

## CUSTOMAL c1245

Between 1239 and 1245, William de Guineville, a most efficient Proctor-General, caused customals to be drawn up for the Bec manors. Later they were bound into a book now kept in the British Library (add. MS 24316). Customals listed the *services* which tenants of the manor performed *by custom* for their lords.

### CUSTOMS OF THE MANOR OF RUISLIP - GILBERT ALDRED

(Gillebertus Aldred holds) half a hide of land for . . . *12 lines illegible* . . .

Item, from the feast of St Peter ad Vincula<sup>1</sup> to Michaelmas<sup>2</sup> he must reap three days a week with one man, wherever required, or do whatever work the lord wishes him to do, without maintenance. And if he carries for his work from the fields beyond the grange of Bourne he must carry a wagonload of corn or two cartloads, and if from the fields on this side of the said grange two wagonloads of four cartloads. He must also at the first boon day<sup>3</sup> of harvest time find one man to reap and [he shall] have maintenance. And so at the second boon day he must reap with all his family except his wife and his herdsman. And he himself shall be present the whole day with a rod of authority to see that his family work well, and they shall have maintenance twice in the day, namely, about the hour of nine, corn bread, cheese, ale or cider, and in the evening corn bread, pottage . . . or ale or cider.

Item, at the third boon day he must reap with one man, at his own payment, and about the hour of nine and in the evening have . . . in common in the midst of the fields in . . . two full pots of ale or cider and three tubs full of apples if the lord shall have apples.

Item, if it happens that the lord shall wish to send hams or other produce to Bec he has to find carriage to the Thames for that purpose.

Item, if he should have pigs of his own rearing he must pay pannage<sup>4</sup> for them, namely, for a pig of over a year old a penny, and less than a year old a halfpenny. and in the same way he must pay pannage for all his pigs that are separated from the mother.

Item, in Lent he must harrow for one day, if required, and have maintenance and carry for one day at harvest time and have maintenance.

Item, in a year in which full work is worked he must work from Michaelmas to the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula three days a week wherever required, at whatever kind of work the lord may require, with one man, and for the feast days falling within the aforesaid term he must make good the work on succeeding working days and in the same way must plough just as he ploughs when not fully working, but on the days on which he ploughs for the accustomed service of herbage<sup>5</sup> two works must be remitted to him. He must also prepare a load of malt for Christmas and have firewood or fodder ready dried, with remittance of one work; and for Easter all in the same manner.

Item, he must do carrying service to the neighbouring market<sup>6</sup>, namely, half a quarter of corn, and in the meantime be quit of one work, and if he goes to London he must collect a wagonload and

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<sup>1</sup> St Peter ad Vincula. 1st August

<sup>2</sup> Michaelmas. 29th September

<sup>3</sup> Boon days. Special days, e.g. at harvest when even the free tenants worked on the demesne as a boon or favour to the lord

<sup>4</sup> Pannage. A tax levied on pigs put into the woods to forage for acorns.

<sup>5</sup> Herbage. The right to graze animals on the lord's grass, in return for which the tenant did two days ploughing.

<sup>6</sup> Neighbouring market. Uxbridge.

be quit of one work, and if to St Neots, quit of three days, likewise if to North Stoke of three days, likewise if to Swyncombe of two days.

Item, if the monks go to distant parts he must find a baggage waggon for them and their equipment and other necessities and then three of his works must be remitted, and he must have maintenance for the journey, and if to near places so that it is possible to return the same day, he must be quit of a single work only.

Item, he must harrow as often as he may be instructed to, in such wise that when the ploughs of the lord begin to plough, he must harrow to the hour when they cease. He must also do sheep washing and shearing right up to the complete of the shearing, and he must scythe the meadows, make the hay, cart it and put it into cocks, until all is complete, and all alike shall receive a ram or twelve pence, and he must carry letters, drive animals, load manure and spread it on the fields, carry the folds of the lord from one place to another, prepare and mend the wattles, cut up wood for fencing and make it into fences, and he shall ditch and dig. And if he brews he shall give a penny of toll for one sester.

Item, he is not to sell a horse or an ox of his own rearing without the licence of the lord, nor give his daughter in marriage,

Item for all dues and aid he must pay scot and lot, and after his death the lord shall have the best beast as a heriot<sup>7</sup> and if he die intestate all his goods and chattels shall be at the disposal and will of the lord. And he must be reeve if the lord wishes it, and pay a toll on all things sold within the boundaries of the manor.

## NOTES

Gilbert Aldred had to work three days a week all year round on the lord's demesne.

All those listed below had to perform the same services as Gilbert. However, they all had two levels of rent, a low amount when fully working and roughly double in years when the labour services were not exacted.

N.B. The manuscript is damaged and occasionally names or rents are missing.

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF GILBERT ALDRED

Name	Rent when not working	Rent when working	Amount of land
Gilbert Aldred			1/2 hide
Roger Hamundsen			1/2 hide
Berengarius Clerkson			1/2 hide
Hugo Tree			1/2 hide
Richard Aldred	4s. 0d	.5d	1 virgate
Richard de Ponfrayt	2s.10d	.5d	1 virgate
Walter Horseman	3s.10d	.3d	1 virgate
Hugo Street	4s. 0d	.5d	1 virgate
William Johnson	4s. 0d	.5d	1 virgate

<sup>7</sup> Heriot.

Death duty - usually the best beast of the deceased.

Name	Rent when not working	Rent when working	Amount of land
William Albus	3s.10d	.3d	1 virgate
Robert Miller	3s.10d	.3d	1 virgate
Roger Hill	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Richard Brun	4s. 2d	. 7d	1 virgate with an increase
William Slipere	4s. 1d	. 8d	1 virgate with an increase
Matil' widow of Radulf	4s.10d	1s. 3d	1 virgate with a croft
Robert Croys	4s. 2d	. 5d	1 virgate with an increase
Richard Lofred	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Robert Hale	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Richard Ball	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Walter Sigar	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
John Brook	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
John Hereward	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate & an assart for 6d & 2 hens at Xmas
Richard Horseman	6s. 2d 2 hens	3s. 0d 2 hens	
Richard Brutewine		. 6d	1 virgate with an assart
Robert King			1 virgate
Richard de Pinner	3s. 0d	.11d	1 virgate with an assart
William Harding	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate with a croft
John Hill	5s. 10d	2s. 3d	1 virgate with 3 crofts
Ragenild widow of Andrew	4s. 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Geoffrey Nothel	5s. 0d	1s. 5d	1 virgate with 2 1/2 acres
Richard le Guest	5s. 6d	1s.11d	1 virgate & 1/2 virgate (Half work)
- le Hayward	6s 0d	. 5d	1 virgate
Richard Robins	6s 0d	. 7d	1 virgate
Gilbert Lamb and } Robert Walterson }	5s. 0d	. 7d	1 virgate except 3 acres
Randulf Peterson		1s. 1 1/2d	7 acres
William Baldwin	7s. 0d	.10 1/2d	1/2 hide except 3 acres
Roger Cok		.10d	croft

Name	Rent when not working	Rent when working	Amount of land
Walter Wyt		2s. 0d	9 acres
William Hill	3s. 0d	. 8d	1/2 virgate with assart
William Cok		. 4d	1 1/2 acres
Richard Hubert	3s. 0d	. 4d	1 1/2 acres
John Salvage	2s. 0d	.11d	1 1/2 acres
William Fuller	7s. 0d	. 3 1/2d	1 1/2 virgates
John Parker			croft
William Marlwood			croft
William White		. 2d + 2 capons at Xmas	croft
Isabella Harding		. 8 1/2d + 1 capon & 2 hens at Xmas	2 crofts
Estrild	1s. 0d	. 5d	croft
John Fig	1s. 0d		croft
Hunfrid Strikewricte	2s. 0d	. 5d	croft
Richard Hunt	1s. 0d		croft
Robert Corder		.7d	croft
Richard Pyewyt		1s. 0d	croft
Richard Hubert	1s. 0d	.10d	croft
- daughter of Seefugel		. 6d	croft
John Raisun		. 8d	croft
Lucia Canon	2s. 0d	. 6d	2 crofts
Walter Blakemere	3s. 1/2d		croft
Stephen Messor	1s. 8d		croft
Reginald Goat	2s. 0d		croft
Walter But	1s. 2d		croft
Robert Fountain		. 6d	croft
Roger Cok		. 2d	messuage
William Shepherd	1s. 0d		croft
Alice Savage	1s. 0d	. 4d + 2 hens at Xmas	croft
Alice widow of Alan		. 9d	croft

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF MABEL DRUET

Mabel Druet had to perform half works, which meant that she worked 1 1/2 days a week. In all other respects she followed the customs of Gilbert Aldred.

Name	Rent when not working	Rent when working	Amount of land
Mabel Druet	2s. 2d	. 2 1/2d	1/2 virgate
Arthur Street	3s. 6d	1s. 8 1/2d	1/2 virgate
Richard Brunman	2s. 8 1/2d	. 8 1/2d	1/2 virgate
Gonilda Fowler	2s. 10d	1s. 0d	1/2 virgate

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF MABEL DRUET

He must plough three turns, sow, harrow . . .

Name	Rent when not working	Rent when working	Amount of land
Radulf Hatch	8s. 0d	. 6d	1/2 hide
William Pinner	10s. 0d	1s. 8 1/2d	1/2 hide plus croft Like Roger (sic) de la Hache
Thomas Ockeburn	5s. 1d	3 hens + 1 cock	1/2 hide Like Roger de la Hache
Robert Assart	6s. 1d		1 virgate Like Thomas Ockeburn (i.e. like Roger de la Hache)
Isabella Cok	2s. 0d		croft Like Roger de la Hache
Geoffrey Thatcher		. 6d	croft }
Richard Green		.12d	croft } Like Henry Cok
Emma		2s. 4d	croft } (customs not stated)
Richard Love		1s. 6d	croft }
John Ogere		2s. 0d	croft }
John & Gregory Long	3s. 2d		croft with very small assart Like Henry Cok
Hugo de Forda	5s. 6d	3s. 10 1/2d	croft

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF ALDIVA THURE

In ploughing, harrowing and all else is similar to Gilbert Aldred

Name	Rent	Amount of Land
Aldiva Thure	2s. 10d	1/2 virgate - as Gilbert Aldred
Walter Clerkson	1s. 8d	croft
Alvona widow of Sumwyle	. 7d	part of one croft
Matill Hill		croft
John Long		2 crofts
Richard Wines	1s. 10 1/2d	1 croft
Alicia	. 6d	croft
Walter Mill	1s. 0d	croft
Isobella Joavant	1s. 0d	croft
Roger Cok	1s. 0d	croft + assart 1d
Richard Taylor	1s. 0d	house - boonday in harvest
William Clerk	. 6d	1/2 acre
Robert Gate	1s. 0d	croft
John Bradefer	1s. 1/2d	croft "before his military service"
Thomas Fig & Robert Gate	1s + 2 hens at Xmas	
Richard Cok	1s. 2d.	croft
Richard Camule	1s. 0d	croft
Agnes Bourne	1s. 0d	croft
Geoffrey Millerson	1s. 3d	croft
Alwinus Wood	2s. 0d	croft
Fray	1s. 0d	croft
Alicia	. 8d	croft

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF WILLIAM FIELD

7s. 0d p.a. when not working and 3s. 6d p.a. when working and in all other respects as Gilbert Aldred.

Name	Amount of Land
William Field	1/2 hide
Hereward Field	1/2 hide
William Beyvin	1/2 hide

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF WILLIAM WHITE

7s. 1/2d p.a. when not fully working and 3s. 11d p.a. when working and in all other respects as Gilbert Aldred.

Name	Amount of Land
William White	1/2 hide

## FREE TENANTS

paid rent for their land but performed no labour services except on Boon days

Name	Amount of Land
Peter Swyncombe	3 virgates and 3 acres
Randulf Truler ( <i>see note 1</i> )	house and 1/2 acre
William Hill	10 acres
Randulf Cole	croft                      1s. 0d
Roger de Southcote	3 virgates                      16s. 0d Millpond of Sitteclack. (Probably on the R. Pinn at the end of Clack Lane)
Randulf Cok	virgate & "a messuage in front of St. Martin's"
Roger de la Done ( <i>see note 2</i> )	hide 5s. 0d & 20 acres 3s. 0d

*Note 1:* "Truler means Mason. Randulf could have been employed building `St. Martin's. The nave of the present church dates from about this time.

*Note 2:* Sir Roger de la Done was Constable of the Tower and Lord of the Manor of Down Barnes.

## TENANTS WHO FOLLOWED THE CUSTOMS OF GILBERT BISUTHE

He must plough on ploughing boon days as Gilbert Aldred. Between the feasts of St Michael (29th September) and St Martin (11th November) he must plough an acre for custom of herbage and must accept the grain in his granary for sowing that acre, and also sow and harrow. *When* necessary he must follow the hundred and county on behalf of the whole vill when summoned to hear the commands of the king. He must reap at harvest boon days as Gilbert Aldred and pay pannage. He may not sell his horse or give his daughter in marriage without permission.

Name	Rent	Amount of land
Gilbert Bisuthe	6s. 2d	1/2 hide and 1/2 virgate
Gilbert Lamb	6s. 6d	1 1/2 virgates
Robert Marlward	13s. 0d	1 hide with assart. 12d pannage whether he has pigs or not. If he has pigs he is quit of 12d.

*Note:* These three men were leading members of the community. They appear as pledges in court rolls of the period. They probably represented the three tithings of Ruislip, Ascot (Eastcote), and Northwood.

The Lord has taken into demesne the land of : -

Leonard -	17s. 6d
Arthur Chaplain	10s.0d
Roger Malchere	3s. 9d
Richard Brunman	3s.0

This shows that the demesne was increasing in size.

Land Holdings were based on the *hide* (originally a unit of land which could support a family for one year). By the mid-13th century, the hide varied from 80 - 120 acres. Therefore a  
 half hide = approximately 50 acres  
 virgate (1/4 hide) = approximately 25 acres  
 half - virgate = approximately 12 1/2 acres

Tenants with these holdings had houses in the northern part of the Manor and their lands scattered about the common fields to the south. They were equivalent to the villeins of Domesday.

### Crofters

The crofters had no arable land in the common fields, only a cottage with a small croft of land around it. They were similar to the cottars and bordars of the Domesday Book.

The cottages with crofts probably lay around the edge of the Park in Bury Street and Fore Street and at Park Hearne (under the reservoir). The settlements at Silver Street Green was established on the land clear from the Common Wood or Outwood (i. e. the wood outside the Park).

The Common Wood extended eastwards across to the Pinner boundary. Crofts had been cleared on woodland at Raisins Hill and at Wiltshire Lane by the time of the customer. Later crofts were formed in the Joel Street and Catlins Lane area.

About half of the tenants were crofters and most of those who had common field land had a virgate. The virgate was a common peasant holding throughout the Abbey of Bec's manors.



Landholders			
Size of holding	No.	%	
hide	2	1.7%	)
3 virgates	3	2.6%	) Common
half - hide	11	9.4%	) Field
1 1/2 virgates	3	2.6%	) Land
virgate	32	27.4%	)
half - virgate	4	3.4%	)
croft	62	53.0%	

It was usual in medieval England to find those who held common field land, the half-hiders and virgaters, performing the bulk of the work on the demesne (week-works). Crofters usually only worked 1 1/2 days a week (half-works) or less (part-works) and boon days. It was surprising to find from the customal that 29 of the 62 crofters were burdened with week-works. M. Morgan has suggested that the Gilbert whose customs so many crofters are said to follow, is not Gilbert Aldred, but one whose name and customs appeared in the obliterated part of the manuscript.

TABLE SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAND HOLDINGS & LABOUR SERVICES

	Hide	3 Virgate	1/2 Hide	1 1/2 Virgate	Virgate	1/2 Virgate	Croft	Total
<b>Free</b>	1	2			1		3	7
<b>Week works</b>			4	2	30		29	65
<b>Half Works</b>						4		4
<b>Part Works</b>			7		1		30	38
<b>Rep. at Courts</b>	1	1		1				3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>117</b>

### Estimated Population from the Customal

Taking into account the names which have been partly obliterated in the damaged sections of the customal, there appear to have been about 150 tenants of the Abbey of Bec owning land in Ruislip in the mid 13th century. Assuming that these people were heads of households and taking 4.5 as the size of the average household, the population of the manor would have been about 675. In 1086 when the Domesday Survey was written there were only 49 heads of households. Therefore the population of Ruislip like the rest of the country had virtually tripled in about 160 years.

### Effect of the increased population upon Ruislip

The amount of land under cultivation must have increased to provide for the larger number of people. Several of the tenants were paying rent for an *Assart*, that is a piece of land newly cleared. Some of the *assarting* had probably been done in Northwood in the wooded waste around the grange. This outpost of the manor is known to have existed before 1300 and was probably established some years earlier. In 1324 several ploughmen were working in Northwood, which suggests that there was a reasonably large amount of arable land by then.

### Surnames

Surnames were unnecessary as a means of identification in very small communities and only came into general use in the 13th century. Originally they referred to a man's occupation, to his father's christian name, to his place of origin, to some topographical feature near where he lived, or to a physical peculiarity. Consequently some men from the same family may well have borne completely different surnames at the time of the customal.

The customal is the first document to name Ruislip tenants. The scribe had latinised the names. In the list below the surnames are given in alphabetical order as they appear. Where appropriate an anglicised form of the name is given in the next column. If more than one person bore the same surname only one example has been given.

The following codes have been used : -

**W** = name derived from type of work or occupation

**F** = name derived from father's forename

**O** = place of origin

**R** = name now a place name within Ruislip

**T** = topographical

**N** = nickname

Name	English Equivalent	Type
Aelanus		<b>F</b>
Agnus	Lamb	<b>N</b>
Albus	White	<b>N</b>
Aldred		
Andrew		<b>F</b>
de Arbore	Tree	<b>T</b>
de Assarto	Assart	<b>T</b>
Baldvyne		
Balle	Ball	
Berkarius	Shepherd, could also be Tanner	<b>W</b>

<b>Name</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>	<b>Type</b>
Beyvin		
Bisuthe	By South	<b>T</b>
Blakemere		
iuxta Boscum	By the wood (Atwood)	<b>T</b>
Bradefer		<b>N</b>
del Brok	Brook	<b>T</b>
Brun	Brown	<b>N</b>
Brunman	Brownman	<b>N</b>
Brutewine		
de Burna	Bourne	<b>T</b>
le But		
de Campo	Field	<b>N</b>
Camule		
Canon		<b>WR</b>
Capellanus	Chaplain	<b>W</b>
Capra	Goat	<b>N</b>
Caretarius	Carter	<b>W</b>
filius Clerici	Clarkson	<b>F</b>
Clericus	Clarke	<b>W</b>
Cocus	Cook	<b>W</b>
Cok	Cook	<b>W</b>
Cole		
le Corder		<b>W</b>
Coyn		
Croys		
Druet		<b>N</b>
de Felda	Field	<b>T</b>
Fige		
de Fonte	Fountain	<b>T</b>
de Forda	Ford	<b>T</b>
Fray		

<b>Name</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>	<b>Type</b>
la Fugelare	Fowler	<b>W</b>
le Fulun	Fuller	<b>W</b>
le Gest	Guest	
de Grena	Green	<b>T</b>
de la Hache	Hatch	<b>T</b>
de la Hale	Hale	<b>TR</b>
Hamundson		<b>F</b>
Harding		
le Hayward	Hayward	<b>W</b>
Hereward		
Honte		
Horseman		<b>W</b>
Humberti	Huberts	<b>F</b>
de Hulla	Hill	<b>T</b>
lovant		
King		<b>R</b>
Lamb		<b>N</b>
Leonardus	Lion	<b>N</b>
Lofred		
Longus	Long	<b>N</b>
Love		<b>N</b>
Malehere		
Malevile		
Marlward		<b>W</b>
Messor	Reaper	<b>W</b>
Molendarius	Miller	<b>W</b>
de Molendino	Mills	<b>T</b>
Nothel		
de Ockebourne	Ogbourne	<b>O</b>
Ogere		
Osberti	Osberts	<b>F</b>

<b>Name</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>	<b>Type</b>
Parker		<b>W</b>
filius Petri	Peterson	<b>F</b>
de Pinnore	Pinner	<b>O</b>
de Ponfrayt	Brokenbridge	<b>T</b>
de Pont	Bridge	<b>T</b>
Porcarius	Swineherd	<b>W</b>
de Porta	Gate	<b>T</b>
Pyewit		
Radding	Reading	<b>T</b>
de Rading	Reading	<b>T</b>
Raisun		<b>R</b>
Robin		<b>F</b>
filius Sacerdotis	Priestson	<b>F</b>
Salvage		
Seefugel		
Sigar		<b>R</b>
Slipere	Sharpener	<b>W</b>
Stikewricte		
de Strata	Street	<b>T</b>
de la Strete	Street	<b>T</b>
Sumwyle		
de Suthcote	Southcote	<b>O</b>
de Swyncombe	Swyncombe	<b>O</b>
Tailor	Taylor	<b>W</b>
Tector	Thatcher	
Thure		
le Truler	Mason	<b>W</b>
filius Walteri	Walterson	<b>F</b>
Wit	White	<b>N</b>
Wynes	Friend	<b>N</b>
Vigars		

Name	English Equivalent	Type
<b>NOTES :</b>		
Bras de fer :	Arm of iron	
Hatch :	Gate into wood	
Hale :	Nook, Recess	
Brokenbridge	Brackenbridge	
Reading :	Clearing	
King :	King's End	
Canon :	Cannonsbridge	