

1. Parish : Gedding

Meaning: Gydda's people (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (- 1972), Lavenham (1972 -)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: Thedwastre RD (- 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1884)
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 494 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a) Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils
b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow in preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley. Pasture
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1978 Small parish with development concentrated along Drinkstone Road. Church at eastern end of settlement. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 9, 1801 – 16, 1851 – 33, 1871 – 28,
1901 – 23, 1951 – 46, 1981 – 42

8. Communications:

Roads: Roads to Drinkstone, Felsham and Bradfield St.
George
1891 Carrier passes through to Bury St. Edmunds
on Wednesday

Rail: 1891 3½ miles Cockfield station: Bury St.
Edmunds – Long Melford line opened
(1865), closed passengers (1961)
closed goods (1965)

9. Population:

1086 — 19 recorded
1327 — 23 taxpayers paid £3. 11s. 11¼d. (includes Felsham)
1524 — 4 taxpayers paid 5s. 2d.
1603 — 42 adults
1674 — 17 households
1676 — 50 adults
1801 — 108 inhabitants
1831 — 147 inhabitants
1851 — 163 inhabitants
1871 — 150 inhabitants
1901 — 97 inhabitants
1931 — 126 inhabitants
1951 — 136 inhabitants
1971 — 129 inhabitants
1981 — 122 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844)

1254 Value £4
1291 Value £4. 13s. 4d.
1535 Value £4. 13s. 4d.
1831 No glebe house, gross income £106 p.a.
1842 Rectory house built
1887 6 acres 3R glebe, gross rent £6. 15s. p.a.
1891 5½ acres glebe
1912 Value £88 p.a.

Patrons: Robert Paige (1603), Corporation of Ipswich (1831),
Corporation of Bury St. Edmunds (1844), Rev. R.
Townson (1891), W. Sorsby (1874) A. Wakerley (1912)

11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, low W. tower)
(once surrounded by moat – a boundary ditch)

1086	Church plus 6 acres free land as alms
Norman	Nave walls
14 th cent.	Main structure
1884/85	Restoration after reports that church was in deplorable condition
1986	Rescued from closure by £7,500 donation by Qaboos bin Said al Said, Sultan of Oman

NOTE: Church contains 'Lepers window*' in its south wall adjacent to Priests Door

Seats: 42 appropriated, 96 free (1874)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1593	1 recusant (Rookwood family)
1606	1 person not attending church
1676	2 nonconformists

13. Manorial:

Gedding Manor al Gedding Hall

1196	Linked to Rougham (Adam de Gedding)
1364	Vested in William de Penbrigge
1365	1 messuage, 400 acres land, 30 acres meadow, 80 acres pasture, 20 acres wood
15 th cent.	Linked to Lt. Waldingfield, Stoke by Nayland, Polstead, Rattlesden and Gt. Finborough (Chamberlayne family)
1495	Granted to Sir Roger Ormeston
1599	Linked to Harleston (Robert Page)
1658	Leonard Goodburne owns
17 th cent.	Linked to Felsham and Pakenham (L'Estrange family)
1764	Samuel Johnson of Norwich owns
1889	Linked to Rattlesden (Arthur Wakerley)

Abstract from court rolls - 1607 reproduced in Copingers 'The Manors of Suffolk Vol.VI, p.279-293

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£570 rental value
1891	£639 rateable value
1912	£523 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
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1912 Arthur Wakerley/John J. Raker principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1912 Rear Admiral J.G.J. Hanmer, P. Middleditch, J.P.

18. Occupations:

1550-1599 1 husbandman

1600-1649 1 yeoman, 1 clerk

1650-1699 1 cordwainer, 3 yeomen, 1 hoop maker, 1 butcher, 1 labourer

1844 Corn miller, surgeon, 4 farmers

1912 3 farmers, miller, farm bailiff, master of stag hounds

19. Education:

1818 Children attend at Felsham

1833 1 Sunday school established (1832) held on a Wednesday (21 attend)

1912 Children attend school at Felsham

20. Poor relief:

1776 £50. 18s. 8d. spent on poor relief

1803 £83. 5s. 4d. spent on poor relief

1818 £167. 8s. spent on poor relief

1830 £157. 19s. spent on poor relief

1832 £174. 19s. spent on poor relief

1834 £156.14s. spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Bill Wyman: (20th cent.) member of Rolling Stones pop group, owns Gedding Hall

Sir Robert Chamberlain (1491): attainted and beheaded, for complicity in Perkin Warbeck rebellion

Mr. J. Gibson Jarvis (1883-1964): Chairman of United Dominions Trust. He was also a Liveryman of the City of London, a Burgess of City of Glasgow and High Sheriff of Suffolk (1951)

25. Other information:

Gedding Hall: said originally to have been built (1273), rebuilt in 15th century by Chamberlain family. Moated (water door to moat). Ancient gatehouse (circa 1530) incorporated within mansion. Foundations, walls of larger house/castle still visible (1910). Extended and repaired (1896/7) Bricks around entrance door came from demolished Rushbrooke Hall.

Gedding Park: held only surviving herd of Suffolk Dun Poll cattle – purchased by Lord Iveagh (1904)

Small post mill in existence (1852), second mill added (moved from Felsham 1867). This manoeuvre required 18 shire horses and took two days. New mill built (1905). Used as blacksmiths since (1940)