



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**.

10 Dec 1403



Dillewisse

¶ Court with View of Frankpledge held there on Monday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the fifth regnal Year of king Henry, the Fourth after the Conquest

B.7 [in a much later hand]

Excuses none

amercement 3d

cc-John Terry of Cippenham, plaintiff, & John Abbot, defendant, regarding a licence they granted Therefore the aforesaid defendant puts himself [in mercy], by the pledge of William Wedone.

Heriot worth 1 mark in the lord's hands

cc-Thomas Ailesham, because he alienated a messuage 7 acres & a half-share of one acre of land to Joan, his daughter, says nothing as to why a seized cow called a heriot, on account of the aforesaid alienation in the lord's hands, according to the custom of the manor, ought [not] to be awarded to the lord. And therefore it is decided that the aforesaid cow be retained, & that the Bailiff should answer for his possession thereof.

Recovery of damages

At this Court it is decided, by all the suitors of this Court, that Robert Ketell & his wife Sibilla should recover 40d for damages recoverable against Walter Godeman in a plea of land, for which Richard Courteour foolishly pledged, &c.

To be summoned-----	[Further, just as several times before, it was ordered to Summon William Walssh, to answer John Pottesblod on a plea that he should answer to him [for] a parcel of land which he claims, And to hear the final judgement
To be taken in hand]	in default of pleas. And meanwhile the aforesaid land should be taken into the lord's hands.
Adjourned	[Further, touching Robert Woderove & Richard Courteour, about a heriot awarded to the lord, because the aforesaid Richard had no animals within the lordship on the day when he alienated his tenement, lately Roger Morkyn's, to the aforesaid Robert, is adjourned until the next [court] &c. And meanwhile the old Court rolls are to be scrutinised, as to how in former cases it was hitherto accustomed to be made. <i>of this right the custom has been disused for a long time.</i> <i>Therefore postponed until [the next court]</i>
amercement	4d	Richard Wedone, ^{plaintiff,} & William a Dene, defendant, are agreed in a plea of taking & unjustly keeping of cattle, Such that each of them puts himself in the lord's mercy.
amercement	2d	William a Dene, plaintiff, & William Wedone, defendant, are agreed by licence in a plea of trespass, such that the same defendant puts himself &c
He made fealty	[Robert Ketell surrendered into the lord's hands two acres of land, parcel of the tenement sometime John Mortelake's, to the benefit of Thomas Sampson, citizen & butcher of London, To whom seisin thereof is conceded by the rod, To have & to hold to the aforesaid Thomas & his [heirs], according to the custom of the manor, at the will of the lord, Rendering & making accustomed rent & customs. And he gave the lord for having entry & seisin 12d. And as to an increased rent for the aforesaid land, according to the custom hitherto used, it is postponed until &c., because the said custom fell into disuse by negligence, &c.

Fealty
fine 12d
Postponed

Richard Courteour surrendered into the lord's hands 2 acres of land, parcel of the land lately Roger Morkyn's, To the benefit of the aforesaid Thomas Sampson, To whom it is conceded, &c., To have, &c., at the will of the lord, Rendering accustomed customs & accustomed works. And he gave for entry, &c., 12d. And he made fealty. And the Increased rent is to be postponed until, &c., for the reason above stated.

Fine half a mark

The lord conceded to Elena Wodeseare, for a certain fine of half a mark, a cow seized into the lord's hands, because of the Alienation made by her of a certain messuage of hers, according to custom &c. And therefore with the Beadle. And this concession by reason of the poverty of the said Elena.

Fealty
fine 3s 4d
Postponed

To this Court came John Larke (by his attorney) & his wife Joan, examined by herself in full Court, and surrendered into the lord's hands 3 acres of land in the Apse, with appurtenances, To the benefit of Thomas Ailesham, To whom the lord conceded seisin thereof by the rod. And in the same Court the aforesaid Thomas surrendered the same 3 acres of land into the lord's hands, to the benefit of John Shrovysbury & his wife Alice. And the lord conceded seisin thereof to the aforesaid John & Alice by the rod, To have & to hold to the same John & Alice, according to the custom of the manor of Dillewyssh, at the will of the lord, making rent & accustomed services therefor. And they gave the lord for a fine for both of them 3s 4d. And they made customary fealty to the lord. And as to the customary/increased rent, according to the custom of the manor, postponed until &c.

Fealty
fine 4d

Postponed -----

To this Court came John in the lane, & surrendered into the lord's hands a half-share of an acre of land, with appurtenances, in Northcrofft, to the benefit of John atte Bregge, To whom the lord conceded seisin therein, to have & to hold to the same John, according to the custom of this manor, at the will of the lord, Making therefor the rent & accustomed customs. And he gave the lord for a fine 4d, And he made customary fealty to the lord.
And [regarding] his increased rent of old custom of the manor, Postponed until &c

fine 3s 4d

Adjourned to the next

To this Court came Joan, daughter of Thomas Ailesham, & surrendered into the lord's hands a messuage, 7 acres, and a half-share of one acre of land, with appurtenances, which were lately Elena Wodeseare's, to the benefit of John Lillebourne, To whom seisin thereof was conceded by the rod, To have, according to the custom of the manor, at the will of the lord, Making rent & customs owed & accustomed. And he gave the lord for a fine for having entry 3s 4d, And he made customary fealty to the lord. And as to the increased rent & heriot adjudged for the tenement or messuage above-stated, the Court is not yet advised, because it is testified that the aforesaid Joan has no animals, And therefore adjourned until &c. And meanwhile there is to be scrutiny of the rolls & other muniments ~~if~~ in a similar case ^{if} the tenant of the aforesaid ~~land~~ messuage ought to owe burdens therefor, &c.

--Itat here because of the above

Richard Courteour surrendered into the lord's hands 2 acres of land, of the tenement lately called Morkyns, to the benefit of Thomas Sampson, To whom seisin thereof was conceded by the rod, To have to himself & his [heirs], according to the custom of the manor, at the will of the lord, Rendering therefor the rent & customs owed & accustomed. And he made customary fealty to the lord, And he gave, for having entry, nothing, because of the above.

to be seized into the lord's hands ^a The Beadle is ordered to seize into the lord's hands 2 acres of land at le Pigthill, within the lordship, because they have been alienated without the lord's licence, And to answer for the profits thereof &c., saving the right of whomever &c.

fine 6d John Barde gave the lord 6d, as a fine for having an Inquiry to investigate his right in a messuage & certain lands, which were Alice Bearde's, within the lordship. And the homage, charged therein, do not know that he has any right as he says in his petition, &c. pledges of the fine : William Wedone & the Beadle

And it stays to the next To this court came Thomas Short, by his attorney Adam Lucas, & Alice, wife of the aforesaid Thomas, in her own person, examined on her own, & surrendered into the lord's hands an acre of land, with appurtenances, in Crokstrete, to the benefit of Thomas Ailsham, if it so happens that the aforesaid Thomas Short & Alice default in paying 20s to the aforesaid Thomas Ailsham at the feast of Saint Michael next now coming, which payment they received from him out of loan, Provided that the aforesaid Thomas Ailsham then satisfies the aforesaid Thomas & Alice 33s 4d above the to which day arrears ----- aforesaid 20s for the land aforesaid. And so it remains in the lord's hands until for a fine [&c].

----- at the next William Lane, William Baillif, William a Dene, Robert a Woderove, Roger Bullok, John Denewey, John Chobham, John Pottesblode, Philip Haverynge, Adam Lucas, John Balle, & John Lane, elected to try &c. the right of Thomas Ailsham, plaintiff, & Robert Denny, knight, defendant, have by agreement of the parties a day, it is not pursued until the next Court, to give a verdict on whether the aforesaid Robert took & carried away 60 loads of clay of the aforesaid Thomas at Amelles, into the market, And also took and carried away a certain board, called a Plank, lying there, to the damage of the same Thomas of 30s, as he put over himself. And thereof the aforesaid Robert says that he is in no way guilty. Therefore the prosecution of whichever of them 'J---' 20d.

Robert Denny is attached by 1 horse & 2 [?]bulls this same day to answer to the lord as to why two of his servants cut down & sold thorn-bushes, oaks, & other trees lately growing in the lord's wood, without licence of the lord, to the lord's damage of 12s 4d. Upon which comes the aforesaid Robert, & puts himself in grace of the Court, by the pledges of Adam Lucas & Richard Courteour. And to answer to the same &c ----- until at the next Court And meanwhile the same R[obert ---(the Roll is torn here)-----] his '....*menta*' to the lord & his counsel.

[End of Roll B7 (recto).]

Let him be distrained

Roll B7 (verso)

10 Dec 1403 (continued)

Further of the within-written Court

Robert Denny knight holds a tenement, lately Robert Knolles', & before John Pere's, of the lord's fiefdom, by service of 40d a year, as appears in the Rental & by other services and also a messuage & 12 acres of land, with appurtenances, called Amiels, by service of 11d ^{halfpenny} a year, 9 acres of land, with appurtenances, called Reygates, by rent of 12d & 1 lb of cumin a year, a tenement & 8 acres of land, lately in the tenure of John Daye, villein, & 4 acres of land likewise, lying in a Field called le Aspes, by service of 16d a year, & 2 acres likewise lying in Madecroffte, by rent of 7¼d, of the late tenement of Roger Morkyn, villein of the lord, and also of a tenement, with appurtenances, sometime of John Brigh, villein, as appears in the [Roll of the] Court held the 21 day of the month of May in the third regnal Year of king Henry the fourth, over the name of Robert Knolles, whose standing the aforesaid Robert Denny now has in the aforesaid tenements, with appurtenances. And therefore it is decided that the aforesaid Robert should be distrained to show, at the next Court, how he entered into the lord's fee, and also for fealty & arrears of other customs, to satisfy the lord.

Let him be distrained

penalty half a mark next { cc-Likewise they present the high way at Aspole, as a danger to all passers-by there, for lack of placing of a gutter/whelm there, to the common harm. And therefore the Homage is ordered before the next Court, to place the aforesaid gutter, of the lord's timber to be delivered to them here in its place, & this under pain of half a mark.

amercement 3d { cc-Likewise they present William Bailly, for felling, without the lord's licence, 25 elms on lands which he holds according to the custom of the manor at the will of the lord, against the custom of his tenure, upon which the bailiff is Ordered to cart the aforesaid elms to the lord's manor-house. And the aforesaid William is amerced.

amercement 4d { cc-William a Dene, who likewise holds certain lands according to the custom of the manor at the will of the lord, cut down several elms & ash trees without the lord's licence, And therefore they are to be seized, and carted to the lord's manor-house. And nevertheless the aforesaid William remains amerced.

excused
Ordered at the next { cc-Likewise they present that a ditch at the end of Marlie within the lordship is unscoured through the fault of William Wedone and also another ditch in Westrete likewise now a danger for want of cleansing of the same through the fault of John inthelane, who are ordered to make amends before the next Court under pain to each of them of 12d

Election { cc-Thomas Short, headpledge, is removed from his aforesaid office, in place of whom is elected Roger Bullok, who took [his] oath.

amercement 4d { cc-William Bailly, ale taster there, presents John Pottesblode & William Bailly, for selling ale & for breaking the assize, And therefore amerced.

Assessors of this Court Robert Woderove }
William inthelane } Sworn. ¶ Total of this Court & View : 24s 9½d
besides 1 cow, as a heriot, worth 13s 4d.

[End of Roll B7, apart from holes for string to secure several rolls together, several inches below.]

