

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO.12 February 2022

The AGM

The AGM took place in the Methodist Hall as planned on the 18th January with a reasonable attendance in the circumstances. The business was dealt with in 19 min with all three of the sitting officers and the returning committee being re-elected. A draft of the minutes of the meeting may be viewed at www.bradwellhistoricalsociety.org.uk. The meeting was followed by a musical quiz in which familiar tunes were played in different languages. The challenge was to 'Name that language and the tune'.

Up-coming events

We now move on to the first of our Tuesday meetings this month. You will have seen the programme that we will have a double act (following on from Gordon Scott and Jen Lockhart) when Paul and Liz Downing will be telling us about 'A Cortijo in Southern Spain'. Paul writes: Some history of the Sierra de la Contraviesa region in Adalucia, a region which we have come to know and love, including some longer term history of the development of southern Spain. An attempt to impart to the audience what it is like to live in this area and a little bit of history of the house (cortijo). The meeting takes place at 8 pm in the Methodist Hall on Tuesday 16th February.

There will also be a meeting of the BHS Committee at 7.30 pm on Monday 31st January in the Shoulder of Mutton.

Renewing your membership of the Bradwell Historical Society

A reminder, if you haven't already done so, to renew your membership of the Society. The membership fee remains at £10 for the coming year. Once more the most convenient way to pay will be a BACS bank transfer. The payment should be made to the Bradwell Historical Society and the details are as follows - *Sort code:* 16-15-15 *Account number:* 10004599. Please make sure when you make the transfer that you are clearly identified as the person who is making the payment. Should this not be suitable for you the Treasurer will accept cash ((preferably) or a cheque at the meeting on the 16th February.

Domesday Book

The Society has received the bequest of the 1982 three volume limited edition of the Domesday Book for Derbyshire (or Derbyscire – better than Snottinghamscire!). It came from former member Max Turner whose intention was that it should be available for members to consult. It is however a weighty and valuable collection of tomes and we are considering the best way to make it available but at the same to keep it secure. We will let you know when it is available to you. In the mean time we've extracted the section of the transcript relating to the land of William Peverel that included Bradwell (Bradewelle – but the modern names are given in this transcript). Words difficult to read in the original manuscript are given in square brackets [].

VII. THE LAND OF WILLIAM PEVEREL

- M • In BOLSOVER Leofrichad 3 carucates of land to the geld. [There is land for 4 ploughs]. There are now 2 ploughs in demesne; and 14 villans and bordars having 4 ploughs, and 8 acres of meadow. [There is woodland pasture 2 leagues long and 1 broad.] TRE worth 40s.; now 60s Robert holds it.
- M • In GLAPWELL Leofrichad 1 carucate of land to the geld. [There is land for 1 plough.] There 8 villans have 2 ploughs. TRE worth 20s.; now 40s Serlo holds it.
- M • In 'SNODSWICK' [in MORTON] Healfdene had half a carucate of land to the geld. [There is land for] 1 plough. There is now 1 plough in demesne; and 6 villans and 1 bordar have 3 ploughs. There is the site of 1 mill, and woodland pasture 1 league long and 4 furlongs broad. TRE worth 40s.; now 20s. Drogo holds it.
- M • In SOUTH NORMANTON Ælfheah had 2 carucates of land to the geld. [There is] land for 2 ploughs. There is now 1 plough in demesne; and 6 villans and 1 bordar with 1 plough. There are 5 acres of meadow, [and] woodland pasture 1 league long and 4 furlongs and 2 furlongs broad [sic]. TRE worth 20s.; now 10[s]. Edwin holds it.
- M • In SHIRLAND and in UFTON FIELDS Leofric had 2 1/2 carucates of land to the geld. [There is land for as many ploughs.] There 5 villans and 1 bordar have 2 ploughs. [There is woodland pasture 9 furlongs long and 4 broad. TRE worth 16s.; now 10 s 8d. Warner holds it.

6M • In CODNOR and HEANOR AND LANGLEY [in Heanor and 'Smithycote' and in Codnor Park] 8 thegns had 7 carucates of land to the geld. [There is land for as many ploughs]. There are now 3 ploughs in demesne; and 11 villans and 2 bordars and 3 sokemen having 5½ ploughs. There is a church, and 1 mill [rendering] 12d., and 35 acres of meadow, [and] woodland pasture 2 leagues long and 3 furlongs broad. TRE worth £4.; now 41s 4d. Warner holds it.

2M • Arnbiorn and Hundingr held the land of William Peverel's castle in CASTLETON. These men had there 2 carucates of land to the geld. There is land for 2 ploughs. There are now 4 ploughs in demesne; and 3 villans with plough, and 8 acres of meadow. TRE worth 40s.; now 50s.

5M • In BRADWELL Lyfing and Sprot and Owine had 2 carucates of land to the geld. [There is] land for 2 ploughs. There are now 2 ploughs in demesne; and 8 villans have 2 ploughs. TRE worth 20s.; now 30s.

M • In HAZELBADGE and LITTON Leofwine had 3 ½ carucates of land to the geld. [there is] land for as many ploughs. There is now 1 plough in demesne; and 3 villans with half a plough. There are 2 acres of meadow and a little scrubland. TRE worth 20s.; now 4s.

3M • In [Great and Little] HUCKLOW Earnwig, Hundolfr [and] Wulfric [had] 2 carucates of land to the geld. [There is] land for 2 ploughs. It is waste.

M • In ABNEY Swein had 1 carucate of land to the geld. [There is] land for 1 plough. It is waste.

M • In [?] NETHER WATER Icofwine had a carucate of land to the geld. [There is] land for 1 plough. It is waste.

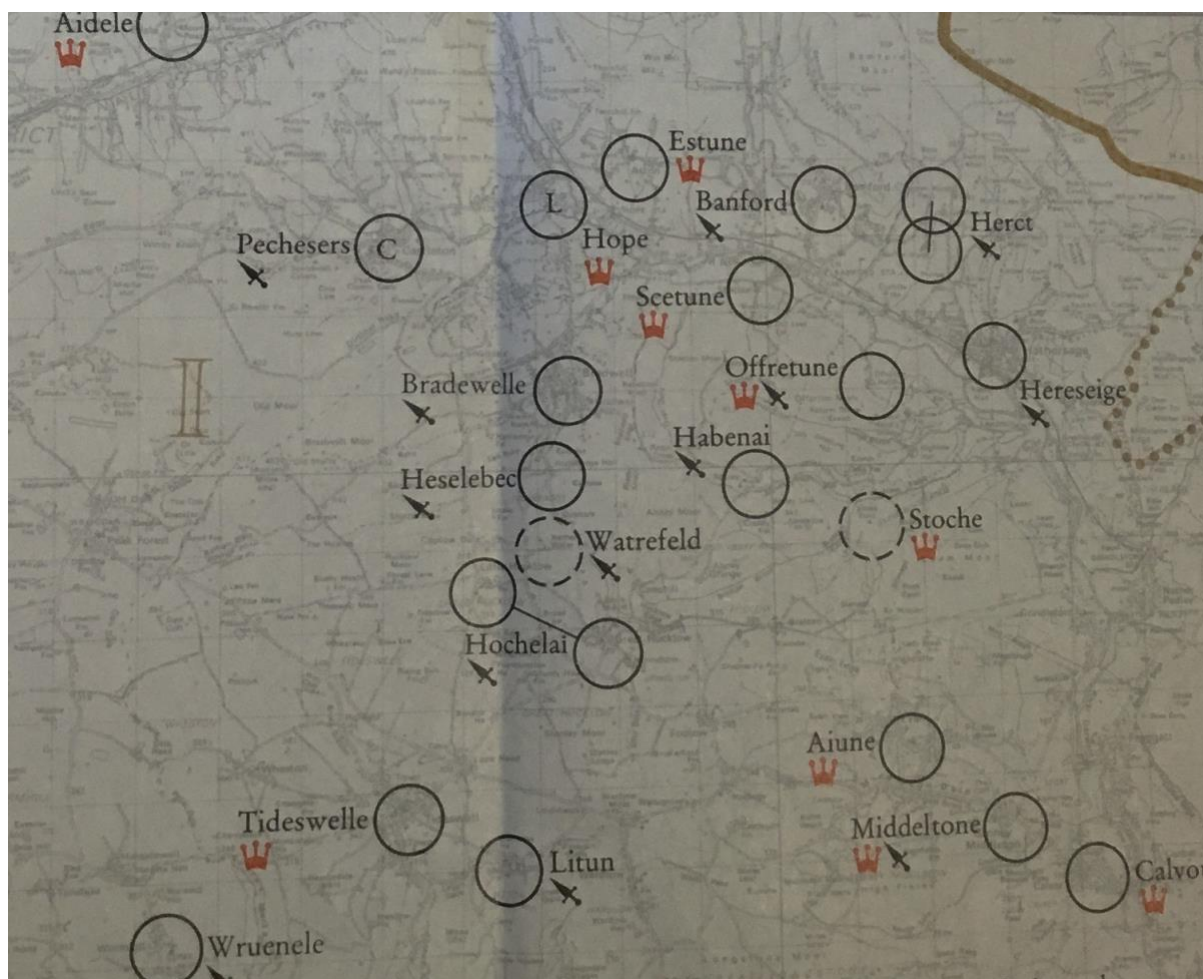
Land was held by the king or by his nobles under him. William Peverel had land in Derbyshire (as we see) but also in Nottingham (including Nottingham Castle – William was a castle builder). In all he held over 100 manors. Land was rented out to peasants who were freemen or sokemen (free but obliged to attend their Lord's court). At the next level down were villans who were nominally free inhabitants of a village and below them socially were bordars. The land in a demesne was the personal possession of a Lord, used to support that Lord rather than the tenants working it.

Needless to say the whole exercise had a tax collecting background. The tax payable was based on the land held and was referred to as 'geld'. A standard unit of land measure used to assess geld (tax) was the hide. In parts of the north term carucate was used in some areas to assess tax rather than the hide. The carucate

was the area of land equal to the amount that could be worked by a team of eight oxen. Just to add to the complication the term 'plough' can also be applied to an area of land that can be worked by 8 oxen. It seems that these standard areas of land were roughly equivalent to 120 acres.

When data for the Domesday Book was being collected the value calculated was compared with valuation of 1066 when Edward the Confessor was king (*TRE – tempore regis Edwardi*)

So when we see the notation under Bradwell it indicates there were 5 manors (5M but seems a lot). The freemen were Lyfing and Sprot and Owine had. There were 2 carucates of land. There was land for 2 ploughs and there were 2 ploughs. The villans hold 2 ploughs. Finally the value of the land in Bradwell had inflated by 50% since 1066.



A map showing by circles the manors of part of North Derbyshire. The red crowns shows those held by the king, those with the sword were held by William Peverel. The C in the circle indicates a castle and the L lead workings. Overlapping circles and circles joined by lines show places sharing the same name but related as Great and Little or Upper and Lower. The background is a faint version of a recent OS map.