

1. Parish : Rushbrooke

Meaning: Rushy mere or lake

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (-1884), Horningsheath (1884-1914),
Horringer (1914-1972), Lavenham (1972-)

Union: Thingoe (1836-1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907-1930)

RDC/UDC: Thingoe RD (-1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court district

3. **Area:** 1,051 acres land, 12 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Deep well drained fine loam over chalk, coarse loam over
clay and fine loams some with calcareous subsoils

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 as preparation for corn products

1937 Main crops: Wheat, oats, barley, sugar beet

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Extremely small development near to church and North of
Rushbrook Park. Line of Roman road crosses parish SW-NE at
eastern corner of parish. Few isolated farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 - 11, 1801 - 27 , 1851 - 35, 1871 - 37, 1901
- 32, 1951 - 31, 1981 - 26

8. **Communications:**

Road: To Lt. Whelnetham, Nowton and Rougham. Roman

Road.

Rail: 1891 1 ½ miles Whelnetham Station. Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line opened 1865, closed passengers 1961, closed goods 1965

9. Population:

1086 – 28 recorded
1327 – 14 taxpayers paid £0 19s. 1d.
1524 – 23 taxpayers paid £11 4s.
1603 – 66 adults
1674 – 20 households
1676 – 59 adults
1801 – 122 inhabitants
1831 – 177 inhabitants
1851 – 184 inhabitants
1871 – 139 inhabitants
1901 – 134 inhabitants
1931 – 113 inhabitants
1951 – 95 inhabitants
1971 – 82 inhabitants
1981 – 74 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (United with Bradfield St. George)

1254 Valued £7 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £8
1535 Valued £8 1s. 5½d.
1674 Parsonage has 4 hearths
1831 1 curate. Stipend £52 p.a. No glebe house
Tithes commuted for £260 p.a. 1841

Patrons: Sir Robert Jermyn (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831)

11. Church St. Nicholas
(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, W. tower)

14th cent. Tower
15th cent. Main structure
1540 Rebuilt by Sir Thomas Jermyn (or extensively repaired)
Roof, S. aisle and chapel.
Benches face each other as in a college chapel (installed by Col. Rushbrooke – mid 19th cent.)

Features Royal Arms of Henry VIII (possibly added by Col. Rushbrooke)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611 1 person not receiving communion
1676 1 papist, 1 nonconformist

13. Manorial:

Rushbrooke

- 1180 Scotland de Rushbrooke held of the Abbot
1496 Links with Gt. Waldingfield, Preston, Herringswell, Bradfield Combust, Bradfield St. George, and Rougham (Thomas Jermyn)
1703 Links with Bradfield St. Clare and Rougham (Sir Robert Davers)
1806 Marquis of Bristol (Linked to Ixworth) exchanged this manor for that of Little Saxham, transferring ownership to Robert Rushbrooke

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

- 1844 £ £1,618 rental value
1891 £ £1,148 rateable value
1912 £ £945 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844 Lieut. Col. Rushbrooke, sole owner
1891 R.W.J. Rushbrooke, sole owner
1912 R.B.W. Rushbrooke, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

- 1674 Earl of St. Albans
1844 Lt. Col. R. Rushbrooke, M.P.
1891 R.W.J. Rushbrooke
1912 R.B.W. Rushbrooke

18. Occupations:

- 1470 1 rector
1550–1599 1 shepherd, 1 yeoman
1600–1649 2 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 5 yeomen, 1 carpenter
1650–1699 1 tailor, 1 shepherd, 6 yeomen, 1 miller
1844 3 farmers, shepherd, parish clerk, shoemaker, gamekeeper, gardener
1912 3 farmers

19. Education:

- 1818 1 school held 3 days per week and Sunday (31 attend)
1833 1 small daily school (3 attend)
1912 Children attend Lt. Whelnetham

20. Poor relief:

1776	£37 10s.
1803	£109 8s. 7d.
1818	£271 11s.
1830	£251 11s.
1832	£185
1834	£144 3s.

21. Charities:

Lord Jermyn's Almshouse

c.1700 4 tenements occupied by 3 poor women and 1 poor man

Davers' Almshouse

1724 4 tenements built by Sir Jermyn Davers occupied by poor families rent free

22. Other institutions:

1844 Almshouses as previously mentioned

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

17th cent. Sir Thomas Jermyn: Privy Councillor and comptroller of household to Charles I.
1763 Robert Davers (5th Bart) reputedly killed by Indians near Lake Huron, Canada.

25. Other information:

Rushbrooke Hall: Moated. Park of 150 acres and lake of 7 acres. East wing said to date from 13th century, west wing 16th century, probably built by Sir Robert Jermyn.

1578 Queen Elizabeth entertained by Sir Robert Jermyn at the Hall and held court there.

Destroyed by fire 1961 (Photograph in Burke & Savill).

Main doorcase said to be incorporated in Lord Rothschild's house at Tring. Demolished – doorcases and a fireplace re-used in St. Edmunds Roman Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds.

'Rushbrooke Hall, Sale Catalogue' 1919 – contains pictorial as well as written record of items of furniture, tapestry, paintings, etc., offered for sale

Yeoman parish history 1930 has photograph of Rushbrooke Hall, moat and bridge (parish folder).

An account of Sir Thomas Jermyn's funeral 1552 contained in Diary of Henry Machyn suggests Sir Thomas maintained a chapel of syngyng men at Rushbrooke (could support the theory of collegiate priests existing in parish and explain the unusual design of church interior).

Field Book compiled by Sir Jermyn Davers 1730 (said to be in a bad state of repair 1929). Some names given at Mill Went, Mill Hill, Millers Meadow, Chanters/Chaintus Close or Spanle Meadow (Park and farm survey of 1734 in RO strong room). The latter close could support above theory re collegiate priests.

Rushbrooke Lake cleared and restocked with bream, roach, and tench + some carp 1974/77.

Family links between Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds and Rushbrooke Hall in parish folder.

Pump House built 1600.

Hamlet built by Lord Rothschild 1955–1963. A well house situated in centre of village was already in existence.