

1. Parish: Exning

Meaning: Gyxna's people

2. **Hundred:** Lackford

Deanery: Fordham, Newmarket (1916–1972), Mildenhall (1972–)

Union: Newmarket

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Newmarket UD (1894–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Newmarket Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 4,987 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk, affected by groundwater, some coarse loam soils in places
b. Well drained coarse and fine loam, some with calcareous coarse loam over chalk/chalk rubble, slight risk of water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		4 mills. 1 fishery (8,200 eels)
1341		6 mills, 9 dovecots
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas. Stud farm
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. **Enclosure:**

1812 4,333 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1807

7. Settlement:

Large fairly compact village consisting of two main parallel roads divided by a stream; a straggling hamlet at northern end. Few isolated farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 69, 1801 – 123, 1851 – 235, 1871 – 277, 1901 – 703, 1951 – 471

8. Communications:

Roads: Line of Icknield Way crosses southern end of parish
To Fordham, Burwell and Newmarket
Turnpike roads: Newmarket–London 1724, Bury–Newmarket 1770

Rail: 1891 2 miles Newmarket station: Ipswich–Cambridge line opened 1851 still operational
Bury St Edmunds–Newmarket line opened 1854 still operational
Gt. Chesterford–Newmarket line opened 1848
Exning Halt situated beside B1103 Burwell–Exning road bridge approximately 1 mile from village

Water: Abortive proposal for canal from Upware to Newmarket (through Exning) 1815

9. Population:

1086 – 101 recorded
1327 – 81 taxpayers paid £13 10s. 6d (includes Newmarket)
1524 – 69 taxpayers paid £11 11s. 10d.
1603 – 100 adults
1674 – 93 households
1676 – 233 adults
1801 – 566 inhabitants
1831 – 917 inhabitants
1851 – 1,556 inhabitants
1871 – 1,528 inhabitants
1901 – 3,814 inhabitants
1931 – 3,870 inhabitants
1951 – 4,223 inhabitants
1971 – 5,840 inhabitants
1981 – Probably included within Newmarket

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1095 Impropiator: William Rufus gave church to Battle Abbey

1254	Valued £30 13s. 4d. To the vicar £12	
		<u>£42 13s. 4d.</u>
1291	As rector, Battle received £46 13s. 4d. Vicar received £16 13s. 4d.	
1341	Rector had 180 acres	
1534	Lease from Abbot/Convent of Battle of Rectory of Ixning for 99 years	
1535	Valued £13 7s. 6d.	
1603	Incumbent also holds living of Worlington	
1691	Sale of parsonage house and glebe for 99 years by Joanna Fisher to Thomas Newell	
1807	Tithes commuted for allotments of land at enclosure	
1818	Vicarage burned down	
1819	New residence built	
1831	1 curate, stipend £120 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £315 p.a.	
1835	Incumbent also holds Rectory of St Mary, Bryanstonesquare, Middlesex. Valued £311	
1844	Vicarage allotment of 240 acres	
1887	224 acres 1R 19P, gross rent £289	
1891	Valued £320. Curacy of Landwade annexed	
Patrons:	Battle Abbey (Middle Ages), Dean and Chapter of Canterbury (16 th cent.), Jockey Club (1891)	

11. Church **St Martin**
(Chancel, transepts, nave, aisles, S. porch (with upper chamber), W. tower)

13 th cent.	Chancel, tower
14 th cent.	Main structure
c.1400	Double heart shrine (unique feature)
1845	Pyx, candlesticks and sacring bell (15 th cent.) found buried near church (since lost)
1868	Restoration
c.1965	Further restoration

Seats: 350 (1892)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676	3 nonconformists
1790–1820	3 houses (including granary) set aside for worship
1834	Wesleyan chapel built
1894	St Phillips mission church opened

13. Manorial:

Exning Manor

12 th cent.	Granted to Matthew, count of Boulogne
1212	Reginald Danmartin owns
1258	William de Valence, earl of Pembroke owns
c.1400	Edmund Botiller owns
1440	Walter Cotton owns, in which family it remained 1909

Sub-Manors

Well Hall al Coggeshalls

13 th cent.	Edmund/Edward de Kemesech owns
1352	Capital messuage with dovecot, garden, 20 acres land, 6 acres pasture, 18s. rent of assize. Owned by William de Welle. Passing by marriage to Coggeshall family (late 14 th cent.)
1494	Margaret Grene died seised
1585	Cotton family owns, (absorbed by main manor)

Jardens al Gardeners al Jardins

1275	William de Gardinis held 10 librat of land of the King
1428	William Wroth owns

14. Markets/Fairs

c.1200	'The New Market' (Novum Forum) grew up at the southern end of Exning along the Icknield Way
1258	Grant of market and fair to William Valence

15. Real property:

1844	£6,293 rental value
1891	£21, 546 rateable value
1912	£29,888 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680	1 gentleman
1674	Mr Eaton has house with 11 hearths

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 minister, 2 lime burners, 8 yeomen, 3 labourers 1 carpenter, 3 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 1 vicar
1600–1649	1 miller, 9 yeoman, 3 labourers, 1 blacksmith, 3 carpenters, 3 husbandmen, 1 mercer, 1 weaver, 2 tailors, 1 shepherd, 1 ploughwright, 1 maltster

1650–1699	1 millers, 11 yeoman, 5 labourers, 1 blacksmith, 1 carpenter, 8 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 1 basket maker, 1 spinster, 1 inn holder
1831	138 in agriculture, 42 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 14 in labouring, 33 in domestic service, 18 others
1844	Corn miller, bankers clerk, tailor, bricklayer, butcher/drover, brewer/coal merchant, baker, wheelwright, farm steward, carpenter, blacksmith, constable, 3 publicans, 2 beerhouse keepers, brewer, butcher, 2 boot/shoe makers, 8 farmers, 5 shopkeepers
1912	Sub–postmistress, school master and 2 mistresses, newsagent, saddler, 2 cycle agents, assistant trainer, 3 publicans, 4 farmers, clerk, 2 beer retailers, 2 grocer/drapers, butcher/confectioner, 2 trainers, hairdresser, baker/dairyman, 2 boot repairers, baker, 2 butchers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 carmen, farm bailiff, stud farm manager, coal merchant, builders, wheelwright, stud groom, head gardener, painter, insurance agent, grocer, nurseryman, seed grower/merchant, plumber, miller, engineer/millwright, dairyman, shopkeeper
20 th cent.	Industrial Estates have brought approx. 60 different manufacturing and service concerns to the parish

19. Education:

16 th cent.	School master recorded
1786	Proposal for Sunday schools
1818	2 dames schools, 1 Sunday school
1833	5 infant schools, 2 day schools (fee paying) 2 Sunday schools (Anglican and Methodist)
1873	School Board established and 2 schools built
1899	Infants school built, average attendance 123
1912	1912
1903	School on Exning Road

20. Poor relief:

1776	£169 9s. 5d.
1803	£553 0s. 3d.
1818	£898 10s.
1830	£640 5s.
1832	£923 14s.
1834	£821 8s.

21. Charities:

Church Estate, Fabian's Charity, Mordens Charity:

1840	1 barn, 45 acres 3R let at £70 p.a. Rents applied to poor widows, church and church wall repairs, white herrings at Lent and bread distributed among poor
------	---

Dole Rye:

1840 10 combs of rye (or value of) p.a. distributed with Shepherd's Charity

Lawrence's Gift:

1540 by 5s. p.a. to the poor distributed with Shepherd's Charity

Shepherd's Charity:

1739 by Indenture of Samuel Shepherd: farm and lands, rents of approx. £120 p.a. distributed among poor

22. Other institutions:

1452 Guild of Holy Trinity
1456 Guild of Blessed Mary and St. Christopher
1490 Possible guildhall
1524 Guild of St Mildred
1836 Union Workhouse built, room for 380 inmates
1851–1894 Newmarket Local Board of Health
1857–1894 Newmarket and Exning Burial Board
1886 Cemetery opened, Mortuary chapel added 1903
circa 1886 Fire Engine station established opposite Wheatsheaf public house
1888 Newmarket and Moulton Infectious Diseases Hospital built for 30 patients
1891 Police station and gas works
1903 Sewage works and pumping station
1937 Unionist Club

23. Recreation:

1650–1699 1 inn holder recorded
1812 'Cambridge Course' came into Exning parish; allotted to Duke of Rutland 'for ever after to remain as Heath Ground'
1844 The Wheatsheaf, The White Horse and The White Swan public houses, 2 beerhouses
1891 The Wheatsheaf, The White Horse and The White Swan public houses, 2 beerhouses and 1 coffee tavern
1912 The Wheatsheaf, The White Horse and The White Swan public houses, 2 beer retailers, Unionists Club

24. Personal:

St. Ethelreda, daughter of Anna, King of the East Angles, reputedly born in Exning.

Ralph Warder, 1st Norman Earl of East Anglia, conspired against William I at his 'bride-ale' in Exning 1075.

'Our Exning Heroes', by Rev. N.P. Brewer and Rev. C.R. Farnsworth 1919 – short account of individual men of Exning who died in World War 1.

25. Other information:

Roman sites: near 'Well' and on fen-edge.

'The Island': circular moat, dovecot and fishponds.

'Now by reason of the nearness of Newmarket, it (Exning) beginneth to decrease' (1600).

'now it is a Town of no note' (1764).

The Agricultural Lock-out of 1874 began in Exning and spread into many other counties. The 'wretched' condition of cottages in Exning described by Frederick Clifford in The Times newspaper. Bury Free Press of 4th April also gives account of the labourers strike.

2 cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1843/44.

Spring said to have existed called St. Wendreda's Well, supposed to have given her (St. Ethelreda) the healing powers for which she was renowned, Well situated on private land, Water from the well is used by vicar for baptisms.

'The Exning Story', by P. May (1986).

Church contains rare example of a heart monument.

Exning Med. Pyx found 1845 believed to have been buried at Reformation (held by British Museum).

War memorial built at Mill Hill 1922.

Exning House built 1734, extended 1806. Formerly seat of Lord Glanley.

Converted into Glanley Rest Old Peoples Home 1986.