

1. Parish: Rushmere St Andrews

Meaning: Rushy Lake (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Carlford

Deanery: Carlford (-1920), Ipswich (1920-)

Union: Woodbridge, part of Ipswich Borough

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894-1934), Deben (1934-1974) Suffolk Coastal DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Created civil parish from part of Rushmere not within Ipswich (18%)

Civil boundary change (1894)

Part transferred to Ipswich (1934)

Ecclesiastical boundary change to create Ipswich St Augustine of Hippo (1928)

Ecclesiastical boundary change to create Ipswich St Andrew (1958)

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division

Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,523 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion
 - b) Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine loam over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sandy soils
 - c) Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loams some with olacareous subsoils.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086

17 ½ acres meadow

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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening barley main cash crop.

1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, weat on lighter land.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Large compact development around Woodbridge road. Further development at Rushmere Street, church centrally situated at this settlement. Secondary settlement at Brook Hill. Railway crosses extreme northern sector of parish from W-E. boundary abuts the Borough of Ipswich. Heathland occupies large portion of southern sector of parish

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 26, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 88, 1871 – 142, 1901 – 87, 1951 – 532, 1981 – 1,283

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Ipswich, Tuddenham St Martin, Playford and Kesgrave.
Woodbridge – Ipswich turnpike road (pre 1870), tollgate at Rushmere Heath.
1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich

Rail: 1891 2 miles Westerfield station : Westerfield – Felixstowe line opened (1877).
Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859), both still operational

Water: River Deben

9. Population:

1086 — 50 recorded
1327 — 21 taxpayers paid £1. 11s. 2d. (Includes Alnesbourne Priory)
1524 — 31 taxpayers paid £6. 1s. 4d.
1603 — not recorded
1674 — 26 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 287 inhabitants
1831 — 568 inhabitants
1851 — 678 inhabitants
1871 — 613 inhabitants
1901 — 427 inhabitants
1931 — 1,133 inhabitants
1951 — 1,473inhabitants
1971 — 2,882inhabitants

1981 — 3,485 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

- 1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £9. 6s. 8d. to vicar in same £4. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £4 6s. 8d.
Appropriated to Pirary of Chirsts Church, Ipswich (no Dates) Promissory note for payment of tithes to St Helens, Ipswich (1730). Parsonage house built (1837)
Notes: the old vicarage which preceded the 1827 dwelling was situated near Humber Doucy Lane and consisted of cottage and outbuildings (including, it is believed the tithe barn, pulled down (1877)
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £156 p.a incumbent also holds Perpetual curacy of Playford. Tithes comuted for yearly modus of £316 to the impropiator and £173 to the vicor (1845)
1912 Net value £160 p.a. 36 acres glebe and residence. Living vacant (1915) New vicarage build (circa 1964)

Patrons: Marquis of Bristol (1831-)

11. Church St. Andrew

(Chancel with N. Aisle, nave, asiles, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 20 acres
Norman S. Doorway
Circa 1521 Tower re-erected on earlier base by bequest of Mrs Cayde 'The new steaple should be in like fashion etc., with that of Tuddenham'
1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 17 pictures.
1861 Entirely rebuild (except for 3. Doorway and tower) in Early English style.
1968 englarged

Seats: 230 (1915)

Bixley: Church of St Petronville

Believed anciently connected to Alnesbourne Priory.

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1859 Baptist chapel built. **Seats:** 120

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Wulfgeat a free man of Cyrths
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Robert Malet and held by Humphray
1066	Manor of 80 acres held by Thorkell, a free man under patronage of St. Etheldreda
1086	Manor of 80 acres belonging to Abbot of St Etheldreda

Rushmere/Rushmere Hall

1203	William de Frenay owns
1314	Richard Lenne owns
Circa 1360	John de Holkbroke owns (Linked to Playford, Keagrave, Buckleshaw, Brantham, Burstall, Chelmondiston and Woolverstone
Circa 1384	Sir George de Felbrigg owns (Linked to Playford, Buckleshaw, Mildenhall and Sproughton)
1476	Thomas Sampson owns (Linked to Playford, Kirton, Sproughton and Brettanham)
1546	Thomas Felton owns (Linked to Playford, Buckleshaw and Sproughton)
1741	John Hervey, Early of Bristol owns (Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

Sub Manors:

Bixley

1555	Francis Noone owns and conveyed to John Dameron
1611	Robert Broke owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,301 rental value
1891	£3,341 rateable value
1912	£2,551 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1912 R.L. Everett JP, Major A. Meller JP, Rev. A.W. Gray MA

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 yeoman, 1 carpenter

1550- 1599	8 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 twill weaver
1600–1649	15 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 labourer
1650–1699	1 mariner, 9 yeoman, clerks, 3 husbandmen, 1 spinster, 1 thatcher,
1831	79 in agriculture, 29 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 3 in labouring, 27 in domestic service, 6 others
1844	Coffe house owner, corn miller, 6 farmers, wheelwright, 2 shoemakers, shopkeeper/horse breaker, 3 beerhouse keepers, victualler, blacksmith, registrar John Pell & Sons brick kilns producing white bricks (1880's). Some evidence to support claims of export trade to America. 'Rushmere bricks'. Suffolk Review Vol.2 p.184
1912	Schoolmistress, butcher, 3 farmers, publican, market gardener, blacksmith, contractors for steam rolling, motor haulage, steam ploughing and cultivation, miller, wheelwright, shopkeeper

19. Education:

1597	James of Levington recorded as teaching the children
1818	Sunday school (50 attend)
1833	1 daily schools (50 attend), 1 Sunday school (96 attend)
1846	National School built, enlarged (1870 and 1894), 110 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 110

20. Poor relief:

1776	£48. 10s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£130. 17s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£509. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£537. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£495. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£504. 13s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

Ipswich Union Workhouse built in parish on Woodbridge Road (1898), contained 385 inmates and 17 officials (1912)

1 Friendly Society (48 members) (1803)

23. Recreation:

1844	The Greyhound and the Britannia public houses, 1 coffee house, 3 beerhouses
1891	The Greyhound, The Falcon Inn and the Britannia Inn public houses, 1 beer retailer and 1 maltster

1912 Ipswich Golf course has links on Rushmere Heath (Leased 1894),
The Falcon public house
Rushmere Golf Club leased land on heath (1927)
14 roomed beerhouses built by hop gardens near Brent Lane (Circa 1860) demolished (Circa 1960) to be replaced by garage
Football pitches (1960's). Acreage of common land private playing fields (1961) approximately 234 acres

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Bixley: Reduced only to a farm by (1844)

Bixley Decoy Ponds: south side of parish. Said to have given the name to the parish having produced an abundance of rushes. Formerly held wild duck, widgeon, teal etc.

Landowners have common rights on heath (1891)

Portion of heath used as exercising ground for troops stationed in Ipswich (1891). £20 paid to parishioners by government for damage to the heath by troop activity whilst the War Office paid 5s. p.a. to the Lord of the Manor. Row of cottages in the village contains plaque which states the above.

Tollgate house at Rushmere Heath: (not used as such since (1870) demolished some time between (1933 and 1940)

Stewards papers for manor of Rushmere contains memo as to parish bounds (1730)

'Rushmere St Andrew (the parish with a difference)' by W. Tye. Suffolk Review Vol. p.91

'St Andrews Church, Rushmere' by W. Tye. Suffolk Review Vol.2 p. 260

Archaeological Sites:

Sub rect. Enclosure (CRN 4102)

Rom. pit/pottery (CRN4106)

Site of Church/chapel of St. Petronilla (CRN4118)

I.A. Pottery (CRN 4119)

Stray finds: Rom. quern stone (CRN 4104)
Coin (CRN 4105, 4117)
B.A. flint arrowhead (CRN 4107)
Pal. Worked flint (CRN 4108)

Mes. Axe (CRN 4109)
Neo polished axe (CRN 4110-4114)

Scatter finds:

Med. pottery (CRN 4103)
B.A. pottery (CRN 2966)
Rom. bronze work (CRN 1737)