

If you wish to find the location of the names mentioned in David Mills's fascinating paper on Monks Eleigh names you can go to "Maps" on this website and then "Map of 2021"

Houses, buildings, streets, etc, that are mentioned by David are marked in **RED CAPITALS** on these maps.

MONKS ELEIGH NAMES

The parish name: MONKS ELEIGH

More than 40 different spellings of our village name have been noted in the 1000+ years of its recorded history:

Illeyge, Illeye 946-c.951 (13th cent. copy of Anglo-Saxon will), *Illelege* 991 (12th cent. copy of Anglo-Saxon charter), *Illanlege* 1000-1002 (11th cent. copy of Anglo-Saxon will), *Illaleh* 1006 for 1002, 1042-1066 (12th cent. copies of Anglo-Saxon charters), *Illelege* 1052-66 Hart, *Illeleia*, *Ilelega* 1086 Domesday Book, *Ilelege* c.1095 Bury, *Illegha* 1200 Brakeland, *Ylleggh* 13th cent. AD, *Illee* 1206-7 FF, *Illege* 1207-13 CartAntiq, *Illeghe* 1209 FF, 1240 Ass, *Illeggh* 1230 FF, 1307 CCA, *Illeye* 1242 Fees, 1310 AD, 1296 Pat, 1302 FF, *Yllech* 1270 Ipm, *Ille* 1290 Ipm, *Yllea* 1305 N, *Jilleygh* 1322 Ipm, *Illigh* 1331 FF, *Hellega* 1152-61 CCA, *Hillege* 1202 FF, *Hilleh* 1228 Cur, *Hylleye* 1240 Ass, *Helegh* 1348 FF, *Illehe archiepiscopi* c.1190 Bury, *Illege Monachorum* 1240 Ass, 1318 N, *Illeya Monachorum* 1254 NorTax, 1291 TaxE, *Illea Monachorum* 1274 Rental, *Ille(y)e Monachorum* 1274 RH, 1302 FA, *Hylley Monachorum* 1288 AD, 1341 AD, *Illeggh(e) Monachorum* 1310 CCA, 1327 SR, *Illeygh Monachorum* 1341 NI, *Ylleghe Monachorum* 1344 N, *Illygh Monachorum* 1535 VE, *Illeigh Monachorum* 1541 N, *Munk Ylleye* 1268 FF, *Monks Illey* 1295 AD, *Monckes Illeggh* 1304 N, *Monekesillegh* 1304 Ch, *Monks Hillegh* 1321 FF, *Monkys Illey* c.1440 Pat, *Monkesyle* 1445 Pat, *Monkesylle(i)gh* c.1490 N, *Monkysylly* 1516 N, *Monkes Illigh* 1524 SR, *Munksillith* 1535 VE, *Munksyllyth* 1552 N, *Monkes Illeggh* 1568 SR, *Munkesilye* c.1610 Speed, *Monks Illith* 1635 N, *Muncks Illeigh* 1650 W(c), *Monks Illeigh* 1783 Hod, *Moygnes Illeye* 1312 FF, *Monks Ellegh* 1318 FF, *Muncks Ely* 1674 HTax, *Monks Eleigh* 1805 OS 1"

The name ELEIGH was first coined during the Anglo-Saxon period, probably as early as the 7th century (the era of the Sutton Hoo ship burial). It was

originally *Illanleah*, that is ‘Illa’s woodland clearing, the woodland clearing of a man called Illa’, from Old English *lēah* and an Old English personal name (the medial *-n-* is a genitive or possessive grammatical inflection, equivalent to our apostrophe ’s). We know nothing more about this man Illa, but we may suppose he was either a *thegn* (a minor nobleman) or a *ceorl* (a freeman or peasant farmer) – this word is found in the place-name Chelsworth). His estate of *Illanleah* was a large one, eventually of course divided into two – hence Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh. This division may have taken place at an early date, certainly by the mid-10th century. The earliest reference to Monks Eleigh is in the will of Ælfgar, the powerful Ealdormann (‘underking’) of the East Saxons. In this document, dated 946-c.951, he bequeathed his estate at *Illeye* to his younger daughter Ælfflæd, but with the stipulation that it should eventually be given to Christ Church at Canterbury for the use of the monastic community there. This promise was fulfilled in a charter dated 991 when Byrhtnoth, successor to Ælfgar as Ealdormann of the East Saxons and also his son-in-law, husband of Ælfflæd, granted *Illelege* to the Canterbury monks. In the August of that same year, Byrhtnoth met his death, leading the East Saxon army against an invading force of Danish Vikings at the Battle of Maldon. The manor here was therefore held by the monks of Christ Church Canterbury from the late 10th century until the Dissolution of 1536, when it was passed to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and they remained lords of the manor until 1863.

In the early records, the Latin affix *archiepiscopi* means ‘of the archbishop’, Latin *Monachorum* means ‘of the monks’, *Moygnes* is from Old French *moine* ‘a monk’. Affixes from the Middle English word *munk*, *monek*, *monk* (Old English *munuc*) first appear in 1268. It is also to be noted that, apart from the isolated spelling *Ellegh* in 1318 and the spelling *Ely* in 1674, spellings with initial *I-*, representing the historical form of the name, persist well into the 18th century. Moreover, the current spelling *Eleigh* does not make an appearance until the early 19th century.

As for neighbouring Brent Eleigh, the distinguishing affix *Brent* is first recorded in 1274 (in the spelling *Brendylle*). This is from Middle English *brend* ‘burnt, destroyed by fire’, no doubt alluding to some dreadful conflagration in the village. The English word *brend* alternates with the Latin words *arsa* (as in *arson*) and *combusta*, both meaning ‘burnt’, in the early records of the name.

The river name: the RIVER BRETT

The river takes its name from the village of Brettenham because one arm of the river, the smaller of its two main tributaries, rises near there. The old village name Brettenham, ‘the homestead of a man called Bretta’, is of Anglo-Saxon origin with its first mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. The river-name is thus a so-called back-formation from the place-name: once the original meaning of the place-name was forgotten, the first element was reinterpreted, due to folk

etymology, as a name for the river, hence *Breton* in 1577, *the Breton* in 1618, and *Breton or Bret* in 1735. The river then retains the name *Brett* throughout its entire length until it flows into the River Stour at Higham.

Since Monks Eleigh lies in the valley of the larger of the two tributaries of the river, this meeting the smaller one (the Brett) at their confluence near the bridge on the parish boundary with Chelsworth, it is strictly speaking correct to refer to our river as LAVENHAM BROOK (as on most recent and current maps), so named because, rising near Cockfield, it flows through Lavenham (note however that it is occasionally called *Brett* on maps, as on the OS 6" map of 1885). Although it is more usual for the larger feeder of a river to carry its name, that is not really the case here, but it is of course understandable that we nevertheless think of our river as the Brett, and that we live in the Brett valley.

Interestingly though, our river had an earlier name, its original one. Most English river-names are ancient, and clearly Brett is not an old name. In fact, our branch of the river is referred to as *mearcella* in the Anglo-Saxon charter describing the bounds of Chelsworth dated 962, and another document dated 1000-2 refers to it lower downstream as *mercyle*. This name for the river Brett remained in use for centuries, surviving as *Markele* in 15th entry records relating to the area around Higham where it meets the Stour. The origin and meaning of this ancient river-name *mearcella/Markele* for the whole river, including our stretch, is uncertain, but it is probably of Celtic origin with a meaning 'the little horse, the filly'. This name will have been the one used by the people of the Romano-British settlement recently discovered on the school site in the village.

VILLAGE NAMES

ALEXANDERS. The house is probably of 16th century origin. The family who gave name to it include Robert and Roger *Alexsaunder*, both of whom paid 1s. tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1524, William *Alexaunder* who is recorded as holding a messuage, garden and land here in 1528 (N p.16), and Robert *Alexander* whose will is dated 1559 (N p.25).

ALICES. Now the name of this cottage on the west side of DOLPHIN BARN, to which it was originally a later extension. The name predates the cottage, and was most probably the original name of Dolphin Barn itself.

THE ALLEY. Thus in 1901 Census. From Middle English *aley* 'a walk or passage'.

ANSELL COTTAGE. The cottage has 18th century external features but is probably of earlier (16th-17th century) origin like THE MANSE to which it is attached on the south side. It takes its name from the Ansell Trust, established in 1845 by John Ansell of Hadleigh when he bought the Congregational Chapel (see UNITED REFORMED CHURCH) along with the Manse and this cottage.

BACK LANE. Giving name to *Back Lane Meadow* 1843 TA. In medieval times known as *Fennestrete* c.1280 W (b), 1367 Ct (N), 1380 W (b), with reference to the fen or marshy ground (Middle English *fen(n)*) that also gives name to FENN FARM. Perhaps also referred to as *Hoolstrete* 1367 Ct, *Holstrete* 1420 ib, from Middle English *hol* 'hollow'.

THE OLD BAKEHOUSE. Part of a 15th century building, see CHURCHES.

BARN CLOSE. Named from the former manorial barn, often referred to as 'the Lord's barn' in medieval times, as in 1306 Ct (N) p.53.

BOYTON HALL. Thus on 1724 Map and on 1885 OS 6" map. The name of this manor is a transferred one, going back to the 13th century: a messuage and carucate of land (as much as a team of oxen could plough in a season) were granted to William *de Boyton* and Dionisia his wife in 1277 (N p.17). The same William was granted 'free warren' in 1304 C, and in the 1327 Subsidy Roll, his son William *de Boytone* was the second highest taxpayer in the parish, with a payment of 4 shillings. The family came from one of the places called Boyton in Suffolk, probably from either Boyton in the east of the county near Capel St Andrew or Boyton End near Stoke by Clare (these old names, both originating in the Anglo-Saxon period and first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, mean 'estate granted to a young man or servant', or 'estate of a man called Boia').

BRETTES. The building is of 16th-17th century origin. No doubt named from the family of Thomas *Bret*, recorded in the Hearth Tax returns of 1674 as possessing a single hearth. The surname is an interesting one. It is not taken from the river-name Brett, but most probably derives from Middle English *bret* 'a Breton': there were Bretons alongside Normans in William the Conqueror's invading army in 1066, and many Bretons settled in East Anglia after the Norman Conquest.

BRIDGE FARM. Thus on the 1724 Map and on 1885 OS 6" map, and named from GEDFORD BRIDGE. The farmhouse is of 15th-16th century origin, so must have had an earlier name before the bridge was built.

BUTT FIELD. Recorded as *The Buttfield* in 1722 N, *Butt field* 1843 TA, possibly named from Middle English *butte* 'short strip at right angle to others', but perhaps more probably from Middle English *butt* 'an archery butt', thus indicating a field once used for archery.

THE CAUSEWAY. Thus in 1930 N, from the Middle English word *cauc(i)e* (with the addition of *way* from the 16th century) in its original sense of 'raised track across marshy ground'. An alternative local name for this important path across the floodplain of the river, linking the two halves of the village, is THE CARNSER, from an old dialect word *carnser*, *carnsey* with the same meaning.

The Causeway Bridge (simply *Foot Bridge* on 1885 OS 6" map) across the river was built c.1850 N.

CHRISTMAS TREE COTTAGE. The cottage is of 17th-18th century origin, and was earlier the *Kings Head*, one of four pubs in the village, closed in 1907.

CHURCH COTTAGE. Dating from the 17th-18th century, originally three cottages, named from St Peter's Church to which they belonged, cf. 'the Churchwardens and Overseer held...the Cottages on Church Hill, afterwards the Workhouse, now held by the School Trustees' (late 17th century N p.37). The parish workhouse was here from 1756 to 1834, at which date the first parish 'schoolroom' was established, later to be replaced with another larger school built next to the cottages, this remaining the village school for some 90 years.

CHURCH FIELD. Named from the field so called in 1843 TA. Once part of the lands belonging to St Peter's Church. Even the early church mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 is said to possess 22½ acres of land.

CHURCH HILL. Thus on recent documents, but earlier sometimes *Church Street*.

CHURCHES. Along with the Old Bakehouse, the building is of 15th century origin. Perhaps to be associated with the family of John *at Church*, mentioned in 1306 Ct (N) as being fined 8d. for not coming to work to thatch the lord's barn: the surname means 'dweller near the church'.

CLAY HILL. Thus in 1721 N and on 1885 OS 6" map, named from the heavy clay soil here. It forms a stretch of the parish boundary with Chelsworth.

COBBOLDS MILL and COBBOLDS MILL HOUSE. Both the original water mill and the house are of 18th century origin, referred to as *Cobbolds Farm (Lower Mill)* on 1724 Map. Named from Thomas *Cobbold*, who held the earlier mill here in c.1450 W. This was *the Lower Mill*, referred to thus in 1732 and 1764 N, so called because it was lower downstream on the river in contrast to *the lord's mill*, for which see MILL LANE and OLD MILL HOUSE. Another early reference to the Cobbold family is the field-name *Cobboldfeld* c.1510 W, and the field-name *Mill Field* on 1724 Map, 1843 TA refers to this mill.

COOMBS HILL. Perhaps so named from the surname of some early owner or tenant of land here.

CORN CRAFT. The name given to this successful family business, originally making corn dollies but now a much larger retail enterprise, set up in 1970 at Bridge Farm Barns by Royston and Wyn Gage.

THE CROFT. The house is of 15th-16th century origin, refronted in the 19th century. Referred to as *The Croft* in 1930, from the word *croft* meaning 'small

enclosed field attached to a house', but earlier called *Birches* (N p.58). This surname is evidenced in the village at an early date: a cottage just east of the church was held by Roger *Burche* chaplain in 1380 W. Later there was also a Rector of the parish, William *Byrche* 1717-19.

DOLPHIN BARN. The cottage is probably of 16th-17th century origin (with a later extension on the west side now ALICES). The present name was given to the cottage by Ettie French, daughter of the Irish songwriter and entertainer Percy French when she came to live here along with her mother in 1948, later to be joined by her sister Joan in 1962. The name is transferred from *Dolphin's Barn*, a well-known inner city suburb of Dublin, featured several times in James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* and so called from a family called *Dolphin* who once owned a large storehouse there – note the omission of apostrophe 's in the new name. The cottage probably had an earlier name, and it could well be that this was *Alices*, now still applied to the adjoining cottage on its west side, and that this name is an old one, to be identified with two early references: the tenement on the Street called *Alesses* held by the Church wardens and Overseers in the late 17th century (N p.37), and the cottage called *Alessys* owned by the parish and sold in 1851 (ib p.47). *Aless* will then have been the surname of a very early owner or tenant of the tenement or property here: the surname itself is derived from the Middle English or Old French female personal name *Alice*, often spelt *Alis* or *Aless* in early records. It should also be noted that the cottage on the east side, once part of the original building and now called ALLCOTT, was earlier *Whales Haven*, so named by the Welsh lady who lived here as a punning reference to her home country.

DULLS LANE. Thus on 1885 OS 6" map. Now a narrow path, but of historical interest because about midway along its route were located the village's 'Pest Houses' (for which see section 'Names now lost' below). The field-name *Dulls* is marked on 1724 Map, and Northcote p.55 mentions *Dull Springs*. These are all named from the family of Richard *Dul(l)* 1361 W(c), 1373 Ct (N) and John *Dul* 1368 ib, the latter granted woodland here in that year. According to W(c), the name *Newstrete* recorded in 1380 is to be identified with Dulls Lane.

THE FENN. *Fenn Farm* on 1885 OS 6" map, but simply *The Fen* in 1637 N and on 1724 Map. Although the present house dates from the 16th century, with a new front added in the 18th century, various 14th century references suggest an earlier dwelling here occupied by William *atte Fen* or *de le Fen* c.1300, 1311 CCA, John *atte Fen(ne)* 1327 SR, 1367 Ct, 'at the fen, or of the fen', from Middle English *fen(n)* 'fen, marshy ground'. The fen itself is also referred to in *Fennestrete*, an early name for BACK LANE.

FOSKER'S COTTAGE. Earlier simply *Foskers*, named from the local *Fosker* family. The cottage is of 18th century origin, but was rebuilt after a fire. The surname is an interesting and unusual one: it is probably one of the many

shortened variants of the surname *Fortescue*, originally a nickname for a valiant warrior, from Old French *fort* 'strong, brave' and *escu* 'shield'.

FOYSTERS HALL. Thus on 1885 OS 6" map, *Fosters Hall* on 1724 Map, *Foster Hall* on 1805 OS 1" map. The house is probably of 16th century origin with later additions. It is named from the prominent Monks Eleigh family who held the farm here in medieval times, the first of whom was named as Richard *Forestaro* (Latin, 'the forester') in c.1250 W(a), followed by his descendant Andrew *le Forester* 1310 CCA, 1321 N, who was not only reeve of the manor but also wealthy, listed as paying 7s. 8d. tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1327, the largest amount in the parish. At a later date, the surname of family members is reduced to *Forster*, as in 'the pasture of Richard Forster' in 1367 Ct (N), and later still to *Foster*, hence *Fosters Hall* as the name of the house on 1724 Map. The further more recent change to the current spelling Foysters, first evidenced in the 19th century, is a more unusual development. The original surname *Forester* would have described someone who lived or worked in one of the royal forests – in the medieval period large areas of woodland set apart for hunting by the king and his nobles and controlled by strict laws.

GEDFORD BRIDGE. Named from *Gedeford* c.1475 M, 1510 Wa, 'the ford where pike were seen or caught', from Middle English *gedde* 'a pike' (from Old Scandinavian *gedda*) and *ford*. The bridge here, replacing the ford at this important crossing of the river, was built in 1750, repaired in 1804, and rebuilt in 1825. There is early evidence for the presence of pike in the river: in 1368 Ct, one Adam Spencer, a poacher, was fined for taking a *pykerel* ('small pike') from the lord's pond (no doubt a pool in what was usually referred to in medieval times as 'the lord's river').

THE HAMPLING. This path running north from The Street and past the east end of the churchyard is named from the small field, alongside the path, called *Hemp Land* on 1724 Map, *Hempland Meadow* 1843 TA, 'the ground where hemp was grown'. The path is an old one: it is described in a document from 1380 W as 'a 5ft wide pathway down to the highway' from the former cottage east of the Church belonging to the church chaplain. The name too is significant: along with the small piece of ground adjacent called *Teinter Yard* 1843 TA ('yard where cloth was stretched on tenters or wooden frames'), the field *Winding Piece* ib. (also 'piece of ground where cloth was stretched'), and possibly also the name SWINGLETON, it refers to the production of linen cloth in the village in earlier times. As for the name The Hampling, the transfer of field-name to path-name is unusual and interesting.

HAWKINS FARM. Thus on 1724 Map, named from the family called *Hawkins*, among them George and Sarah *Hawkins* who died in 1893 and 1910 respectfully (N p.89). The house is of medieval origin, with 16th, 17th and 18th century additions. According to Weller, it is to be identified with three

tenements and a messuage near the Tye held by Simon *King* in 1380 W(c), and with the tenement known as *Hoberds or Kynges* in 1599 ib (the reference here being to Thomas *Hobart*, lord of Milden c.1478, for this family see HOBARTS).

HAYS FARM. *Hays* on the 1724 Map, also referred to as *Hayes* in 1368 Ct(N). So named from the 13th century holders of the tenement called *la Haye* ‘the fenced enclosure’, from Middle English *hey*, *haye*: they had the surname *de la Haye* ‘of the Haye’, so that in the name-form *Hayes* or *Hays* the final -s is a possessive inflection of the surname, not a plural.

HIGHFIELDS FARM. Thus on 1884 and 1905 OS 6” maps. Former farm named from the field recorded as (*Le*) *Heyefeld* 1359, 1380, 1413, (*le*) *Heighfeld* 1419, 1450, *le highfield* c.1510 all W(b), *High Field* 1724 Map ‘the enclosed field, the field with a hedge or fence’, from Middle English *hey*, *haye* ‘fence, enclosure’ and *feld*. The etymology is supported by the report in 1450 that the west end of the field was to be enclosed with hedges and ditches. Crops grown here in medieval times include wheat, oats and peas.

HIGHLANDS HALL. *Highlands Farm* in 1844 F and on recent maps, but *Highland Farm* on 1885 OS 6” and *Higlens* on 1724 Map. The house is of 16th century origin, but its name is older. This has undergone considerable and remarkable change. It is first recorded in the surname of Richard *de Higgelegh* or *de Higgele* c.1250 W (a), then as ‘the place called *Higeleye* in 1285 ib. Richard’s descendant William *de Hyggelegh* or *de Hig(g)elegh* was reeve of the manor from 1317-1346 W (a), paid 2s in tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1327, and died around the time of the Black Death, probably of it W (b). Variant spellings in the 14th century for the place-name and the surname include *Hegheley* in 1304 N, *Hygelegh* in 1333 CCA and 1336 AD, *Hyghelegh* in 1336 CCA, *Higeley* in c.1336 Ct (N), *Hygely* in c.1350 W (a), *Higgelegh* in 1352 ib, *Hegelegh* in c.1361 ib, and *Hyggelagh* in 1380 W (b), and similar spellings are still found as late as *Hegelegh* in c.1540-80 W. These early spellings, representing the true origin of the name, are best interpreted as ‘the woodland clearing of a man called Hicga’, from Old English *lēah* and an Old English personal name (cf. the recorded Old English byname *Higa* in Tengvik 347): this would then be analogous with the parish name *Eleigh*.

The later changes in the name are interesting. Some spellings in the 16th and 17th century, like *Higelyes* in c.1510 W, *Higgells* in 1516 ib, and *Higleys* in 1618 Farrar, are to be explained as ‘estate of the *de Higely* family’, the final -s being possessive. There was also a further development in the 16th century – the insertion of an -n into the name, with spellings such as *Hyglyngs* in 1539, *Hyglens* in 1583, and *Higlens* in 1599 all W, *Higlaynes* in 1615 Farrar, *Higlens* on 1724 Map and *Higlins* in 1773 Farrar. The reason for this intrusive -n is uncertain, although the 1615 form suggests the substitution of the Middle

English word *leyne*, *lain* ‘a tract of land’. The final transformation of this name, from *Higlins* to the current form *Highlands*, first noted in 1844 Farrar, is to be explained as due to folk etymology, resulting of course in a name not really appropriate to the local topography of the farm’s location.

HILL FARM. Thus on 1724 Map, also on 1885 and 1927 OS 6” maps, now called WYNCOLLS HALL FARM. Named from SWINGLETON HILL, and probably to be associated with John *atte Hulle* c.1340 N, William *atte Hel* 1380 W(c), ‘John, William (living) at the hill’, from Middle English *atte* ‘at the’ and *hulle*, *helle* (variant forms of the word *hille*).

HOBARTS. The house is probably of 16th century origin. It is named from the *Hobard* or *Hobart* family, often mentioned in the early records as having had various properties at different times in the parish. John *Hobart* is recorded in 1389 ME as living at *La Tye* (MONKS LEIGH TYE); his descendant Nicholas *Hobard* (tried for hunting the lord’s game in 1481 CCA and c.1490 N) is said to be living near the crossroads at GEDFORD; and Thomas *Hobard* or *Hobart*, mentioned in c.1490 and 1510 W(c), owned residences at both the Tye (see HAWKINS FARM) and Gedford. It is uncertain when any members of the *Hobart* family took possession of Hobarts. But they remained prominent in the village: no fewer than six family members are listed as paying tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1524, one of them, Nicholas *Hobart* paying £1. 4s., the largest amount in the parish and thus suggesting his wealth; and again, in the Subsidy Roll of 1568, a later descendant, James *Hubbard*, is once again the highest taxpayer in the parish, paying 12s. in tax.

JANE FARTHING COTTAGE. The cottage is of 18th-19th century origin, named from a member of the local *Farthing* family, another being Joshua *Farthing* who died in 1840 (N p.85).

LANES END. Named from its situation at the top end of MILL LANE, and of mid 19th century origin. In fact originally two cottages, almost certainly (from the evidence of a stone in the house marked ‘W. F. 1850’) built at that date by one William Faiers who some years earlier started up the first non-Conformist chapel in his barn on the opposite side of The Street (see UNITED REFORMED CHURCH).

LAVENHAM BROOK. Thus on most recent maps, this being the name by which the Monks Eleigh river is often (and strictly speaking correctly) known. Our river is the largest of the two main feeders of the River Brett, rising near Cockfield and then flowing through Lavenham (hence the name Lavenham Brook) and Monks Eleigh until it meets the other smaller feeder (the Brett) at their confluence near the bridge on the parish boundary with Chelsworth, see RIVER BRETT.

LION YARD. So named from the former *Red Lion*, later *Lion*, now PADDOCK HALL.

LONG MEADOW. Houses named from a nearby field, though not the *Long Meadow* mapped 1599 W alongside River Brett near Highlands Farm.

LOWER BYFIELD. Named from the field called *Lower Byfield*, thus on 1724 Map as one of a group of three fields, the others being *Little* and *Upper Byfield*. Probably 'the field at or in a corner or bend', from Middle English *bye*, *bie* and *feld*. The fields are bounded on the west by the curving lane between Manor Farm and Scripscross.

MANNA WOOD FARM & HOUSE. Preserving the name of the ancient wood, originally a large and important area of woodland belonging to the demesne, recorded as '*Manheye wood*' c.1250 W(a), 'the lord's underwood at *Manhey*' 1413-20 Ct (N), *Many Woods* 1682 CCA, *Manny Wood* 1724 Map, *Manney Wood* 1747 CCA, *Mana Wood* 1805 OS 1" map, *Manny Wood* 1843 TA. In 1747, 21 trees from the wood, valued at £15, were used for the repair of Hadleigh Mill. In 1843 TA the wood still had an extent of 69 acres. The meaning of the name is 'the woodland enclosure held in common', from Middle English *mene*, *mane* 'communal' and *heye*, *haye* 'fenced in woodland'.

MANOR FARM. Thus on 1885 OS 6" map, *The Manner Farm* on 1724 Map. The farmhouse is of 15th-16th century origin, and according to Weller came to have its present name about 1460 in the time of Adam *Turnour* or *Turner*. At an earlier date, in the 14th century, the tenement here was known as *Prioresquarter*, as in the rental of 1380, so named because it was a '*quarterland*' (about 15 acres) of ground held by the prior of the Carmelite Priory in Ipswich – he is named in c.1280 as Richard *de Yllea* ('of Eleigh').

THE MANSE. The house is of 16th-17th century origin with 18th century additions, see ANSELL COTTAGE and UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.

MILL LANE and OLD MILL HOUSE. Named from the early mill here, always referred to as 'the lord's mill' because it was the mill belonging to the manor (in contrast to 'the lower mill' or COBBOLDS MILL which was privately owned). The first mention of a mill here is in the Domesday Book of 1086. References to 'the lord's mill' are frequent in medieval times, often with a note of its value or the costs of repair or renewal: in the early 13th century it was usually valued at a £1, a new mill was built in 1296 for £5. 7s. 11d, and in 1334 it was rebuilt for £4 16s. 4d. In 1400 W(c), there is mention of 'the corn mill of the manor', and much later, in 1732 N, of 'the Lord's Mill belonging to the Hall'. Old Mill House is of early 19th century origin: an earlier house is mentioned in 1669 N p.37 as one of the properties held by the parish for the relief of the poor. Mill Lane is most probably the 'footpath at *le Melle*' mentioned in c.1336 Ct (N)

p.53, cf. also *Mellecroft* c.1377, 1422 ib p.55, from Middle English *croft* ‘small enclosed field attached to a house’, and the field-name *Mill Close* on 1724 Map.

MONKS ELEIGH HALL. Simply *The Hall* on 1885 OS 6” map, cf. *Monks Eleigh Hall Farm* 1724 Map. The house was rebuilt c.1650 by Miles Burkitt, sometime Rector of Hitcham, but was much altered in the late 18th century.

MONKS ELEIGH TYE. Thus on 1885 OS 6” map, simply *The Tye* on 1724 Map. Recorded from the 13th century in the surnames of the various people who lived here, including Thomas *de la Tye* 1289 CCA, Adam *atte Tye* 1327 SR, John *atte Tye* c.1336 Ct(N), Thomas and Amicia *atte Tye* 1338 N, and a later Thomas *atte Tye* c.1475 Malcher, ‘of or at the Tye’. It is also referred to as *Illegh Tye* in 1368 Ct (N) and as simply *La Tye* in 1389 ME. It gives name to *Antyestrete* (no date) cited by W(b), probably to be interpreted as ‘on *Tyestrete*’. The dialect word *tye* (from Old English *teag*), found frequently in the place-names of south Suffolk, meant ‘a large common pasture’: it would have originally been a fairly extensive area of pastureland available for the use of all villagers.

NEWLAND HALL. The house is of 16th-17th century origin with later 18th century additions. It is first recorded as *Newlondhall* in c.1510, then as *Newlande Hall* in 1599 both W(c), and it gives name to Robert *Newlond* (*laborer*) who is listed as paying 4d. tax in the Subsidy Roll of 1524. In 1684 it is reported that *Newland Hall* has been sold and given to the inhabitants of Monks Eleigh (N p.37), after which it remained for many years in the ownership of the parish, held by overseers on behalf of the poor, until 1851. The name Newland indicates land that has been drained and newly taken into cultivation.

NOVA SCOTIA LANE. Thus on 1885 OS 6” map. Forming the parish boundary with Preston St Mary, and named from Nova Scotia House (also on 1885 map) which occupies a small triangular plot of land skirted by the boundary and which therefore lies in Preston parish. The name is apparently not an exotic transferred name but a nice example of ‘folk etymology’: according to Weller(b), in the late 13th century a Monks Eleigh charter was witnessed by one Ralph *de Nova Scrota* ‘of the new triangular enclosure’, so the name is in fact descriptive and topographical, the rare Latin word being substituted at a much later date for something more topical.

THE OLD BAKEHOUSE. Part of a 15th century building, see CHURCHES.

THE OLD BULL. Earlier the *Bull Inn*, closed in 1997. The building is of 17th century origin, but with 18th and 19th century alterations.

OLD FORGE. The building is probably of 16th century origin, refronted in the 19th century. This was the village smithy, usually simply *Smithy* on 19th century

maps, referred to as *Wm Bakers Blacksmith* on 1724 Map. Earlier references to the village smith include *Steven le Faber* (Latin) 1305 N, cf. also *Richard Smythe* 1504 Will, *Henry Smyth* 1674 Htax and the field-name *Smetheslond* 1352 N, c.1475 Mal.

THE OLD GUILDHALL. The building is of 15th century origin. Once called '*Meadow Bank*, at one time *Bendishes*' (N p.58), but thought to be the original 'hall of the Gild'. This parish gild, of a kind found in other villages, with its 'brethren and sisters of the fraternity' and mainly concerned with social and religious affairs (and therefore to be distinguished from a craft gild) is first mentioned c.1381 (N p.64). The Monks Eleigh gild had a side-chapel in St Peter's Church, it played an important part in the life of the village, and meetings and social activities would have taken place in its hall in medieval times. It also held land: '1½ acres of the *Church Croft* held by the *Gild of St Mary of Illeigh* for 1s. rent, thereafter known as *Marycroft*' 1510 W.

OLD RECTORY. *Rectory* on 1885 OS 6" map. The present house dates from the early 19th century. The former rectory, that referred to as *The Rectory* on 1724 Map and in 1732 N, otherwise *the Parsonage House* in 1721 ib, was pulled down in 1834 and the present one built (at a cost of £1450). The plot of ground now occupied by the Old Rectory was in medieval times just the parson's 'barn yard': Alexander de Reepham, parson of Monks Eleigh c.1215-1222, was granted 1¼ acres of land with a 7ft wide ditch around it on the north side of the churchyard for his barns and granary, for which he paid 12d. rent. The Monks Eleigh rectors continued to pay the same rent for this barnyard in 1380 and 1510 – but with no mention of a residence here.

PADDOCK HALL. The building is of 16th-17th century origin, refronted in the 19th century, and was originally the *Red Lion* inn, later the *Lion*. This inn is recorded as *Red Lyon* in 1721 N, and as simply *Lion* on 1885 OS 6" map: it was closed in 1967. According to N p.58, Paddock Hall also seems to have been the name of the house before it became an inn, and was part of the Cobbolds Mill estate. The name may be from the word *paddock* in its usual sense 'a small grass enclosure', but another possibility is the identical word *paddock* in its dialect sense 'a frog or toad': the name would then be analogous with the name Frog Hall, evidenced in both Suffolk (e.g. Frog Hall Lane in Hadleigh) and Norfolk, in that case a jocular or whimsical name for a place where frogs or toads are often to be seen.

PUDINGSWELL. The name is recorded as *Puddings Well* on 1724 Map, part of the estate of one John Woods. This in turn is to be identified with '*Poddyng's tenement*' mentioned in 1422 Ct (N) p.55. The medieval surname is an interesting one: it is either a nickname for a round, stout man, or for a butcher (with reference to the meat 'puddings' he would have sold).

THE RISE. So named from sloping ground.

RUSHBROOKS. Thus on 1724 Map. The house is of 16th century origin. It is named from Robert *Roshebroke* or *Rosshbroke* 1504 Will(N), 1510 W(c): the surname is from a local place-name, Rushbrooke Farm in the neighbouring parish of Preston St Mary – this is an old name, first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, ‘the rushy brook’, from Old English *risc* and *broc*, with reference to the River Brett. According to N p.24, the said Robert was a dyer as well as a land holder and farmer, and the house was earlier (in the 15th century) known simply as ‘The Shop’, from Middle English *shoppe* in the sense ‘a shed or workshop’ (this word gives name to *Shop Field & Meadow* 1843 TA).

RYEWAY ROAD. Thus on 1885 OS 6” map, and giving name to *Ryeway Field* 1843 TA. This road (now Highlands Road) is crossed by the small stream called *Ree Brook* rising near Langley Wood in Brent Eleigh and flowing east into the River Brett just north of Wagger Farm. Both names are probably from Middle English *atter eye* (later misdivided as *atte reye*) ‘(place) at the well-watered land, or at the dry spot in marshy ground’, from Middle English *atter* ‘at the’ and *eye* (Old English *ēg*).

ST PETER’S CHURCH. The present church is of 14th-15th century origin, but stands on the site of an earlier church, probably an Anglo-Saxon one. There is mention of *capelle de Illeghe* (‘chapel’ here denoting ‘small church’) here in 1221 (when it needed two oaks for repairs), and this may well have been the church listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, which would have been an Anglo-Saxon wooden building. Among the many early references to the church are the following from the 14th century: *ecclesie de Illegh* 1341 NI and ‘the church of *Illeigh*’ 1361 Ct (N).

ST PETER’S (CLOSE). Named from the dedication of the nearby Parish Church.

SCRIPSCROSS BRIDGE. Thus on 1885 OS 6” map and on most current maps (cf. *Scripcross Bridge* on 2006 OS Explorer map), but named from earlier *Skips Croft Field* on 1724 Map. The *-r-* in the modern form is therefore intrusive and unhistorical, *Skip(p)* being the surname of an early landowner in this vicinity: one Wybert *Scip* was granted rights here c.1200 Wb, cf. also ‘meadow called *Skippis*’ 1638 F. There is an important junction of roads here, so *cross* has the sense ‘crossroads’. The bridge here over the river was built in 1858, replacing an earlier bridge called *Pole Bridge*. The surname *Scip/Skip* is an interesting one: it probably derives from Middle English *skep(pe)*, *skip(pe)* ‘a basket’, originally given by metonymy to a maker or seller of these.

SLOUGH FARM. Thus on 1724 Map, in 1830 RF and on 1885 OS 6” map. The farmhouse is probably of 16th-17th century origin. It is named from ‘(ground

called) *the Slough* 1368 Ct (N), this being Middle English *slowe*, *sloughe* ‘bog, marsh, miry place, cf. also *Fulsclo* (the site of a gallows) e14 Ct (N) and *Seggeslow* c.1350 ib which are from the same word (with Middle English *ful* ‘foul, muddy’, and *segge* ‘sedge’) and probably refer to the same place or somewhere nearby.

SPRING COTTAGE. The present name (referring to a natural spring) probably dates from the 1970s. Originally believed to have been two weaver’s cottages, possibly of late 17th century origin. The name *Ingleside* (meaning ‘fireside’ as in the word *inglenook*) was applied to one or both of these c.1900.

SPRING FARM. Thus on 1724 Map and on 1885 OS 6” map, cf. also *Springs Green* on 1724 Map, all named from the family of Thomas *Spryng* 1486, c.1500, 1523 (father and son, wool merchants) and Sir John *Spring* 1548 N.

STACKYARD GREEN. Thus on 1805 OS 1” map and 1885 OS 6” map, but earlier cf. *Stackwood Farm* and *Stackwood Field* on 1724 Map, ‘a messuage called *Stakwoodes*’ c.1500 C, and also the form *Eldestacwode Strete* (‘old *Stacwode* street’) (no date) cited by Wb. Originally therefore the name of a wood, possibly ‘wood with a pile or heap of timber’, from Middle English *stak* ‘a stack, heap or pile’ and *wode*, alternatively perhaps ‘wood enclosed with stakes, or where stakes were obtained’, from Middle English *stak(e)*. In either case the later change to ‘stackyard’ looks to be a nice example of folk etymology. It is interesting to note that Stackwood Cottage here, a 17th-18th century building, retains the old name.

STANESBYES. The house is of 16th-17th century origin, and was once the butcher’s shop (1930 N). Probably named from *Symond Stansby* (*laborer*) who is listed as paying 4d. tax in the 1524 Subsidy Roll. The surname of this early owner is from one or other of the two places called Stainsby in Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. The earliest reference to a butcher in Monks Eleigh is to one Henry *Slaughterer* who was fined 6d. in 1368 for selling his meat outside the village (Ct (N) p.55).

THE STREET. Usually thus in 19th and 20th century documents, but occasionally also alternatively *High Street* as in 1901 Census. In medieval times simply *via regia* ‘the king’s highway’.

THE SWAN. The present building has 18th century external features, but an inn here is first recorded in the mid-16th century as ‘the copyhold tenement called *le Swanne*’ 1545 Ct. Later, in 1663 N p.36, *the Swanne* is named as the venue for a ‘jollification’ after a perambulation of the parish bounds.

SWINGLETON GREEN & HILL. Thus on 1885 OS 6” map, also *Swingleton Hill* on 1724 Map, *Swingleton Green* on 1805 OS 1” map, and *Swingleton* in a 16th century survey (N p.60). Earlier spellings are needed, but possibly

‘farmstead where swingles were used’, from Middle English *toun* with *swingel* ‘a rod or flail for beating flax or hemp to remove the coarse particles’. For the early cultivation of hemp in the village, cf. THE HAMPLING. A possible earlier name for Swingleton Hill is *Hauecheffeld strete* c.1225 KB, *Haughchaffstrete* c.1350 W(c), named from *Hauecheffeld* c.1225 KB ‘hawk field’.

TELEGRAPH HOUSE. Earlier the Village Shop and Post Office, closed in 2003. The building is of early 19th century origin.

TYE COTTAGE, TYE FARM, and TYE HOUSE. All named from MONKS ELEIGH TYE. Tye Cottage is of medieval origin with later additions.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH. Earlier the *Congregational Chapel* as on 1885 OS 6” map, built in 1870 to replace the smaller chapel established in 1825 in the barn of William Faiers (both buildings still in use).

VINCENTS COTTAGE. The cottage is of 16th-17th century origin. In 1930, ‘Vincents is the house belonging to Mr Hollox lately so much improved’ named from ‘the original *Vincent*’ who ‘seems to have held part of the Manor lands’ (N p.58), note also the field called *Vincents* on 1724 Map. This early member of the family may well have been the Andrew *Vincent* recorded as holding NEWLAND HALL in c.1510 W(c).

WAGGER LANE. Leading to the ford crossing of River Brett at Wagger Farm in Kettlebaston parish, cf. also the field-name *Waggee Field* 1843 TA. The ford here is of historical interest because it was where the Roman Road between Long Melford and Coddendam, a stretch of which is marked on Ordnance Survey maps west of Monks Eleigh Tye, crossed the river. Wagger is very probably an old name, possibly from an Old English *cwagga* ‘bog, marsh’ (this word survives in *quagmire* ‘boggy ground’) with *ēg* ‘well- watered land , or dry spot in marshy ground’ (as in nearby RYEWAY ROAD).

WYNCOLLS HALL FARM. Earlier known as HILL FARM. An original mansion house, recorded as *Wyncolls* in 1548 N as belonging to Sir John Spring (see SPRING FARM), was pulled down after a fire c.1865 N. *Wyncoll* is no doubt the surname of an early landowner or tenant here.

OTHER HOUSE NAMES

ABELIA; ALLCOTT (earlier *Whales Haven*, see DOLPHIN BARN); APRIL COTTAGE; ARISAIG; BEECH TREE COTTAGE; BRANFIELD HOUSE (of early 19th century origin); BRERETON COTTAGE (probably of 17th century origin); BRETT COTTAGE (named from the River Brett); BRETT HOUSE (of mid to late 19th century origin, also named from the River); BRIER HOUSE; THE BUNGALOW; CARTWHEELS (originally ‘the Lord’s barn’, see BARN

CLOSE); CATLEY CROSS; CHAPEL COTTAGE; CLAIRE COTTAGE; CLUB HOUSE; COOMBE LEA; COPPERS; CORIANDER; THE CORNER HOUSE; CORONATION HOUSE; COSTA PLENTY (of 17th-18th century origin, a more recent jocular name!); THE COTTAGE (of 19th century origin, possibly with older core); CRIBS COTTAGE; CROWCOMBE; CULVER; CYGNET COTTAGE (delightfully appropriate for the small cottage next to the SWAN and to SWAN COTTAGE); DANSEY; EAST VIEW; EDEN LODGE; ELEIGH HOUSE; ELEIGH LODGE; FAIRWAYS; FARTHINGS; FEN COTTAGE; FEN VIEW; FENSHOE; FIRBECK HOUSE; FLINTS; FOOL'S COTTAGE; FOYSTERS LODGE and FOYSTERS PIECE (named from FOYSTERS HALL); FUCHSIA COTTAGE; GALLOPON; GREENACRES; GREY MALIN; HALCYON; HALL COTTAGE (of 18th-19th century origin); THE HEDGEROW; HIGH BANK HOUSE; HIGH BARN; HIGH COTTAGE (probably a medieval hall house, but much altered in 18th-19th century); HIGH TREES; HIGHFIELD; HILL COTTAGE (of 17th-18th century origin); HILLTOP; HILL VIEW (reputed to have been the original police house); JASMINE COTTAGE; KASAULI; LANGSIDE; LAUREL COTTAGE; LEY HOUSE; LITTLE GUILDHALL (next to the OLD GUILDHALL); LITTLE POND COTTAGE; MAGNOLIA TREE HOUSE; MALEESH; MALT HOUSE; MAY COTTAGE; MAYTREE HOUSE; MEADOWBANK; MEADOW HOUSE; MELBOURNE HOUSE; MORTIMERS; OAK COTTAGE (of 17th century origin); OLD COTTAGE (of late 17th century origin with 19th century alterations); OLD POLICE HOUSE (the Police House until 1979); THE OLD STABLES; OLD THATCHED COTTAGE; OLIVERS; ONCHAN; ONNEN; ORCHARD HOUSE (earlier *Little Orchard*, of 16th-17th century origin); PARSONS COTTAGE; PENFRANRIC; PIGGY BANK; THE PINK HOUSE; THE RECTORY; RIVERSIDE HOUSE; ROSE COTTAGE (of 16th-17th century origin); ROSSLYNE (probably of 17th century origin); RUSTLEWOOD; SALIX COTTAGE; SAPLINGS; SECOND PITS (named from the field so called in 1843 TA); SHEPHERDS; SILWOOD HOUSE; SLOE COTTAGE (a punning name because it was said to be slow to build!); SOUTH HOUSE; SPINNEY BROOK; SPRINGATE FARM; STACKWOOD COTTAGE (of 17th-18th century origin, see STACKYARD GREEN); SUNNY TOP; SWAN COTTAGE; SWANSDOWNE; SWINGLETON COTTAGE (named from SWINGLETON HILL); THATCH COTTAGE; THATCHER'S REST (of 17th-18th century origin); THISTLE COTTAGE; TIROLERHAUS; TRAVELLER'S JOY; TRENT COTTAGE (of 16th-17th century origin); TRISCOMBE; VIBURNUM; VICTORIA COTTAGE; VIRGINIA HOUSE; WALNUT TREE COTTAGE (of 17th-18th century origin); WESTKNOLL; WHEATEAR; WHISPERING WILLOWS; WHITE HOUSE (probably of 17th century origin); WHITELEYS; WILLIAMS HOUSE; WILLOW BUNGALOW; WILLOW COTTAGE; WILLOW HOUSE; THE WILLOWS; THE WILLOWS COTTAGE; WITS END (quite a witty name!); WYNCOLLS

BUNGALOW (named from WYNCOLLS HALL FARM); YEOMANS COTTAGE (of medieval origin with 16th-17th century wings).

18TH AND 19TH CENTURY FIELD-NAMES

(from 1724 Map and 1843 Tithe Award, and with earlier spellings if found: many of these names are still in use)

Lower & Upper Ash Field 1724, - Grove 1843 (cf. *Aslese* 1560 Will, 'ash-tree meadow' from Middle English *ashe* and *lese*); Back Lane Meadow 1843 (see BACK LANE); Balance 1724, Lower Balance 1843 (probably originally 'bean lands, ground where beans were grown'); Baldings Field 1843; Barn Croft 1724, 1843; Barn Field 1724, 1843; Barn Lay 1724, 1834 (from Middle English *laye*, *leye* 'meadow, pasture' as in other names); Barracks Lay 1724, Barracks Field 1843 (*Barrets Laye* 1560 Will, cf. John *Baret* (*laborer*) 1524 SR); Bears Field 1843; Beaumonts Field & Meadow 1843; Lower & Upper Bensted 1724, Lower Bumstead 1843 ('place where beans are grown', from Middle English *bene* and *stede*); Blakes Field 1843; Bonds Fen(n) 1724, 1843; The Bottom 1724, Bottoms 1843 ('valley bottom'); Bowers Lay 1843; Brick Kiln Field 1724, 1843; Great & Little Brickley 1843; Bridge Meadow 1724, 1843; Brook Meadow 1843 (cf. *Brokesgate* c.1336, *Brookhall* 1420 Ct, Thomas *atte Brokes* 1327 SR, John *de Brok* 1331 N, Peter & William *atte Broke* 1361 Ct, W(a), all from Middle English *broke* 'small stream'); Bryants 1724, - Field 1843; Bull Croft and Bull Field 1724 (cf. *Bull Close* 1599 W, *Boleslond* 1367 Ct, Middle English *bole* 'bull'); Burtons 1724, Burtons Field 1843 (*Burton* 1367 Ct, named from Richard *de Burton* c.1340 N); Bushey Lay 1843; Little, Lower & Upper Byfield 1724 (see LOWER BYFIELD); Calves Croft 1724; (Grassy & Lower) Cangles 1724, 1843 (*le Kangyl* 1380 W(c), from Middle English *cangel* 'a fenced enclosure'); Cart Lodge Lay 1843; Great & Little Catch Croft, Cats Croft 1724 (perhaps variants of the same name); Chandling Field 1724; Chelsworth Meadow 1843 (named from Chelsworth parish); Chimney Croft 1843; (Furthest) Church Field 1724, First & Further Church Field 1843 (cf. *Church Croft* 1380, 1510 W, all once owned by the Church, though some of these fields are not near the Church building); Clock Meadow 1724, 1843 (*Clock-meadow* 1722, a small 1½ acre field endowed by a 'Maid' for the maintenance of the Church clock, see the interesting article 'The Maid who gave a Meadow' by local historian Sue Andrews in *Roundabout* October 2020 pp 26-7 for the full story of this bequest); Clover Lay 1843; Great & Little Cole Hearth 1724 (probably to be identified with *Colyereslond* c.1475, from the surname *Colyer*); Cooks Croft 1724, 1843; Corner Field 1843; Cow Meadow 1843; David's Fen(n) 1724, 1843 (probably to be associated with *Davies Grove* 1539, *Davys Pasture* 1599 both W, named from John *Davy(e)* 1368 Ct, 1524 SR); (Great & Little) Dead Acres 1724, 1843 (here *dead* has the sense 'infertile' or long disused'); Dealings 1843; Deers Field 1724, Dears Field 1843

(*Dereland* 1721 W(c), once held by John *Deer* ib); Doughtys 1724, Doutys Field 1843; Dovehouse Close 1724, 1843, Dovehouse Lay 1843 (*Dove House Close* 1599 W); (The) Down 1724, 1843, Down Field 1843 (Middle English *doun* ‘hill’); Drift 1724, 1843, Drift Field 1843 (‘drove, track on which cattle are driven’); Dulls 1724, Dulls Field 1843 (see DULLS LANE); Eight Acres 1843; Elder Buries 1724, Lower & Upper Elderberries 1843; Elders 1724; (Lower) Eleigh Field 1724, Little, Lower & Upper Ely Field 1843 (*Illighe Field* 1599 W); Eleigh Field Bottom 1724; Fenn Meadow 1843 (see THE FENN); First Lay 1843; First Meadow 1843; Five Acres 1843; Forty Acres 1724, Forty Acre Pasture 1843; Four Acres 1724, 1843; Front Meadow 1843; Further Field 1724; Further Lay 1843; Garners Farm 1724 (probably to be associated with the family of John *Gardener* 1524 SR, - *Gardiner* 1640 ShipMR, widow *Gardiner* 1674 HTax); (Lower) Goodalls 1843; Gravel Pit Field 1843 (cf. *Gravel Pit* 1885 OS 6” map); Great Down 1724; Great Lay 1843; Great Meadow 1843; Great Orchard 1843; Great Pasture 1843; Green Land Field 1843; Griggs Meadow 1724, 1843; Grindalls 1724, Grundle field 1843 (probably ME *grindel* ‘small stream or ditch’); (The) Grove 1724, 1843; Great & Little Hammons 1843; Hays 1724 (see HAYS FARM); Hempland 1724, - Meadow (see THE HAMPLING); (Farthest, Little, Lower & Upper) High Field 1724 (see HIGHFIELDS FARM); High House 1843; Higglands 1724 (perhaps to be associated with next name); Higlens (Field) 1724, Higlins Field 1843 (*Litilhegelies* c.1510, *Little Higlen* 1599 W, see HIGHLANDS HALL); Hilly Field 1724, 1843; Hollow Field 1843; Mr Holmes Farm 1724; Home Field 1724, 1843; Homes Lay 1843; The Hopground 1724, Hop Ground (Meadow) 1843; Great & Little Hopkins 1724, 1843; Horse Lay 1724, 1843; Horse Pasture 1724; Humble Bank 1724, - Meadow 1843 (*Humbilbankys croft* 1368 Ct, ‘bank or slope growing with wild hops’, from Middle English *humele* and *banke*); Hundred Acre 1843; Ivey Tree Field 1724; Jankings 1724, Great & Little Jenkins 1843; (Upper) Land Pits (Field) 1843; Langly Field & Wood 1724, Great & Little Langley Meadow, Langley Field 1843 (*Langeliagh* c.1475 Mal, ‘long woodland clearing’, from Old English *lang* and *lēah*: Langley Wood is in Brent Eleigh parish); Larks Pasture 1724, First Lark Spurs 1843 (the later spelling being a mangled or misheard form of the 1724 one); The Lay 1724; Leslands Lay 1724, Luslings 1843 (probably to be identified with *Leggardyslond* 1380 W(c), c.1475 Mal, *Lyggardeslond* 1380 W(a), from the surname Leggard); Lindsey Lay 1843 (named from Lindsey parish); Lion Field 1843 (see PADDOCK HALL); Little Down 1724; Little Field 1843; Little Lay 1843; Little Meadow 1843; Little Orchard 1843; Little Pasture 1843; Lodge Piece 1843; Long Croft 1724, 1843 (ib. 1599 W); Long Field 1724, 1843; Long Land 1724, 1843; Long Lay 1843; Long & Lower Pasture 1843; Lower Lay 1843; Lower Meadow 1843; Malting Lay 1843 (‘land containing a malthouse or associated with the preparation of malt from barley’); Great, Lower & Middle Manfield 1724, Great & Long Man Field 1843 (adjacent to MANNA WOOD,

so probably 'communal field' from Middle English *mene*); Manor Field 1843; Maple Croft 1724, 1843; Marsh Field 1843 (cf. *in campo* 'field' *Le Marshlond* 1380 W(a), c.1475 Mal); Maschall Yards 1724 (*Mascalislond* 1380 Rent, c.1475 Mal, named from Simon *Marschal* 1327 SR, Adam *Marscal* 1353 Ct); (The) Meadow 1724; Middle Field 1724; Mill Close 1724, 1843 (see MILL LANE); Mill Field 1724, 1843 (thus in 1414 W(b), *Mellfielde* 1599 W, see COBBOLDS MILL); Monks Eleigh Meadow & Wood 1724, Monks Eleigh Field 1843; Broad & Long Moons 1724, 1843, Moons Meadow 1843 (*Monemedewe* 1380 W(a), from the local surname *Mone*); Moor Meadow 1843; Moors 1724; Mowing Meadow 1724; Naughtons 1843; Nine Acres 1724, 1843; North Field (Pightle) 1724, 1843 ; Nortons 1724; Nunns 1724, Nunns Field & Meadow 1843 (cf. Robert *Nunn* 1640 ShipMR, 1674 HTax); Oatfield 1843; Old Clover 1724; Old Orchard 1843, (The) Orchard 1724, 1843; Broad & Long Ordens 1724, - field 1843 (probably to be identified with *Eddunelond* early 13th cent. KB, *Oddone* 14th century W, from Old English *dūn* 'hill, down' with uncertain first element); Orsbornes 1724, Osbornes field 1843; Great & Little Oxley 1724, 1843; Ozier Bed & Ground 1843 ('land on which osier willows were grown'); Pages 1724 (cf. William *Page* 1401 N); Palmers 1724, Lower & Upper Palmers 1843 (*Palmerslond* c.1336 Ct, 1367 N, c.1475 Mal, named from the family of Richard *Palmere* c.1325 N); (Lower & Upper) Park Field 1724, 1843 (these names alongside Clay Hill, together with Park Wood (1721 N) on the Chelsworth side of the road, are named from Chelsworth Park 1905 OS 6" map, this perhaps originally a *park* in the medieval sense 'tract of land set apart for hunting'); Parsonage Croft 1724, Parson Croft 1843; Partables 1724, 1843 ('land that has been divided or allocated by lot') ; Patches 1724 (probably a surname, cf. Jeffray *Paske* 1568 SR); Patricks Field 1843; Pearls Hill 1724, Pearles Hill 1843 (probably from a surname, cf. Daniel *Peels* 1674 HTax); (Little) Pear Tree Field 1724, 1843; Pettits 1724; (The) Pightle 1724, Pightle (Grove) 1843, (from Middle English *pichel*, *pightel* 'small enclosed piece of land' as in other names); Pipers 1724, - Field 1843 (cf. Roger *Peper* 1568 SR, *Piper* 1640 ShipMR); The Plantation 1724; Plow'd Lay 1724; Pond Meadow 1843, Pond Pightle 1724; Poulings 1724; Preston Field, Preston Lay & Preston Meadow 1724, 1843 (named from Preston St Mary); Pryors 1724 (named from the family of Richard *Priore*, *le Priur* c.1325 Cust, N); Puddingswell 1724 (see PUDINGSWELL); Ravenscroft 1724 (*Raveneslond* 1380 Rent, c.1475 Mal, named from the family of Cecilia *Raven* c.1360 W(a)); (Great & Little) Rayners 1724, 1843 ('lands called *Reyners*' 1516 W, *Rayners* 1669 N, cf. John *Reyner* 1367 Ct); Reeds Field 1843; Roshplott 1724, Rush Plot 1843 ('small piece of ground growing with rushes', Middle English *rushe* and *plott*); Round(s) Meadow 1843; (Long) Rye Croft 1843; (Further & Little) Ryeway Field 1843 (see RYEWAY ROAD); Great & Little Sadlers, Sadlers Meadow 1843; Saffron Penn 1724 (*Le Saffronpane* c.1510 W(b), 'small enclosure in which saffron is cultivated', from Middle English *safron* and *penn*: the reference to saffron is

interesting – the saffron crocus was first introduced into England c.1340); Sand Pitts 1724 (*Old Sand Pit* 1885 OS 6” map, cf. *Chalk Pit* 1805 OS 1” map); Second Pits 1843 (the field-name now transferred to the house here); (Long) Seven Acres 1843; Sextons 1724, - Field (cf. William *Sexsteyne, called Wynkes* 1373 Ct: this phrasing suggests that the said William was the Church sexton at this date); Shop Field & Meadow 1843 (from Middle English *shoppe* ‘shed or workshop’, see RUSHBROOKS); Shrubs 1724, 1843; Silverstons 1724; Six Acres 1724, 1843; Skips Croft Field 1724, Scrips Cross (Field), Further Scrips Cross 1843 (see SCRIPSCROSS BRIDGE); Silverstone Meadow 1843; Spout 1843 (ground alongside THE CAUSEWAY, with reference to the chalk spring water which runs via a pipe into the ditch here,); Spring Field (Meadow) 1724, 1843; Springs Green 1724 (see SPRING FARM); Stable Lay 1724; Stackwood Field 1724, 1843 (see STACKYARD GREEN); Stubings 1724, Great & Little Stubbins 1843 (‘field containing tree stumps’, Middle English *stubbing*); Susley 1724, Sussells Field 1843 (to be identified with *Sodersele(lane)* c.1336, *Sudesele* 1380 W(b), *land called Sussells* 1560 Will, probably ‘southern shed or shelter for animals’ from Middle English *suther* and *sell*) ; Swan Meadow 1843 (land bordering the river); Swingleton Field, Swingletons Meadow 1843 (see SWINGLETON Hill); Talbots (Wood) 1724 (part of Talbots Farm ib, named from the *Talbot* family already recorded in 1422, cf. also William *Talbott* 1640 ShipMR); Tan Yard 1843 (‘yard where tanning of leather took place’); Teinter Yard 1843 (*Tentyslond* 1380 Rent, c.1475 Mal, ‘land and yard where cloth was stretched on tenters or wooden frames’, see THE HAMPLING); Ten Acres 1724, 1843; Thatchers Piece 1843; Thistley Field 1724, 1843; Thousand Acres (a humorous or ironical name for a very small field); Three Acres 1724; Three Corner Field 1843; Tile Pit Field 1724, 1843; Two Acres 1843; Little Tye Field 1843 (see MONKS ELEIGH TYE); The Tyes 1724; Vincents 1724 (see VINCENTS COTTAGE); Great & Little Walgrave 1724; Walnut Tree Piece 1843; Warrens Close 1843; Little Wash 1724, Long Wash 1843 (ground along the river, Middle English *washe* ‘land often flooded’); Webbs 1724, - Field 1843; White Close 1843; White Land 1724, 1843; Winding Field & Piece 1843 (‘land where cloth was stretched’, see THE HAMPLING); Windings 1843 (possibly with the same meaning); Windmill Field 1843 (named from the Windmill here, cf. also *Windmill* 1885 OS 6” map); The Wood 1724, 1843; (Great & Little) Wood Field 1724, 1843, Woodfield Meadow 1843; Wood Lay 1843; The Yards 1724;

NAMES NOW LOST (MEDIIEVAL AND LATER)

Aldergrove 1352 Ct; *The Almshouses* 1558 Will; *Auncelisland* 1380 Rental, c.1475 Mal; *Aylredesland* 1380 W(a); *Barkersacre* c.1510 W; *Berardisland*

c.1475 Mal; *Brownys* 1539, *Brownes* (a tenement) 1583 W; *Cowfen* c.1400 W; pasture called *le Dowe* 1528 N (perhaps Middle English *dogh*, *dow* ‘dough’ with reference to soft spongy ground); *Doysescroft* c.1336 Ct; *Fantisland* 1380 W(b) (named from the family of William *Fant* c.1280 ib.); cottage called *Fountains* 1540 Will; *Fulsclo* c.1325 N (‘foul bog’, the site of gallows, see SLOUGH FARM); *Fynneslond* c.1225 KB, *Fenneslond* 1368 Ct (named from a man called *Fyn le lord* c.1325 N, this being the Old Danish personal name *Fin*); *Gaugyslane* 1422 Ct (from the local *Gage* family); *Gaywoodesquarter* 1361 Ct (a *quarterland* was c.15 acres); land called *Gentlemans* 1560 Will; *Gilbertesgate* c.1225 KB; *Godhynesquarter* 1361 Ct; *Harewood Grove* 1558 Will; *Hauecheffeld* c.1225 KB (‘hawk field’); *Hog(g)fenn* 1539, 1599 W (from Middle English *hogg* ‘pig’ or ‘young sheep’); *Homestall* 1732 N (Middle English *homestall* ‘homestead’); *Honemanesfeld* 1367 Ct, *Hunmaneslond* 1380 W(a), *Honymanneslond atte Tye* c.1475 Mal (from the Middle English surname *Huneman*); *Hutteslond* 1380 W(a); *Ilgeris grove*, *Ilgerislond* 1368 Ct (named from Stephen *Ilger* 1327 SR); *Illegeshage* 1201 Cur (‘Eleigh’s enclosure’, from Old English *haga*); *Kenseghlond* 1380 Rental, c.1475 Mal; *Ketelesleigh* 1380 Rental, c.1475 (from the Old Danish personal name *Ketill* with *lēah* ‘woodland clearing’); *Lanelond* 1380 Rental, c.1475 Mal (the *lane* referred to is now RYEWAY ROAD); *le Launde* 1362 W(a) (Middle English *launde* ‘a woodland glade’); *Goodman Lepingwells yard* 1687 N; Long Meadow 1599 W; *Lutelecroft* c.1336 Ct (‘little enclosure’); *Lyrucokkys garden* c.1377 Ct, *Lyrucokes gardyn* 1422 ib; *Marycroft* 1510 W (‘1½ acres of the *Church Croft* held by the *Gild of St Mary of Illeigh* for 1s. rent’, see THE OLD GUILDHALL); *Merislond* c.1336 Ct, *Meresland* 1380 W(c) (named from Walter *atte Mere* c.1325 Cust, ‘at the pool’ or ‘by the boundary’ from Middle English *mere*); *Mondaylond* 1368 Ct (‘manorial land on which tenants had to work on Mondays’); *Mundonis* 1510, dwelling called *Mondames* 1599 W(a) (from the owner’s surname *Mundon*); *Netherhege* c.1250 KB (‘lower hedge or enclosure’, from Middle English *nether* and *hege*); *Netherhouse* c.1400 W(a), *Nethyrhouslond* 1380 Rental, c.1475 Mal (‘lower house’); Robert *atte Oke* c.1340 N (‘at the oak-tree’); *Mr Patricks Green* 1733 N; Alice *atte Peek* c.1336 Ct, 1380 Rental (‘at the point of land’, from Middle English *peke*); *Pest Houses* 1835 N (belonging to the parish, formerly used as a ‘*Lazaretto*’ for small-pox patients, from 1835 used to house the poor and aged); *Reynoldeslond* 1367 Ct; *Rolveslond* 1380, 1450 W(c) (from the Old Danish personal name *Rolf*); *Salmanneslond* 1380 Rental, c.1475 Mal (named from *Saleman* de Donylonde c.1350 W(a)); *Sedelsbrigg* c.1336 Ct (no doubt an early bridge across the river); *Seggeslow* c.1350 N (see SLOUGH FARM); *The Slade* 1599 W (Middle English *slade* ‘marshy greensward’); *Smetheslond* 1352 Ct, c.1475 Mal (cf. ‘3 acres held by Thomas & John *le Feure*, after their father Stephen *le Feure*’ 1321 N, from Old French *fevre* ‘smith’, see OLD FORGE); *Le Spylmannescrouch* 1380 Rental, c.1475 (Middle English *crouche* ‘cross’); *Squattys medow* c.1377,

1422 Ct; *the Parish Stocks* (which used to stand opposite the SWAN) 1668 N; *Stonacre* c.1250 KB ('stony land'); *Swyneslond* 1361 Ct, c.1475 Mal, *Sweyneslond* 1380 W(a) (named from John *Sweyn* 1327 SR, William & Christina *Sweyn* 1361 (a), a surname from the Old Danish personal name *Sven*); *Tollonesmundaylond* 14th cent. W(a) (named from William *Tollone* c.1150 ib, see *Mondaylond* above); *Topshoppe* c.1675 (a tenement near the *Lion* inn, 'shed or workshop at the far end of the village', from Middle English *shoppe*, see RUSHBROOKS); *Tuderingewrthe* c.1225 KB (Old English *worth* 'enclosed farmstead' with uncertain personal or folk name); *Thomas Underwoods yard* 1727 N; *Warestreet* 1420 Ct (from Middle English *were*, *ware* 'a weir'); *Jo Wasses* 1733 N; *Wolmeres (Mundayland)* 1380 W(a) (named from *Wlmaro* (Old English *Wulfmær*) the carpenter, granted land c.1150, see *Mondaylond* above); *Wyppenhey* 1336 KB ('enclosure of a man called *Wippa*', Old English personal name (possessive *-n*) and *hæg*).

A NOTE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FIELD-NAMES

The parish field-names in all their abundance and rich variety tell us a good deal about life in the village in days gone by. Many of course recall the surnames of earlier owners or tenants of the farms and fields at different times in the past, thus adding to our knowledge of local family history. The field-name terminology is large and varied, depending on soil characteristics and land use: the terms *acre*, *field* and *land* are mostly used for arable, woodland terms include *grove*, *launde*, *leye*, *orchard* and *wood* itself, enclosures are referred to as *close*, *croft*, *pen* or *pightle*, and pastureland as *lay*, *lese*, *meadow* and *pasture* itself. Many field-names make specific reference to the topography, some describing the low lying marshy ground in the river valley, others the higher ground to north and south, hence terms like *bottom*, *fen*, *marsh*, *moor*, *slade*, *slough*, *wash*, as well as *down* and *hill*. A number of names refer to trees (among them alder, ash, elder, maple, oak, osiers, pear and walnut) or to plants (ivy, rushes, thistles, wild hops). Some refer to the various livestock raised (bulls, calves, cows, hogs, horses, oxen), others to the different crops cultivated (beans, clover, hemp, hops, oats, rye, and even saffron). Farm or other buildings are often referred to (barn, cartlodge, dovehouse, sell, shop, stable) and some names relate to farming practices (drift, mowing and ploughing). Besides the many references to farming, a number of the field-names recall other village crafts and occupations, including brick and tile making, malt making and milling, tanning and cloth making, and quarrying for gravel and sand. Some individual names, for instance Clock Meadow, Manfield, Marycroft, Mondayland, Saffron Penn, and Spout, are of particular historical interest. It might also be said that the very form and sound of these names of Monks

Eleigh's fields somehow capture much of the essence of our delightful location and landscape, partly no doubt because they often incorporate so many unusual and lovely old words from the Suffolk dialect (such as *cangel*, *grindel*, *humele*, *partable*, *pightle*, *stubbing* and *washe*).

SOURCES

For the parish name: certain Anglo-Saxon charters and wills, Domesday Book, and various other medieval records. For the minor names and field-names: CCA = Online Catalogue of Canterbury Cathedral Archives; Census = Census Returns; Cop = W A Copinger, *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol 1 1905; Ct = Manorial Court Rolls in N pp. 53-55; HE = Historic England (website); Hod = Hodkinson's Map of 1783; HTax = Suffolk Hearth Tax; KB = Keith Briggs; Mal = Survey of Thomas Malcher's estate c.1475 (transcribed by John Weller); Map = Parish Map of 1724 by John Miller (copy in the Church); N = Rev A F Northcote, *Notes on the History of Monks Eleigh*, 1930; OS = Ordnance Survey 6" and 1" maps; RegFair = Regency Fair Booklet; Rent = Rental transcribed by John Weller; ShipMR = Ship Money Returns; SR = Suffolk Subsidy Rolls; TA = Tithe Award Apportionment and Map; W = John B Weller (various papers), W(a) = his typescript MS on Highlands Hall, W(b) = his article 'A 15th Century Enclosure' in *Suffolk Review* 40, W(c) = his article 'The Manor of Illeghe Monachorum Lease of Demesne 1400' in *Suffolk Review* 45; Will = Monks Eleigh wills in N pp.24-6.

Monks Eleigh Names compiled by David Mills

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Any comments, corrections, suggestions for possible additions, all very welcome! Please email me at a.d.mills@btinternet.com