

SOME LIGHT ON RUISLIP IN 1701

by Colin Bowlt

The items in Court Rolls can shed interesting light on life in the manor. Proceedings are usually officially written up in stylish fashion after the Court proceedings.

In the archives at Kings College I came across what appears to be the draft of the 1701 Court (RUI/229). The cases are rather interesting, bringing to life aspects of life in the village of Ruislip at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The original spellings have been retained.

The presentment of the Leet Jury at the Court Leet and Court Baron held for the Mannor of Ruislipp on the Second Day of May 1701.

Impremis- wee have made Diligent Inquiry According to our charge and wee finde nothing this said Mannor at present that is presentable only the Constables and the Ale Conners which are as following to serve for this present year.

Ale Conners – alternatively ale tasters who tested the quality and measurement of the ale and beer sold within the Manor –[sounds a desirable job!]

Thomas Child - Constables
William Ward -

Richard Longdon - Ale Conners
James Owen Maulster -

Jurors

Mathew Nicholas	Joseph Nelhams
John Wilshin	John Hithcock
James Wilshin	Stephen Ludgale
John Laurence	Thomas Child
Richard Hagger	Henry Edling
Henrey Herverd	Thomas Hill

Impremis- wee find that Joseph Truelove hath not laid out his Inclosior near the Marlpits at Norwood according to our former presentment therefore wee Amerce him for One Pound.

Inclosiors – these were long before the Ruislip Enclosure Act of 1814, and probably refer to encroachments onto the Common land or so-called waste as specifically stated in the case of widow Atlee. Although this was not supposed to occur, lords of manors seem to have been happy to allow it and collect a fine.

Item- Wee find that Ralph Biggs hath not laid out his Inclosior near the said Marlpitts According to our former presentment therefore wee Amerce him for One Pound.

Item- Wee find that the Widdow Attlee hath not laid out the Inclosier near Haste Hill upon the Lords Waste therefore wee Amerce her for it five shillings.

Item- Wee Order that every man Ring his Hoggs before the 24th day of June Next and keep them so Ringed upon paine to forfeit for every Hogg soe unringed foure pence.

Pigs were nose-ringed to stop them digging deeply.

Item- Wee Order that no man take into the Common fields of Ruislipp any forraigne Cattel upon paine to forfeit for every Horse Bullock or Sheep that shall be so taken the sume of three shillings.

Forraigne Cattel – seems to refer to unmarked animals.

Item- Wee Order that every land holder within this Mannor make their Hedges and Scour their Ditches in the Common fields or any other Hedges and Ditches within the Mannor between this and the 10th day of June next and for every pole of Land not there done to forfeit for every pole the sum of six pence.

Hedges and ditches in the Common Fields – the Common Fields covered much of the area of what is now Ruislip Manor, South Ruislip and Ruislip Gardens. Keeping the ditches clear (scoured) would clearly have been important to maintain effective drainage on this clay land, but the reference to hedges here is puzzling. Common fields are generally thought to have been treeless and hedgeless. 1 pole = 16 and a half feet by statute measure, but 18 feet 'according to custom'.

Item- Wee Order that no man put into the Common fallow Fields of Ruislipp above two Sheep for [one?] land and [?] sheep for one Acre of Arable nor above [?] Sheep for one Acre of Meadows upon paine to forfeit for so offending for every Sheep Sixpence.

Item- Wee order that no man put into the Common fields of Ruislipp any Cattel before this Corne be Rid except they keep them upon their own Ground or land upon paine to forfeit for every time so offending one shilling.

*Cattel – general term for farm animals.
Rid – cleared. OED*

Item- Wee order that no man put any Cattel into the Wheat stubble fields of Ruislipp without a keeper before the Bean fields be rid upon paine to forfeit for every time so offending two shillings and sixpence.

In the Common (open) field system animals were allowed on after the harvesting of the crop. Typically the system was a three year cycle of wheat, beans/peas and fallow.

Item- Wee Order that every Tennant of this Mannor whatsoever that hath any Cow Bullock Horse Colt or any Sheep within the Common or Common fields of Ruislipp shall [?] their own Pitch marks upon them befoer the Tenth of June next upon paine to forfeit for every time so unmarked the sume of sixpence.

Pitch mark – branding using pitch.

Item- Wee Order that no person whatsoever shall [Oppress?] the Common of Ruislipp that liveth out of the Mannor by keeping Sheep thereon to fold them in any other Mannor upon paine to forfeit for every time so offending the sume of One Pound.

Item- Wee Order that if any person shall take any forraigne Sheep into the Common fields of Ruislipp shall get his own Pitch mark upon them before the first day of August next upon paine to forfeit for every sheep so taken unmarked the sum of four pence.

Item- Wee Order that John Patie lay out by his Inclosier upon the Lords Waste between this And Michallmass Next or else wee Amerce him five shillings.
And also that he lay out his Incroachments at Parks [?] upon the Lords waste According to our former presentments or else wee Amerce him for that Ten Shillings.

Item- Wee order that Mathew Bodimead lay out his Inclosure upon the Lords waste between this and the first day of August next upon paine to forfeit four Shillings.

Item- Wee order that no Tennant belong to this Mannor unless he be an Inhabitant Residing in the Parrish of Ruislipp shall bring any Sheep or any other Cattle to Common with Common of Ruislipp upon paine to forfeit for every so offending one Pound.

Item- Wee order that no Tennant of this Mannor or any other unless they shall be Inhabitants shall fetch or carry away any sand or soil into any other Mannor for the manuring of ground or any other use whatsoever upon paine to forfeit for every Load so carried two shillings and sixpence.

Item- Wee find that their are Many Customary Tennants of this Mannor that give not their Attendance at this Court to do their stints and services to the Lord of this Mannor therefore wee Amerce every Tennant that gives not his Attendance there the fine of four pence.

Item- Wee find that there are many people make it a Practice of Picking Dungg off the Common therefore nonsoever shall from the first day of June next ensuing take away any Dung from this Common shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of one Pound.

Item- That if any Tennant or farmer in this Mannor shall take any sheep under pretence of being their owne and it be proved to the contrary and they are found in this Common or Common fields of Ruislipp shall for every such offence forfeit one Pound which shall be paid to anyone that shall Informe of this same [?] to Dudly Browed?

[Signatures:] Richard [Ammig?] [?] Cogge
George Timberlake Richard Fearne
John Fearne John Lenton
Thomas Puddifoot Richard Lodge
James Robinas John Bonnett
Edward [?oanna?] James Wilshin

It is interesting to see the surname of the current Leader of Hillingdon Council included in this list of signatories