncliff Wood in Westwood, which indicates that this particular hedge was notable for some reason. A strong case can be made that this is the 'pasture hedge' which is mentioned in the Charter of 987. It would then have prevented deer from straying from the wood onto the farm land to the south, as well as preventing animals from straying into the wood. All these instances suggest pre- and post-conquest deer management although there are no references to medieval deer parks in these areas.

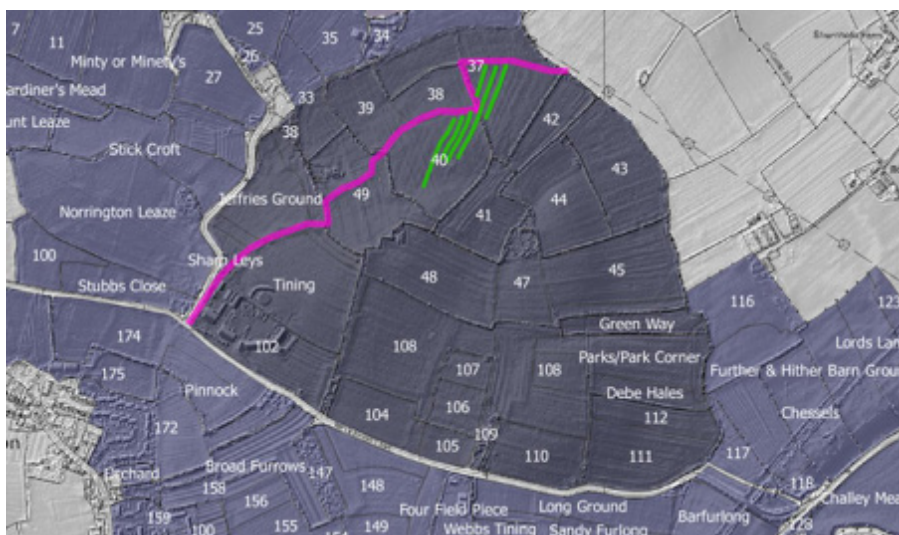
Selwood Forest was expanded in the 12th and 13th Centuries to include Bradford, Wingfield, Wittenham, Rowley, Trowle, Pomeroy, Limpley Stoke and Westwood. Forests were controlled by wardens and Selwood in Somerset and Selwood in Wiltshire had their own separate wardens who appointed Foresters and Verderers to manage the venison (deer and boar) and vert (trees and scrub) in the Forest. Thomas Hungerford had acquired the hereditary position of Warden of Selwood in Wiltshire in 1380 and it stayed with the family until 1540. A strip of land called Foresters Lane survives in Rowley (now Wingfield), corrupted to Voristers Lane Piece.

Monkton Farleigh has Park Mead, Park Furlong and Park Wood fields, reminders of the de Bohun's park there which was included in the foundation endowment of the Priory in the 1130's. Adjoining the park are six Park Hill fields and Rail Moore in South Wraxall, although Rail Moore, recorded in 1784, has become Rodmoor on the Tithe Map in 1841. Holt has fields called Great and Little Parks. John de Holt had established a park in Holt by 1316. The de Holts had been granted Free Warren in 1252. There are also park fields in Wingfield, but these are named for their proximity to the unlicensed park of Adam de Grenville in Southwick recorded in 1246. This park was near the modern Southwick Country Park, and contained Park Farm, although there is always a possibility that it may have incorporated some Wingfield land at one time. Rowley-Wittenham, now in Somerset, has Wiltshire Park Farm, a reminder that Farleigh Hungerford Castle's deer park was expanded into Rowley-Wittenham's Iford Field at some time after 1428. There must have been a leapgate in the park boundary as a document of 1786 refers to land under Wiltshire Park Wall being held 'under the ancient claim of a Deerleap'. At least a portion of Farleigh Hungerford park on the eastern side of the Frome had been returned to agriculture by 1583, when a lease refers to '1/2 acre in Iford Field by the park pale'.

No medieval park is recorded in Broughton Gifford. However, Park Corner field is recorded on a map made in 1724, on the boundary of the parish. If this is linked with an earlier 1397



Bradford Hundred with 1425 boundary



Tithe Map fields of 1841 with Tithe numbers or names when known with LIDAR superimposed

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reference in the Tropenell Cartulary to a 'Parkstile' in Broughton Gifford, then it suggests the existence of a park within Broughton Gifford as no parks are recorded on the other side of the parish boundary in Melksham Hundred. The park boundary can be inferred by looking at the modern layout of roads, streams and field boundaries together with LIDAR images. (LIDAR creates a very detailed image of local height variations in the landscape).

The darker area shows the possible extent of the park using roads and the stream as boundaries, but the LIDAR image shows a feature following the pink line which may be the remnants of the park boundary. The pattern of ridge and furrow cultivation highlighted with the green lines can be explained if an earlier larger common field made up of fields 37, 38 and 40 was cut by the park boundary. The ridge and furrow was then preserved in rough pasture

on the park side, whilst outside the park the pattern has been lost because of continuing cultivation.

The park is most likely to have been established by John Giffard, who held Broughton Gifford manor from the de Dunstanville family from 1268 to 1299. John Giffard had been granted Free Warren in 1281 and the grant of Free Warren and the establishment of a park were often connected.

Deer parks continued to proliferate as status symbols throughout the medieval period and only started to decline in number after the Civil War. Later parks, like Little Chalfield's, were more concerned with establishing a pleasing rural landscape, with or without deer. It had a 'Deer Parke' in 1714, but 100 years earlier the field had been named Culverhouse Field.

Rob Arkell

Museum AGM 14th March Summary Report

There were several Museum activities, that took place over the past year, highlighted at the AGM. These were:

- March/April 2018 - Millennium Embroidery Exhibition in Library Meeting Room
- June – Iron Duke cleaned and paint touched up
- July – Museum Stall at Holy Trinity Street Fair
- July-Sept – Brylcreem & Biscuits Shops Exhibition and Quiz
- Sept-Dec – Helping to catalogue the Moulton artefacts at the Hall
- Oct-Nov – Countdown to Peace Exhibition and wreath laying
- October – Annual Museum Lecture with Phil Harding at St Margaret's Hall
- Dec – Christchurch School visit to Museum by 64 pupils
- Dec – participation in HTC Christmas Tree Festival
- Jan 2019 – Annual Stewards Party with food, drink and Quiz!

I drew attention to the amazing work that has been done at Budbury, culminating in the book *Budbury* being published now (see front page). Some Museum Trustees met Heather Perry, Wiltshire Conservation & Museums Manager based at the Chippenham History Centre, in January 2019 to discuss the future of our Museum. A meeting with Town Councillor Simon McNeil-Ritchie also took place in February, when the need for larger, more prominent and accessible museum premises was emphasised.

Trustees have been developing the Museum's Business Plan, partly in preparation for our next Accreditation review, and allocating 'Lead Responsibilities' to assist the smooth and efficient management of our Museum. The Museum Research Group continues its valuable activities at Holt, and Roger continues to manage the Museum, as well as add material to the Museum's website. The site has received many deserved plaudits. A Trustee retired last year, so we do need a replacement volunteer to take on responsibility for Education and also someone to lead Events. Please consider offering to help. Finally, I gave my sincere thanks to the committed, knowledgeable, willing and able group of people, be they Trustees, Curator, Stewards or supporters, who ensure that, throughout the year, our Museum remains a valuable & valued asset for our town.

Mervyn Harris, Chairman

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Would you like to help run our Museum? Do you know someone who might?

We are always looking for ways to improve our Museum and widen the scope of what we can offer our visitors and our community. We are seeking two new officers, one to have a particular role in education, liaising with schools, and using the museum's resources to stimulate curiosity and learning about our town and the Bradford Hundred. The second role is to identify and plan events that will present the Museum's work more widely and help raise its profile. These office holders would work with, and be supported by, the current Trustees.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in either of these roles, please contact Valerie Holden 01225-869159, or mail to: vjholden@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Memberships run from 1st January each year. The subs are:

Individual member: £15
Family membership: £20

Cheques or cash can be sent to Chris Dale (treasurer); or Kate Turnbull (membership), whose contact details are given below.

For those who pay by standing order this can continue to be on the anniversary of joining.

If you haven't already set up a standing order, could you consider doing so now? This can be done via on-line banking (if you have this) to

Bradford on Avon Museum Society
Sort code: 30 98 75
Account number: 50243560

And please give your name as the reference (or, if you prefer, contact us for a standing order form). Thank you.

We are issuing annual membership cards now, which will secure your Member's discount at events and talks; and there will be an opportunity to check/amend your details.

Thank you for your continuing support which is vital to the Museum's future.



Bradford on Avon Museum

Volunteers are at the heart of all we do

JOIN OUR THRIVING STEWARDING TEAM!

Can you help?

- 2-hour sessions
- You choose which sessions you wish to do
- Full training and a comprehensive guidance pack are given



The rewards are numerous!

- Meet interesting visitors
- Learn more about the history of our town
- Play a part in preserving the town's rich heritage
- Social events for you to enjoy

If you are interested please contact:

Peter Mann, Trustee – Bradford on Avon Museum
E: petermann46@btinternet.com T: **07779 347962**

<http://www.bradfordonavonmuseum.co.uk/>

DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion Groups cover a wide range of subjects, and if you haven't been along to a session yet, do try it out.

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Library Meeting Room, and are FREE to members (please remember to bring along your Museum membership card!) Non-members can attend one session before being asked to join. If you know of someone who isn't a member, do bring them along – it's a great introduction to the Museum.

2019 sessions:

Wednesday 3rd April

Stately Homes in Miniature: an introduction to Wiltshire Gate Lodges

Led by James Holden

Wednesday 1st May

Sidney Meade, Curate of Christ Church (His Scrapbook and Frankleigh House)

Led by Ivor and Pam Slocombe

Wednesday 5th June

A Dry Pub Crawl Around Bradford

Led by Roger Clark

Wednesday 3rd July

Bradford on Avon's Memorial Baths

Led by Kate Turnbull

Wednesday 7th August

NO MEETING

Wednesday 4th September

Interactive Historic Landscapes

Led by Roy Canham and Ritchie Brown

Wednesday 2nd October

Henry 'Orator' Hunt and the Peterloo Massacre

Led by Derrick Hunt

Wednesday 6th November

The Early Woollen Industry in Bradford on Avon

Led by Rob Arkell

Wednesday 4th December

Local History Question Time (sort of Gardener's Question Time meets Antiques Roadshow)

Our Panel: Roy Canham, Roger Clark, Ivor Slocombe and Pam Slocombe

If you would like to offer to lead a session in 2020, please contact

Kate Turnbull (Museum Trustee) on 01225 866328 or at

turnbullke@googlemail.com.

Museum Trustees:

Chris Dale (Hon. Treasurer): 862198

Mervyn Harris (Hon. Chairman): 863440

Sophie Hawke: 863934

Valerie Holden (Hon. Secretary): 869159

Peter Mann: 07779 347962

Ivor Slocombe: 862525

Kate Turnbull (Membership): 866328

Honorary Patrons

Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett, (President)

John Banks (Vice President) Doreen Ellis (Vice President)

Additional Office Holders:

Roger Clark (Hon Curator): 865785

Roger Jones (Newsletter) 865191

Stewards' Organisers:

Peter Mann: 07779347962

Gillian King: 866387