



The following document is part of a Dulwich Society project to digitise, transcribe and translate the Dulwich Manorial Court Rolls. They begin in 1333 and continue, with some breaks, to 1908.

A typical Manor Court Roll starts with apologies for absence and fines for non-attendance without excuse, followed by a list of local tenants serving on the manor jury, or 'Homage'. The 'Court Leet' or 'View of Frankpledge' dealt with minor offences, disputes between neighbours, and such matters as failing to keep ditches clear. The early Rolls list those with goods worth more than 30 pence, and those keeping pigs (and how many they kept). The 'Court Baron' dealt with property transactions and inheritance matters. Sometimes the functions of the two Courts, almost invariably held one after the other on the same day, overlapped. In time, the 'Court Leet' became increasingly less important.

For more details and links to images of the rolls and other documents please go to <https://www.dulwichsociety.com/courtrolls/>

Text in **red**, apart from modern notes by the transcriber, indicates text missing from, or entirely illegible in, the original Roll. Text in various shades of **grey** indicates text which, in the original Roll, is to a greater or lesser extent difficult to decipher. Otherwise, all contemporaneous text is in **black**, except for presumed later additions which are indicated in **brown** or **blue**.

Roll B6 (front)



Part 1 26 Sep 1402

X .3.

Dillewyssh ¶ View of Frankpledge with Court held there on Tuesday next before the feast of saint Michael in the third regnal Year of king Henry the fourth

X .3.B.6 [in much later hands]

common fine 4 s { William Lane & Thomas Short Head, pledges, with their tithings, are Sworn, & present as the common fine decreed at this View day is 4s. And that a road at Birlynges ^ a nuisance to all the tenants & other passers-by there, for want of a gutter [or whelm], to the grave nuisance of the lord & its tenants. Therefore it is agreed by the tenants, by the common assent of the lord, that there be placed there a gutter of the lord's timber, of elm, the costs of the same to be borne by the tenants there, before the feast of All saints, to which all the tenants are agreed.

pending at the next { And that the tenants of the lands & tenements of William Mellewarde ought to clean & scour a ditch at Crokstrete, which for lack of scouring is a nuisance to all passers-by there. And it is decided that a day is given to William Wedine for his tenants to make amends, before the feast of all saints next following, under pain of half a mark.

pending at the next { Likewise they present John Lane, having a ditch ^ + 3d at Marchall in Westrete unscoured, To the common nuisance, Therefore he is amerced. And he is ordered to make amends before the next [court], under pain of 12 pence.

Sworn into the tithing Alan Goldman & Thomas Austyn are placed in the great tithing of the lord King, And are sworn.





Heriot 18d  
 Fine 40d, remitted

At this Court William atte Crouche surrendered into the lord's hands <sup>the aforesaid</sup> five acres of land, with appurtenances, To the benefit of William Wedone. And there falls to the lord that called a heriot, 18d by custom, because he has no animals as 't—o'. And seisin is conceded to the same William, by the rod, to hold at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, Rendering rent & & doing customs owed & accustomed. And he made native [i.e. unfree] fealty, And he gave the lord for having entry 3s 4d.

----- at the next-----

α  
 The Judgement on the damages recoverable between Walter Godman & Robert Ketell & his wife Sibilla so far remains unrendered, because the Court is not advised. Therefore counsel is to be taken.

-----an—to the lord

he has seisin.  
 William Walssh was summoned by Thomas Ailsham & William Wedone, tenants of the lord, to answer John Pottesblode on a plea of land. And the aforesaid William does not come. Therefore the aforesaid land is to be taken into the lord's hands, according to custom. And meanwhile to answer to the lord for the profits

α. 6d  
 cc-William Lane & the reeve, because they do not have John Waryn accordingly taken in hand. Therefore amerced. And nevertheless he is to be Distraigned before the next [court].

amercement 30d

The Reeve & William Wedine, because they do not have Elena Wodeseare, William Knyth (Tiler), John Short, John atte Bregge, & John Lane, as they were ordered in the second preceding Court, Therefore they are in mercy. And nevertheless they are to be Distraigned against the next [court].

----- at the next

to be distrained  
 News news[sic] is given to the Court that William A Dene, who holds various lands & tenements of the lord, at the will of the lord, took cattle of the farmer of Dillewisshe & of other tenants of the lord there, and moreover drove & inclosed them within the liberty of the Archbishop of Canterbury, & there kept them herded against gage & pledge, in contempt & to the prejudice of the lord, contrary to custom, such that the lord is not able to have a hearing of [a writ of] reprisal made within the lordship, to the serious harm of all tenants. Therefore he is to be distrained, to show how he hid to acquit himself.

[End of Roll B6 (front). Roll B6 (back) continues below.]

Roll B6 (back)

Part 3 26 Sep 1402

+ .3

Further to the Court which is within-written

[in a much later hand:] B6v

Heriet 3s 11d  
 Fine 'dj a' 3s 1d

To this Court Came William Melleward, & surrendered into the lord's hands a messuage & about 10 acres of land, with appurtenances, to the benefit of William Wedone. And there befalls the lord as a heriot, because he has no animals, by custom 3s 11d. And the lord conceded seisin thereof to the same William, by the rod, To hold to the same William, according to the custom of the manor, At the will of the lord, Rendering rent & doing accustomed customs. And he gave as a fine for having entry, as appears [&c]. And he made native [i.e. villein] fealty to the lord &c.

Distrain by better-----

α.  
 Thomas Ailesham, plaintiff, against Andrew 'that was his servant', on a plea of debt, by prosecution pledges : A Pie & the reeve. And because the aforesaid Andrew was summoned & does not come, Therefore he was distrained by various goods which are to remain in the hands of the aforesaid <sup>Thomas</sup> ^ Which it is ordered to check into the lord's safe custody, And to take more until &c. They are to stay until the same Andrew shall come.

Distrain before the next [court] cc-Richard Wedone, plaintiff, against William Dene, in a plea of trespass, by pledge of the reeve &c. Therefore he is to be distrained against the next [court].

amercements 2s

cc-The whole Homage present the default of Robert Dennyng, knight; William Gonulde; William Dene; John atte Bregge; John Lane; John Denewey; John Waryn; & John Chabham, At this Court. Therefore they are amerced.

Election and -----

cc-And they Elected to the office of reeve William Wedine & William Dene } And the aforesaid William showed his customary oath.

Assessors { Richard Courteour --  
William Lane ----- } Sworn

Part 4 14 May 1403

Dillewyssh ¶ Court held there the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of May, in the fourth regnal year of king Henry, the fourth after the conquest

Excuses ----- cc-Elena Ledys from common [suit], by William Knyth, Bailly[=**Bailiff**].

A day is given --- cc- 'se li c-' Therefore 'def---', by the pledge of Waryn  
cc-A day is given to John Abbot to make his case at the next Court, to ?procure the plaintiff's records, as appears in the preceding court.

Respited until the next { stayed into the lord's hands,  
Further, touching Thomas Ailesham, about a cow taken ^ called a Heriot, because the same Thomas ~~alienated~~ alienated a messuage, 7 acres of land, & a half-share of one acre of land, to his son John, adjudged according to the custom of this manor, remains postponed until the next [court]. And meanwhile it is decided that the aforesaid cow is to be kept safe.

Stayed { adjudged  
Further, the judgement between Robert Ketell & his wife Sibilla, & Walter Godman, remains unexecuted, because the steward is not yet advised.

To be distrained { α  
John Pottesblode to be distrained, that he be at the next [court] and likewise William Walssh, to hear the final judgement on certain land sought in this Court by the aforesaid John against the aforesaid William, And to receive what led the Court to [its] decision.

amercement 12d { William A Dene cannot deny that he took several cattle within the lordship, and herded them within the liberty of the Archbishop, such that the lord is not able to effect execution or deliverance of the aforesaid cattle, contrary to the custom of the manor, to the serious contempt of the lord. Therefore he is amerced.

Fine ----- 6s 8d  
A day  
a heriot is to be seized

To this Court comes Richard Courteour, & surrendered into the lord's hands a toft with all lands, & its appurtenances, which were sometime Roger Morkyn's, to the benefit of Robert Woderove & his wife, Joan. And upon this the lord conceded to the same Robert & Joan the aforesaid toft, with all its appurtenances, To Have & to hold, by the rent, customs, & services therein owed & to themselves and their [heirs], at the lord's will, accustomed  $\wedge$ , And seisin thereof is conceded to them, by the rod, according to the custom of the manor. And they gave to the lord  $\alpha$  as a fine for having entry : 6s 8d. And they have the day for making fealty postponed until the next [court]. And it is ordered to seize another day the best animal that the same Richard Courteour has. &c

They be made to come

$\dagger$   
William a Dene was attached to answer to Richard Wedone, on a plea of taking & unjustly detaining cattle of the same Richard. on Thursday last past  
And thereof he says that  $\wedge$  the aforesaid William took his cattle, namely 8 oxen & 3 cows &c., in a certain place called Middelfelde, of Dillewissh, & led them as far as Camerwell, & there inclosed them against gage & pledge. And thereof he says that he is impoverished, & has damage to the value of half a mark.  
And the said defendant says that he is in no way guilty, & on this puts himself on the country. And the aforesaid plaintiff likewise.  
Therefore it is decided that there be made to come 12 [men], as [court] suitors or as tenants of land, And who are not related to either the aforesaid Richard or William, &c

amercement 2d  
Inquiry at the next

$\dagger$   
William Wedone was attached to answer to William Dene, on a plea of trespass. And thereof the aforesaid plaintiff says that the same defendant grazed and trampled with his horse an acre of oats in Middlefelde, to the same plaintiff's damage of half a mark, & he produces his suit. And the aforesaid defendant does not deny that he trespassed, but not to such a value, And seeks the Court's assessment. And upon this there is to be an Inquiry at the next [court]. And the aforesaid William, defendant, is amerced.

amercement 4d -----

The same William Wedone is attached to answer the aforesaid William Dene on a plea of trespass. And because the aforesaid plaintiff does not prosecute, Therefore he is amerced.

α he made fealty at the following Court

To be distrained ----- { The whole Homage present that Robert Ketell alienated 2 acres of land, which he held in right of his wife, of the tenement of John Mortelake, to Thomas Sampson, Butcher. And therefore he is to be distrained before the next [court], for the fine & fealty.

amercements 2s { ¶ Likewise they present Thomas Aylesham & Thomas Short, for digging turves on the common of the tenants, & pretending to be free tenants of the lord. Therefore amerced.

----- { ¶ To this Court came Philip Haverynge, & surrendered into the lord's hands 2 acres of land, with appurtenances, in Northcrofft, to the benefit of John atte Bregge, To whom seisin thereof is conceded by the rod, To have & to hold to himself & his [heirs] according to the custom of the manor, Rendering rent & doing customs & customary works, And he gave the lord as a fine for having entry, as appears within. And he has a day for making fealty. **And afterwards he made it.**

Fine: 3s 4d { ¶ To this Court came Walter Inglissh, & surrendered into the lord's hands 4 acres of land in Northcrofft, with appurtenances, to the benefit of John atte Bregge, To whom seisin thereof is conceded by the rod, To have & to hold to himself & his [heirs], At the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, Rendering rent & doing customs & customary works, And he gave the lord, as a fine, as much for the 2 acres there as for those 4 acres : 3s 4d. And he has a day for making fealty. **And afterwards he made it.**

Elena Wodeseare, under, as within

at the next ----- Let mention be made of a certain cow, bought by an inhabitant, which had been seized for a heriot, worth half a mark, by reason of protection [*'causa elmo'*].

Assessors { William Bailly } Sworn ¶ Total of this Court **13s 7d**  
                  { John Pottesblod }



[End of Roll B6.]