

# HISTORY OF ESHOLT PRIORY, Guiseley, Yorkshire, England

The small CISTERCIAN NUNNERY of ST. MARY AND ST. LEONARD at ESHOLT, in the Parish of Guiseley, is said to have been founded in about 1172 by Sir SIMON De WARDE, Crusader Knight and Baron of Guiseley. It was in the latter part of the reign of King Henry II or the beginning of that of King Richard I. There is, however, much uncertainty as to the date of the foundation.

The NUNS OF SYNINGTHWAITE received a grant of the whole of the ESHOLT ESTATE from the members of the WARDE Family, but there is no indication that Esholt was ever subject to Syningthwaite, though perhaps Esholt may have been an independent offshoot from Syningthwaite and originally peopled with Nuns from the latter place.

The WARDE Family were patrons of Esholt Priory for many generations thereafter. One prominent descendent of Sir Simon De Warde was Sir CHRISTOPHER WARDE (1453-1521) who was the "Standard Bearer to King Henry VIII". That may account for the partial survival of Esholt Priory after the DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES in 1540.

A large number of grants of land and confirmations are printed in the *Monasticon*, and there are several others in the British Museum, which have not been printed, relating to Esholt Priory.



ESHOLT HALL ... Today.

**18th. Century Painting Of ESHOLT HALL (in the grounds of the former Esholt Priory).**



**By a gift from Margaret Clifford, a widow, the house of ESHOLT also became owners of the ALL SAINTS CHURCH of BELTON, in the Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire and this gift was confirmed by KING RICHARD II on 1 June 1379.**



## **S** CANDAL AT ESHOLT PRIORY

In 1303 JULIANA DE LA WODEHALL, who had been elected Prioress in December 1300, tendered her resignation to the Archbishop of York, who refused to accept it, and wrote that he had not been certified of the state of the house, nor of the reason which made her desire to resign; he therefore commanded her to retain the care of the house as Prioress, until he had discussed the state of the house with the Patron, Simon De Warde, or until he was able to visit those parts.

Possibly the Prioress's desire to resign was due to a recent scandal which is the subject of a letter addressed to her and her Convent by the Archbishop of York in the preceding March 1302 regarding Beatrice de Houkesward, a nun, who had left the house pregnant, and whom they were not to re-admit without the archbishop's special licence.

On 22 September 1315 Archbishop Greenfield wrote to the Prioress of Esholt peremptorily ordering her to remove within six days all the secular women boarders over the age of twelve years, and to admit no more without special licence. On the previous day he had confirmed the election of ISABELLA DE CALVERLEY as Prioress.

In 1318 Archbishop Melton held a visitation and issued injunctions to the Prioress and Nuns. The house was heavily in debt, and all were ordered to use moderation. The Prioress was forbidden, under pain of removal, to grant pensions, or to alienate or lease for long periods any of the granges, nor was she to receive any person to the habit of the nuns or sisters or brothers *conversi*, or to retain as boarders any women or girls over twelve years of age without the archbishop's special licence.

There is a long silence in the Registers till 1445, when the Priory suffered a disaster when the nearby River Ayre burst its banks and flooded the bell tower leaving it in a ruinous state.

Archbishop Kemp granted an indulgence of 100 days, valid for two years, to all who should help towards the reparation or new construction of the **campanile (bell tower)** of the house or Priory of the poor Nuns of Esholt, which recently fell to ruin, or who would assist in the maintenance and the relief of the Nuns themselves, whose lands near the River Ayre, which had been cultivated at much cost and which maintained the nuns, had been flooded.

A dispensation, dated 1 October 1472, *super defectu natalium*, was granted to JOAN WARD, Nun of Esholt; she was afterwards Prioress, and was no doubt connected in some way with the family of the Patron, Sir Simon De Warde. On 28 November in the same year another Joan

Ward made her will, in which she bequeathed her best gown (*togam*) lined with 'fiches,' and a gilded girdle, with white tissue, to be sold, and a vestment bought with the proceeds for ' Abbathie de Hashold.' She also left a pair of coral beads adorned with ' **calsedons**' to be sold and the proceeds to be expended on ' **the payntyng of an ymage of our lady de pete at the Abba of Hassholde.**'

Yet a third **JOAN WARD**, the widow of **Sir ROGER WARD**, the elder, of Givendale, Knight, appears at this period. She made her will **14 November 1473**, and left her body to be buried "infra ecclesiam religiosam Abbathie de Esholt," (**within the religious Abbey of Esholt**) with **20s. (£1. 0s. 0d)** to the Prioress and Convent.

In 1497 **JOAN WARD**, the Prioress, resigned, and on 30 August **ELIZABETH LASYNBY** was elected as her successor.

In 1535 Dr. Clyf, Vicar-General of the Archbishop of York, visited Esholt, and on 10 September 1535, the Archbishop sent the Prioress and Convent a long list of injunctions in the English language:

- All the Nuns were to be obedient to their Prioress and observe '**Sanct Bennett rule which they have professid.**'
- The Prioress was to provide at once sufficient locks and keys for the cloister doors, and the doors were to be securely locked every night immediately after compline, and not opened again till seven o'clock the next morning in winter, or six in summer.
- **A noteworthy order follows,** ' that the Prioress suffer no ale-house to be kept within the precinct of the gates of the saide monasterie.' (**Apparently the Nuns at Esholt brewed more ale than they needed and sold the surplus.**)
- **The dorter (dormitory door) was to be locked every night "unto service tyme."** No manner of person "of what degre soever he be secular or religiose" was to be allowed "to lie, or to be loged" within the cloister, or any chamber opening into it.
- **No sister was to go out of the precinct of the monastery without some just cause,** and the Prioress was to cause some part of **St. Bennett's Rule** to be read daily in the chapter-house, in the presence of all the Sisters.

At the back of certain chambers where the Sisters worked on the south side of the Church, there was an open way leading to the waterside and to the bridge across the water. There was no wall or door to shut it off...

"so that many ylles may be committed by reason hereof; wherfore in avoydyng such inconveniences that myght follow yf it shuld so remayne" ...

The Prioress was ordered "incontinent without delay aftre the recept herof, to cause a high wall to be built, in the said voyde place."

The Archbishop then dealt with the case of “Dame JOANNE HUTTON, nun professed” who “contarie to her profession and vowe made to ALL MIGHTY GOD, to the great daunger of her sowle, and yll example of odre religious parsons, hath lyved incontinentlie and unchast, and hath broght forth a child of her bodie begotten.”

The Archbishop therefore, “willinge to reforme the same horrible crime,” enjoined the Prioress to put “dame Joanne” in prison, or in some secret chamber within the dorter (dormitory), and that neither the Sisters nor any person was to speak to her without leave of the Prioress.

She was to “kepe abstinence” every week, viz. on each Wednesday and Friday to have bread and ale only, and abstain from all flesh, fish, butter, eggs, cheese, and milk. On other days she was to eat “as the convent fareth.”

Each Friday she was to have, in the presence of the Sisters, such discipline in the chapter-house “as ys accustomed to be hadd and done for like offences” and the Prioress was to keep her in prison and continue the penance for two years, unless the Archbishop directed otherwise.

At the time of the SUPPRESSION (i.e. the Dissolution circa 1540) there were eleven Nuns.

1. JOAN JENKYNSON, aged forty, the Prioress, heads the list, and received a pension of £6.13s.4d.
2. ELIZABETH PUDSEY, also called “Prioress” (that is the ex-Prioress); she was over seventy years old and is described as “*decrepita et non abilis adequitandum, neque eundum, ben recommendid to hir friends*”;
3. AGNES BAYN (52);
4. AGNES COKYN (47);
5. JOAN HOLLYNRAKER (?) (54) “*decrepita et non abilis ad equitandum, neque eundum*”. (Meaning she is not able to be carried for she is lame, continue in her habit with her friends);
6. ELIZABETH MAWDE (47);
7. BARBARA DOGESON (36);
8. JOAN HUTON (30);
9. JOAN BURTON (27);
10. AGNES WOOD (27);
11. AGNES DOGESON (40).

Against each name (except those of the Prioress and the ex-Prioress) is written “contynew in her religion” or simply “Contynew.”

## **P**RIORESSES OF ESHOLT PRIORY:

Agnes, occurs **1219**

Alice, occurs **1299**

Juliana de la Wodehall, confirmed **1300**

Joan de Hartlington

Isabella de Calverley, elected **1315**, occurs **1327, 1349**

Isabella de Calverley, elected **1363**

**Maud De Warde**, occurs **1392**

Emma Porter, occurs **1416**

Emma Burgh, occurs **1459**

Elizabeth Lasynby, elected **1475**

**Joan De Warde**, occurs **1480, 1487, 1493**, resigned **1497**

Elizabeth Lasynby, elected **1497**

Agnes Firth, elected **1505**

Margaret Roche, elected **1507**, resigned **1512**

Elizabeth Pudsey, elected **1512**

Joan Jenkinson, occurs c. **1536**

# The De La WARDE FAMILY of Guiseley, Yorkshire, England



**SIR SIMON DE LA WARDE, (1130 - 1181) The CRUSADER, BARON of GUISELEY.**

**SIMON** was borne at **Guiseley** in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1130 AD. He was the son of **Osbert Fitzgeorge de la Warde** and **Osberta de la Warde**. The De La WARDES were already a renowned military Family and the 24-year old Simon strengthened his military and political connections in 1154 by marrying 19-year old **MAUDE De NEVILLE**, granddaughter of the Norman Knight, **Sir GILBERT De NEVILLE**, reputed to be the "Admiral" of the Fleet of Duke William the Conqueror.

This was a tumultuous time at the end of the reign of **KING HENRY I** of England and Normandy. The King died in Rouen, Normandy of food-poisoning in 1135 when Simon was only 5-years old, but he would soon be trained in the art of sword-fighting and horsemanship by his Anglo-Saxon Father, **Sir Osbert Fitzgeorge De La Warde** and his older brothers, **Osbert** and **Godwin**.

**SIR SIMON DE LA WARDE** may have gained his nickname "The CRUSADER" from his service to the new **KING STEPHEN OF BLOIS**, nephew of the deceased **KING HENRY I** and this probably did not involve campaigns to the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

**SIR SIMON** had a reputation as a generous person who, while he freely bestowed the fairest and most fruitful portion of his estate on strangers, was content to reserve for himself and his posterity a mansion and domain at Guiseley "which no modern landowner, who had been possessed of both would have been content to inhabit for a twelvemonth."

The WARDE FAMILY became well-known for their generosity to the Church. SIR SIMON also gave lands to the Benedictine Monks at FOUNTAINS ABBEY circa 1150. Other members of the family repeated such gifts in later generations.

In the register of FOUNTAINS ABBEY there is also mention made of "OSBERT DE WARDE of GIVENDALE", who gave the meadows of "Linpot" and "Udarpot" to it at some early date not named. This probably refers to Sir OSBERT FitzGeorge De La Warde (1088-1150) of Givendale by Ripon, the Father of Simon De La Warde. It is also interesting to note that Simon's Mother was CICELY DE LA FONTAINE, born in Yorkshire, but whose maiden name translates in French to "of the Fountain"... it seems this is not related to Fountains Abbey which was named after the nearby fresh water springs.

# **D**ESCENDANTS of Sir SIMON De La WARDE, The CRUSADER, BARON of GUISELEY



**WILLIAM FITZSIMON DE LA WARDE (1160-1217) Born Givendale; Died Ripon.**

**Married LADY WILMOT DE JOLIFFE (1164-1213) in 1181 in Jacobstow, Cornwall.**



**Sir SIMON II DE LA WARDE (1200-1262) Born Guiseley; Died Guiseley.**

**Married LADY CONSTANCE De VESCY (1200-1252) in 1215 in Givendale, Yorkshire.**



**Sir William Fitzsimon De La Warde (1225-1266) Born Guiseley; Died Guiseley.**

**Married MARGARET De NEVILLE (1235-1300) in 1253 in York, Yorkshire.**



**Sir Simon De La Warde III (1267-1306) Sheriff of Yorkshire; Born Guiseley; Died Givendale.**

**Married CLARICE TREZOG (1265-1320) in 1295 in England.**

**QUOTE from THE MONTH and CATHOLIC REVIEW of January-April 1880:**

**“In the reign of Edward the First and Second (1272-1327), Sir Robert and Sir Simon III De La Warde were summoned to sit as Barons in Parliament, and the latter was also Governor of York and Pontefract.**



**Captain Simon De La Warde (1315-1383) Governor of York & Pontefract. Born Givendale; Died Westmorland, Cumbria;**

**Married MAUDE De MORTIMER (1318-1357) in 1334.**

# FOUNTAINS ABBEY

**The Abbey was founded in 1132 by 13 Benedictine monks from St Mary's in York.**

They'd grown fed up of the extravagant and rowdy way that the monks lived in **York** and so they escaped seeking to live a devout and simple lifestyle elsewhere. This was how they came to **Fountains Abbey** (so-named because of the fresh water springs nearby.).

By the time three years had passed the monks had become settled into their new way of life and had been admitted to the austere **CISTERCIAN ORDER** and with that came an important development – the introduction of the Cistercian system of lay brothers. The lay brothers (what we would now call **labourers**) relieved the monks from routine jobs, giving them more time to dedicate to God rather than farming the land to get by.

**It was because of the help of the lay brothers that Fountains Abbey became so wealthy through wool production, lead mining, cattle rearing, horse breeding and stone quarrying.**

**However, it wasn't all plain sailing. Bad harvests hit the monks hard and they also had to deal with raids from the Scots** throughout the 14th. Century, which led to economic collapse. This was only made worse by the **Black Death** which struck the country in **1348**.

**Despite its financial problems, the Abbey remained important.** The abbacy of **Marmaduke Huby (1495 - 1526)** marked a period of revival and the **Great Tower** built by Huby symbolizes his hope for the Abbey's future.

**The Abbey was abruptly closed down in 1538 in the Dissolution of the Monasteries ordered by King Henry VIII, and the Abbot, Prior and monks were sent away with pensions.**

## **Fountains Abbey today**

**The Estate was sold by the Crown to a merchant, Sir Richard Gresham.** It remained in private hands until the 1960s, including **William and John Aislabie** who designed **Studley Royal water garden** of which the Abbey became an integral part. **The National Trust bought the estate from the West Riding County Council in 1983.**

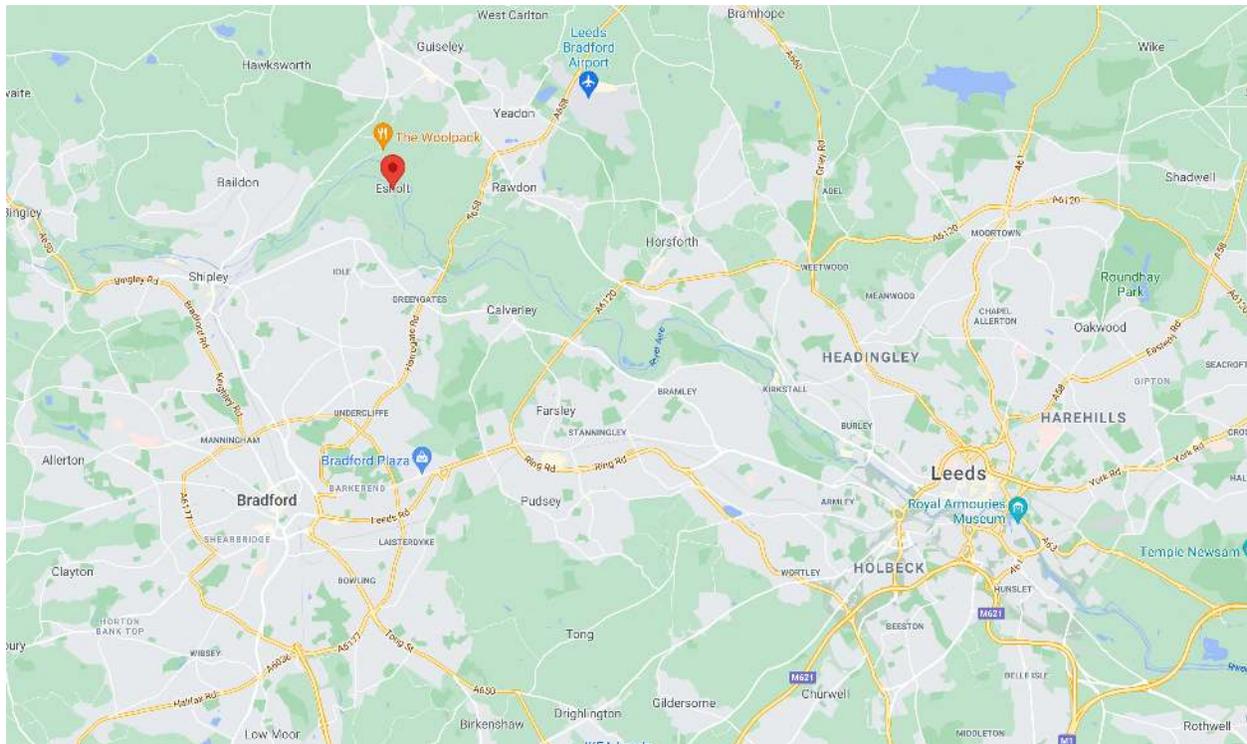


**FOUNTAINS ABBEY... Today.**



# THE VILLAGE OF ESHOLT, Yorkshire, England

**ESHOLT** is a village between **Shipley** and **Guiseley** in the Metropolitan District of the **City of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England**. The original Saxon name "**Escholt**" indicates that the village was first established in a "heavily wooded area of Ash trees".



**MAP OF WEST RIDING, YORKSHIRE. RED TAG is Village of Esholt.**

**ESHOLT PRIORY** is situated 4 miles east of **Shipley**, 4 miles south-west of **Guiseley**, 5 miles north of **Bradford**, and 12 miles north-west of **Leeds**.

**SYNINGTHWAITE PRIORY** was the site of a **Cistercian Convent of St Mary**, founded circa 1160 by **Bertram Haget** and heavily in debt in the early 1500's. There were 9 nuns, the Prioress, 8 servants and other labourers. The Priory site is enclosed by a moat and includes a Chapel Garth.

**Note: CHAPEL GARTH (Old English) means "a closed grassy space adjacent to the Chapel".**

In 1303, the Prioress at Syningthwaite, **JULIANA DE LA WODEHALL**, tendered her resignation to the Bishop over a scandal in which one of the Nuns got pregnant. Despite this, the Bishop refused to accept her resignation.

**ESHOLT PRIORY** was destroyed by **King Henry VIII** in the **Dissolution of the Monasteries** in about 1547 and the **ESHOLT ESTATE** was granted to **Henry Thompson** by **King Edward VI**.

# **L**ANDMARKS AT ESHOLT, West Riding of Yorkshire.

## **ESHOLT HALL**



In 1775 the CALVERLEYS sold the ESHOLT Estate to Robert Stansfield whose family remained in possession until 1906 when it was sold to Bradford City Council.

Just before the First World War, land on the Estate was used for AIREDALE AERODROME.

The current owner of Esholt Estate, YORKSHIRE WATER, operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant on what was the location of the Airedale Aerodrome.

HOME FARM on the estate is used as a Conference and Staff Learning Centre and many buildings have Grade II star listed building status.

### **NOTABLE RESIDENTS of ESHOLT HALL**

In September 1662, LADY FRANCES THOMPSON, the heiress of HENRY THOMPSON married WALTER DE CALVERLEY (1629–1691).

In 1709 their son, Sir WALTER DE CALVERLEY (1670-1749) built ESHOLT HALL, a Queen Anne style Mansion House, on the site of the old Nunnery.

His son SIR WALTER CALVERLEY-BLACKETT (1707 – 1777) lived at ESHOLT HALL before his marriage.

**THE MANOR HOUSE,**

**ESHOLT OLD HALL at Church Lane, Upper Esholt is medieval in origin, probably 16th Century, and possibly once had a moat. It is well-preserved and has Grade II Listed Building status.**



**THE MANOR HOUSE, Viewed from Church Lane.**



## The CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL



The Church was built at a cost of £800 in 1839 by William Rookes Crompton-Stansfield for use as a private family chapel. Historically part of the Parish of Guiseley, the Church of St Paul is a successor to the private chapel in the old manor house. It was consecrated in 1853 and the chancel added in 1895. Since 1983 it has been in the combined Parish of Guiseley with Esholt.

There are many Listed Buildings on Esholt Lane, Cunliffe Lane, Chapel Lane, Church Lane, Main Street, St Leonard's Farm, Upper Esholt, The Avenue, and Esholt Hall.

### WHAT IS A LISTED BUILDING?

A building is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting.

As the term implies, a listed building is actually added to the NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST FOR ENGLAND. You can use this to discover whether a home is listed and if so, what grade it is.

Listed buildings come in three categories of 'significance':

**Grade I** for buildings of the highest significance; **Grade II\*** and **Grade II**

**Listing means there will be extra control over what changes can be made to a building's interior and exterior.** Owners will need to apply for **Listed Building Consent** for most types of work that affect the 'special architectural or historic interest' of their home.

# ESHOLT WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

Esholt Wastewater Treatment Works is located on a 300-acre (120 ha) site on the former Estate of ESHOLT HALL and serves 750,000 people in Bradford and North Leeds. It is YORKSHIRE WATER'S second largest Wastewater Treatment Plant, exceeded only by Knostrop in Leeds.

## History

As Bradford's population and the textile industry grew in the early 19th century most human waste and industrial effluent drained into Bradford Beck, to the canal basin and on to the River Aire flowing past Esholt.

In 1862 a sewage system was begun in BRADFORD, but Bradford Beck was still polluted. In 1869 William Stansfield of Esholt Hall obtained an injunction requiring Bradford Corporation to improve the sewage system so as not to pollute the beck. BRADFORD CORPORATION built a treatment works at FRIZINGHALL to treat the sewage before the water was put in the river.



FRIZINGHALL VENTILATION SHAFT

## PRESS HOUSE, ESHOLT



When FRIZINGHALL WORKS could not cope with the waste the ESHOLT ESTATE was acquired for more than £239,000 as the site for a new Sewage Works. A three-mile long tunnel between Frizinghall and Esholt to connect the sites was completed in the 1920s. Frizinghall Works closed in 1926. The tunnel has ventilation shafts in Frizinghall, Wrose and Idle.

In the site's **Sludge Disposal Building** later known as the **Press House**, 128 steam filter presses compressed sludge to recover grease (**lanolin**) which could be used for a variety of applications, and the press residue was sold as **fertilizer** to meet the cost of operating the plant.

After Bradford's WOOLLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRY declined, the PRESS HOUSE was shut down and became roofless and derelict.

## MODERNIZATION

**Between 2006 and 2009 the Wastewater Treatment Plant was modernized.**

The **£44 Million** scheme included the installation of **aeration tanks, activated sludge tanks, and sludge digestion** facilities. The sludge digestion facility produces **biogas** that is used in a **combined heat and power plant** with two **CHP engines generating 19 MWH per day** which is **44%** of the electrical energy requirements of the site.

Waste products from the works are reprocessed, mixed with green waste and turned into compost. The old percolating filters are obsolete and there are plans to empty them and install photovoltaic panels to generate electricity to power the site, with any excess going to the **NATIONAL GRID**.

## HYDRO-ELECTRICITY POWER GENERATION

The effluent emerging from the sewage tunnel passes through motorized screens, then through the 64 tonne **Spaans Babcock screw generators** into the primary settling tanks. The screw generators comprise two 2.6 metres (8.5 ft) diameter, 14 metres (46 ft) long Archimedes Screw hydro-turbine generators installed in series. The generators operate on a head of **8.2 metres (27 ft)** with a flow rate up to **2,678 litres per second**, generating up to **175 kW**, providing **7%** of the electrical power required by equipment on the site.

**The equipment was installed in 2009 by JN Bentley and is the first site in the UK to use untreated (screened) sewage for hydro power generation.**

## TRANSPORT

**The 649 bus service to SHIPLEY stops in Esholt. The nearest railway stations are at SHIPLEY, GUISELEY, and APPERLEY BRIDGE on the WHARFEDALE LINE.**

## SPORT

**ESHOLT CRICKET CLUB** and a running club are based at **UPPER MILL COTTAGES** on Esholt Lane. Also, on Esholt Lane is a golf driving range and near **HOLLINS HALL HOTEL** an 18-hole golf course.



## POPULAR CULTURE



**The Woolpack, Main Street, Esholt**

**From 1976 to 1996, ESHOLT was used for outside location shots for the Yorkshire Television drama series EMMERDALE FARM. The series relocated to a purpose-built set based on the layout of Esholt on the Harewood Estate in Leeds.**

During the time when the Village was used as a location, the name of the Village pub was changed from **The Commercial Inn** to **THE WOOLPACK** when the landlord tired of the inconvenience caused by the frequent pub sign changes.

Scenes were once again filmed in Esholt, 19 years later in **December 2016**, as part of the special episode following Ashley Thomas' dementia storyline in an attempt to show a skewed, unfamiliar view of the Village as perceived by Ashley.

## **E**XCERPT from "THE YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL (Volume 32)

"EVESTON" belonged to the **Archbishop of York**, who had two carucates there, but in 1316 it belonged to **John Gras**. According to the teodary's book, above quoted, the tenants of "Eveston" supplied 20 harvesters in autumn or gave 20 d., and the **ABBOT of FOUNTAINS ABBEY** held certain tenements there "spectantia ad janitorem suum metentam per iii dies."

(**Translation: "Expecting the Janitor to harvest for 3-days each year".**)

In modern times **EVESTON** has formed part of the **GRANTLEY ESTATE**.

**CARUCATE: The term used in the Danelaw, comparable to the Saxon HIDE, for a unit of taxation, originally the amount of land that a team of EIGHT OXEN could plough each year. This varied according to the quality of the land but was about 120 acres. The CARUCATE or HIDE was the basic unit of taxation in the Domesday Book.**

"**GIVENDALE**". According to the **YORK GOSPEL BOOK** (c. 1030), there was one hide of **Priests' land** in "Gheringdale" and 8 hides of soke-lands belonging to **Ripon**. The **Domesday Book** states that the **Archbishop of York** had 11 carucates of land for geld in "Gheringdale." Before 1266, Givendale had come into the possession of the family of **WARDE**, who held 5 carucates (of which 12 equals a Knight's Fee) for which they did homage and Suit of Court (lawsuit) to the **Archbishop**.

**HIDE, in early English history, the land necessary to support a free Peasant family. In the 12th and 13th Centuries, the hide commonly appeared as 120 acres (50 hectares) of arable land, but it probably represented a much smaller holding before 1066.**

The **WARDES** had their **MANOR HOUSE** there, and a motte still indicates the site of what was perhaps their original home, while the out-buildings of the modern farmhouse contain, or lately contained, some carved stones from their later dwelling, which was described by **Leland** as "a fair Manor Place of stone." As we have seen the **WARDES** also held land in **GIVENDALE** and **RIPON** of the Chapter by the Marmion tenure. An undated document records the grant to **WILLIAM WARDE** of the right to have a **Chapel** and **Chaplain** at Givendale (possibly the chapel of **St. Thomas** referred to in 1410).

The **WARDE FAMILY**, who had been great benefactors to the **CISTERCIAN NUNNERY** of **ESHOLT**, and to **FOUNTAINS ABBEY** by grants of land in Givendale, Sawley and **Sleningford**, ceased in the male line in 1521, when **CHRISTOPHER De La WARDE** (Standard Bearer to King Henry VIII) son of Sir Roger De La Warde, died leaving three daughters, one of whom, **ANNE**, married **RALPH NEVILLE** of Thornton Bridge. For many years this Manor has formed part of the **NEWBY HALL Estate**.

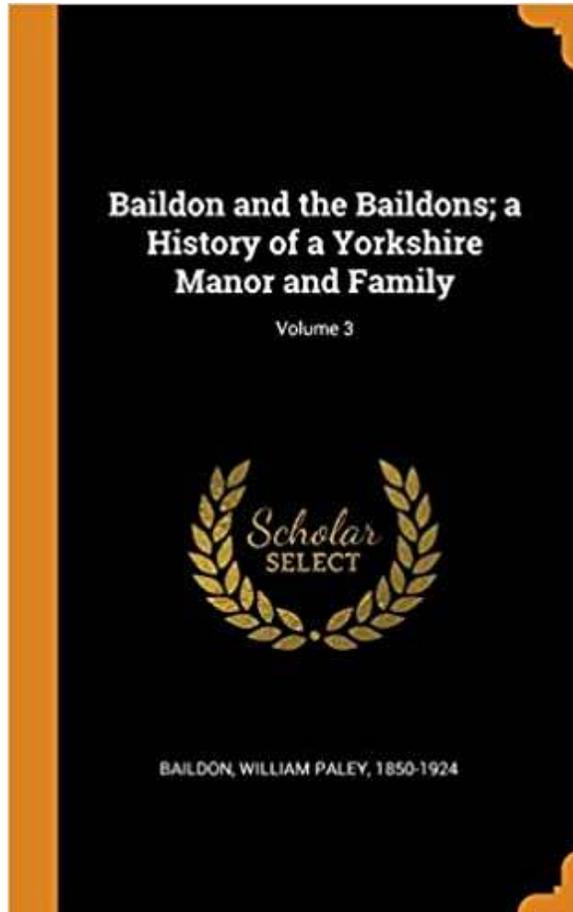
**FOUNTAINS ABBEY, near Ripon, West Riding, Yorkshire, England.**



**St. ETHELBURGA CHURCH, Great Givendale, Yorkshire**

# Excerpts from BAILDON AND THE BAILDONS

by William Paley 1850-1924 Baildon (Creator)



## Quote from the PUBLISHERS:

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# **I**NTRODUCTION TO BOOK ONE

(By William Paley)

**THIS is a HISTORY, not a Guide Book.**

I do not propose to invite my reader to go with me, hand in hand, for walks about the village and rambles over the moor ; nor do I purpose to say anything about modern villas, with the number and size of their orchid-houses, nor to relate the many amusing stories told of ancient and modern inhabitants of Baildon, nor to record traditions of " **Boggarts** " or " **Guytrashes**, " (if that be the correct plural).

**In the dialects of Northern Counties in England, 'boggart' was a general term for any supernatural being which frightened people, whether indoors or out, without specifying whether it is ghost, malicious fairy, or minor demon.**

A good deal on these lines — and I am not wishing to decry it in any way — has already been written about Baildon ; and I may refer the reader to:

- "Round about Bradford", by the late **William Cudworth**,
- to several of **Mr Harry Speight's** works, notably
- "Through Airedale from Goole to Ma/ham", and
- "Pleasant Walks round Bradford",
- and to papers by my old friend, **Mr William Scruton**, published in the **Bradford Antiquary** (vol. iii, new series, p. 37), **The Bradford Observer**, **The Wharfedale and Airedale Observer**, and elsewhere.

**I shall have occasion to quote from all these authorities from time to time.**

But some sort of a topographical survey is necessary as a preliminary to the history of the place, and my endeavour has been, after dealing with general matters, such as situation, natural features, boundaries, and such like, to give a short account of the Village, with its streets and outlying hamlets, of the Church, Chapels, and old houses, and of the antiquarian remains of the Township.

**The map, adapted from the 6-inch Ordnance Survey**, shows, I think, all these special features.

## **E**XCERPTS from Chapter One

**BAILDON** is a township in the Parish of **Otley**, in the Wapentake of **Skyrack**, in the **West Riding** of the **County of York**. It is 4<sup>^</sup> miles from Otley, 2<sup>|</sup> miles from Guiseley, 3<sup>!</sup> miles from Calverley, 2 miles from Idle, 4 miles from Bradford, 1<sup>^</sup> miles from Shipley, 3<sup>^</sup> miles from Bingley, 5<sup>^</sup> miles from Ukley, 4<sup>J</sup> miles from Burley, and 2<sup>!</sup> miles from Menston ; these measurements are taken as the crow flies, on the **one-inch Ordnance Map**.

The situation of the Village is somewhat remarkable. It stands a mile or more from the **River Aire**, and high up on the hill- side ; the Church and the older part of the Village are just above the 500 feet contour line, and 300 feet above the river. In this respect it bears a striking similarity to the two neighbouring Villages whose names also end in "**don**," **Yeadon** and **Rawdon**, both of which are between the 600 and 500 feet contour lines. I shall offer some explanation of this presently, in connexion with the derivation of the name and the early history of the Manor.

**BAILDON** can now be visited by rail, there being a station on the branch of the **Midland Railway** between **Guiseley** and **Shipley**, but the best way to see it is **to go to Shipley and walk**.

A very pretty view of **Baildon** can be seen from the road between **Shipley** and **Thackley**, where **Baildon Hill**, 927 feet above sea-level, seems of much greater elevation than it really is.

Geologically, **Baildon Hill** is a cap of the Lower Coal Measures, overlying the Rough Rock or First Grit, which is the uppermost subdivision of the Millstone Grit. This grit is quarried for roofing slates (locally known as "grey slats" or "thack stones" and flagstones, and it forms an extremely durable building stone.

[These following brief notes on the GEOLOGY of BAILDON are condensed from an admirable article by Mr. James W. Davis, F.S.A., F.G.S., F.L.S., which will be found in UKLEY ANCIENT AND MODERN, by the Rev. Robert Collyer, D.D., and J. Horsfall Turner, 1885.](#)

The top of this grit is the plateau known as **BAILDON BANK**, the edge of which forms roughly the 500 feet contour line all along the south side of the slope. It shows some fine escarpments, as may be seen from the photograph, taken at Lane Ends, near the Bay Horse Inn. On the top of the grit lie the **COAL MEASURES**, which contain at **Baildon** three thin seams of coal, namely, the **Hard Bed Coal**, 1 foot 6 inches thick, the **Middle Band Coal**, 6 inches thick, and the **Soft Bed Coal**, 1 foot 2 inches thick. These coal seams, which are much broken by faults and are nowhere continuous, were formerly largely worked from the surface by means of shallow pits, many of which may be seen along the outcrop of each of the coal seams.

The workings have been discontinued, but the thick bed of **UNDER-CLAY**, which is below the **HARD BED COAL** is worked on the southern side of the hill, and is used for making **chimney-pots, tiles and other articles**. We shall have to refer presently to the early working both of coal and clay.

**Before the making of railways and bridges, Baildon must have been almost inaccessible in the winter.**

There were **fords** and **stepping-stones** across the **River Aire**, leading to **Shipley** and **Idle** respectively, but with the river in flood these would be of little use. On the north, east and west sides, the wild moors and the various **becks (brooks)** would make communication very difficult with Bingley, Otley and other neighbouring places. Indeed, we shall see, when we come to deal with the **Church**, that in 1548 it was urged that the retention of **Baildon Chapel** as a place of worship was necessary " **for that the waters between Baildon and Otley be so troublesome in winter that the inhabitants there cannot pass**" to their own Parish Church.

**This comparative isolation no doubt accounts in a large measure for the peculiar character which the Baildoners seem to have borne among their neighbours until, say, half a century ago. This uncouthness has now disappeared.**

As CUDWORTH remarked, in 1876 : "That the general demeanour of the people of Baildon has greatly improved, anyone who has known the Village in years gone-by will readily acknowledge. " They are now only distinguished by a reputation for " pawkiness " and a "quaint humour", (which, if half the stories told are true, is well deserved), and that sturdy frankness and independence of character which is the birth-right of countless generations of free Yeomen.

**YEOMAN was first documented in mid-14th-century England, referring to the middle ranks of servants in an English royal or noble household. Yeomanry was the name applied to groups of freeborn commoners engaged as household guards, or raised as an army during times of war. The 14th Century also witnessed the rise of the YEOMAN LONGBOW ARCHER during the Hundred Years War, and the yeoman outlaws celebrated in the Robin Hood ballads. Yeomen also joined the English Navy during The Hundred Years' War as seamen and archers.**

**In the early 15th century, yeoman was the rank of chivalry between Page and Squire. By the late 17th Century, yeoman became a rank in the new Royal Navy for the common seamen who were in charge of ship's stores, such as foodstuffs, gunpowder, and sails.**

**These yeomen would eventually become a social stratum of commoners below the landed gentry, but above the husbandmen. This stratum later embodied the political and economic ideas of the English and Scottish enlightenments, and transplanted those ideas to the Thirteen English Colonies in North America during the 17th and 18th Centuries. The Yeoman Farmers of those Colonies became Citizen Soldiers during the American Revolution against Great Britain.**

## THE BAILDONS 521

The thirteen years, during which Agnes was to have Weston, probably represent the time to elapse before the heir came of age; this would make John born about 1356.

1369-70, Hilary Term. — William de Swale and Agnes his wife complained of **Sir Simon Warde** and others for assault at Kirkby Fletham, and the abduction of John, son and heir of Agnes, whereby the plaintiffs lost the profits of the marriage of the said heir. 1

1373. — Thomas de Stapleton held on the day of his death [inter alia] certain lands and tenements in Baildon, which were charged with a yearly payment of £\$ to John Vavasour tor his life [ante, p. 357].

1381, Easter Term. — John Vavasour complained of Adam de Rodes of Baildon for damaging and consuming his corn and grass at Baildon, to the value of 40J., by depasturing his cattle therein.

**1383-4, Hilary Term. — SIMON WARDE, KNIGHT, complained of John, son and heir of John Vavasour of Weston that, whereas the custody of a messuage and a bovate of land in Weston, together with the marriage of the said heir, belonged to Simon during the minority of the heir, because the said John [the father] had held his land of Simon by knight's service, and since Simon had long been in full and peaceful seisin, and had often offered a competent marriage without disparagement, nevertheless John the heir had entered into the said property, and refused to fulfill the said marriage."**

1386, Trinity Term. — John son of John Vavasour of Weston claimed against William de Baildon and John son of Henry Watteson of Malton that they should remove a fence in Baildon, which they had unjustly put up to the damage of the free tenement there belonging to the plaintiff or his father, whose heir he is. 4

1387, Michaelmas Term. — John Vavasour complained of William Smyth of Burley, **John Warde of Ikkelay** [llkley], smith, John Smyth of Calverley, and Adam del Rodes of Baildon, for digging in his land at

Baildon, and taking coals to the value of 100.C

1387-8, Hilary Term. — John Vavasour complained of John de Wymbelton, Vicar of Weston, for damaging and consuming his corn and grass there to the value of 100j., by depasturing his cattle therein. 6

1395, Michaelmas Term. — The Master of St. Leonard's Hospital, York, sued John Vavasour of Weston, for rescuing a cow, seized in the Master's tee at Weston, by Robert Caldrey, his servant, for customs and services due to him. 7

23+ BAILDON AND

Sir William de Stopham and Alice, widow of his son Robert, relating to Alice's dower at Baildon. ' The deed will be printed later.

**1303**, 16 Kal. June, [May 17]. — **SIR SIMON WARD** was present when five Clerks, having the first tonsure, were degraded at the west door of RIPON MINSTER by Archbishop 1 nomas de Corbridge. '

**1304**, 4 Kal. June, [May 29]. — **SIR SIMON WARD** the father, Sir Simon Ward the son, and William Ward, witnessed a charter of the Chapter of Ripon in relation to the vicars. i

**1304**, Trinity Term. — Sarra widow of **NICHOLAS WARDE** claimed against **SIMON WARDE** senior one-third of a water-mill in ESHOLT, as dower. ' She was the widow of **NICHOLAS WARDE** of Salley, mentioned in the proceedings in 1300, [ante, p. 233].

**SIR SIMON WARD** witnessed an undated deed by which Serlo son of Peter del Grene of Hawkesworth gave lands in Hawksworth and Menston to Henry son of William de Baildon, [post, Book III]. 5

1306, August 1. — In the chamber of William de Grenefeld, Archbishop of York, at Otley, in the presence of Robert de Bkmdeston, Robert de Nottingham, Richard de Babington, and many others, the Archbishop, saving the rights of any, took the homage and fealty of SIR SIMON DE WARD, knight, for the tenements held by him in Guiseley, Givendale, Kirkby Wharfe, Bailedon and Hawksworth. Simon shall answer for one knight's fee, and shall do suit at the Archbishop's Courts at Ripon and Otley, from three weeks to three weeks. "

His wife's name was CLARICE [sec post, SIMON WARDE, 8. A., [Clarice Terzog? 1367]; I have no further information concerning her.

His children were Simon, John, Nicholas, Rector of Guiseley, 1306-7, and probably Joan, who married John Scot of Calverley.

Sir Simon died in 1306, between August 1 and November 21, when his son and heir did homage [post, p. 237].

Nicholas Warde, 6. B., son of William, 5. A.

1281-2, 14 Kal. Jan. [Dec. 19, 1281]. — NICHOLAS WARDE, subdeacon, was instituted to the church of Guiseley on the presentation of SIMON WARDE, KNIGHT.' In 1283 he appointed John, Rector at Barwick, as his proctor for three years. 8

THE BAILDONS 235

1288, Easter Term. — John de Walkyngham complained of Nicholas Warde, Parson of the Church at Guiseley in a pica of trespass.

1303, September 25. — NICHOLAS WARDE, Parson of the Church of Guiseley, acknowledged that he owed 19 marks and d\d. [/ . 12. 13.J.

lo.1/.] to Nicholas de Bondegate, chaplain, to be levied of his lands and chattels in Yorkshire, in case of default of payment. 2

Undated; circa 1300. — Margaret relict of John le Vavasour of Hawksworth granted a toft in Hawksworth to Walter son of Walter de Hawksworth. **Witnesses: Nicholas Ward, Rector of Gyselay**, William son of Maude de Hawksworth, William son of Constance de Hawksworth, etc. 3

**Sir Simon Warde, 7. A., eldest son of Simon, 6. A., was born about 1270 to 1280; he succeeded to the family estates on the death of his father in 1306. From 1315 (when he first served the office of Sheriff) to his death in 1334, he was one of the most prominent men in Yorkshire, in both civil and military affairs. His name occurs frequently in the Patent and Close Rolls of the period, and as these are now accessible in printed calendars, I omit all but the most important items there found. A fully annotated biography of Sir Simon would require a book to itself. A good account of his public services will be found in Walbran's Memorials of Fountains Abbey [Sit/tees Society, vol. 42].'**

It is not quite certain if he is the **SIMON WARDE** who married Isabel, daughter of Serlo de Westwick and widow of Sir Robert de Plumpton, but I do not know of any other Simon at this date, and I therefore include here all my notes relating to this marriage.