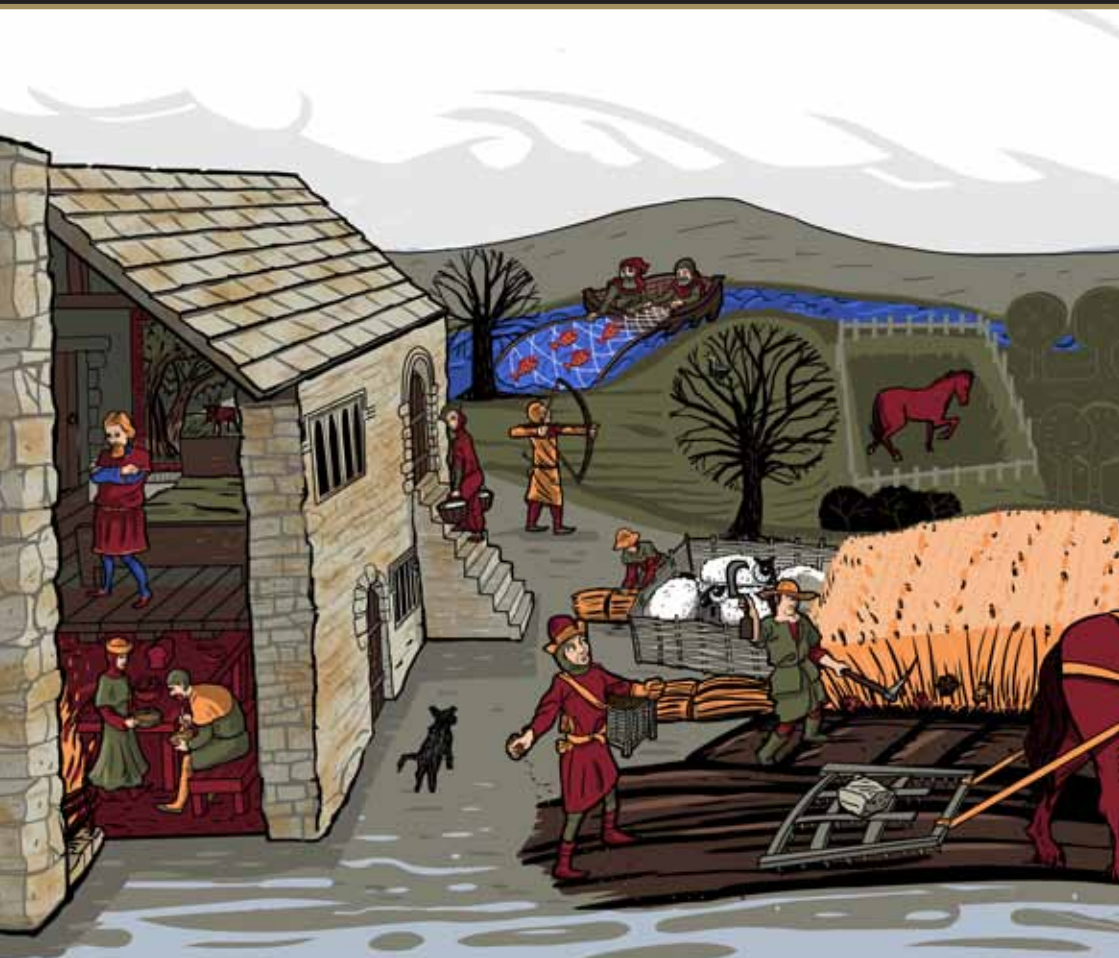


The MANOR HOUSE at IGHTENHILL



Roger Frost



Acknowledgements

Ighthenhill Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Ighthenhill Manor House Project. Without their contributions and support this book would not have been produced. In particular we would like to thank:

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Job_10333

What's it all about?

The site of the Norman Manor House at Ightenhill, near Burnley, Lancashire has been known for many years. Almost nothing now remains of the building. The current owner of the site, Ightenhill Parish Council, made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), with the help of the local community, to survey the site, and the area around it and publish the results.

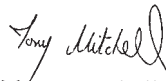
An application has not, as yet, been made to undertake an archaeological dig at the site but GSB Prospection Ltd SUMO Group has undertaken useful geophysical work which has confirmed much of which is known about the site.

The HLF has asked the parish council not only to consider the Manor House but also look at the history of Ightenhill. This has been achieved by working with professionals and local groups and this booklet is one of the results. The booklet will be distributed to all households in Ightenhill and copies will be made available to everyone who has helped with the project.

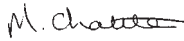
Ightenhill Parish Council is conscious, as owners of the site, of its responsibility to protect the site which is an important ancient monument. The council has felt that the local community, and others from outside our area, ought to be made aware of the historic significance of the Manor

House and it is for these reasons that the project was instigated.

As chairman of the parish council and project leader responsible for the project we would like to thank everyone who has helped with this project which, we feel, has done more to bring the community together than anything else in our experience. An invitation is made to all to visit this important historic site.



Tony Mitchell, Chairman of Ightenhill Parish Council.



Maria Chattle, Project Leader.

Other tangible results from the project include:-

- The making of a model of how the Manor House may have looked in the Middle Ages
- An illustrated information board to be placed at the site
- A banner which has been created by the children of St Mary Magdalene's RC Primary School
- A parish map has been commissioned from Pendle Artists
- Local people will be trained to tell others about the Manor House, what it was for and how important it was in its day not only to the people of Ightenhill but to those in a large part of NE Lancashire

The Manor House

Local children have played an important part in the development of this project. It has been decided, therefore, to produce this booklet in question and answer form. The majority of the questions have come from the children and the answers have been provided by those who have worked with them on the project.

Many of the illustrations that appear in the booklet have been made by the children of St Mary Magdalene's school. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to publish all of their work. More of it has been included in some of the formats described in "What's it all about" and the parish council will be keeping the original work of the children so that it can be used in exhibitions when needed.

The school is to be presented with a banner, which contains examples of the work of the children, as a permanent reminder of its involvement in the project.

Where is Ightenhill?

Ightenhill is a small civil parish to the west of Burnley, Lancashire. The historic name of the parish is Ightenhill Park, a reference to the Royal hunting park that once existed here. Today, Ightenhill is mainly residential with a lot of quite new houses though there are a number of older ones including Gawthorpe Hall and Cornfield. The River Calder flows through Ightenhill. Most of the land remains rural though there are a number of hints at industry which has long since closed down.



What does Ightenhill mean?

Ightenhill, as a place-name, first appears in 1242 and as Ichtenhille in 1296. The name probably means “furze hill”, where furze refers to the plant, gorse, which still grows here. It was at the top of the hill that Ightenhill Manor House was built.

What is a Manor?

A manor was one of the units of local government set up by the Normans after their victory at Hastings in 1066. Ightenhill was one of a number of the Manors of the Lordship (or Honor) of Clitheroe, the possession of which fell to the de Lacy family at the end of the 11th Century. The manor contained the whole of the present borough of Burnley and part of the borough of Pendle. Strictly, Burnley, though it had the church (or chapel) of St Peter, and from 1294 the local market, was a vill (later township) of the manor. Ightenhill also had the status of a vill though all of it was in the hands of the Lord of the Manor.



milk maid

I was a milk maid and I deliver milk to people
I milk cows and then I put it in some bottles.
I wear a long dress and a white hat.
I work long hours.
I have a basket to put the milk in.

When was the Manor House built?

It is thought that the manor house was built in the 12th Century, possibly in the 1180s. What is known about the building conforms to the style of manor houses built at this time. It appears to have been a typical rectangular Norman building which was surrounded by a number of the other buildings. The building is last recorded in 1523 when much of the site which contained the manor house was described as being in ruins. The site was dismantled and its stone used for building purposes.



Who was the Lord of the Manor?

The Lord of the Manor was the individual who, under the King, held the manor. The Lord did not actually own the manor or the Manor House. Under the feudal system, the King owned all the land and “let it out” to others who paid him for the property. Payment was usually not in money but in services, often military, to the Crown.

In the case of Ightenhill, for much of the Middle Ages, the Lord of the Manor was the head of the de Lacy family which had travelled to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. They had come from Lassy in northern France. Ilbert de Lacy, and his younger brother, Walter, were the hereditary tenants of Bishop Odo of Bayeux, a half brother of William, Duke of Normandy, later known as the Conqueror.

The de Lacy brothers were knights and they fought alongside William at the battle of Hastings. It may be that Ilbert was one of the knights with William when King Harold was killed. This may account for Ilbert being one of the new King’s favourites or it could be that Ilbert helped during the conquest of the north of England.

There were three distinct revolts against the Normans. They were widespread but the one in the north, 1068-70, was, perhaps, the most serious. Ilbert was present when William, with great brutality, put down this rebellion. It may be because of the services offered by

Ilbert that he was rewarded with a large amount of land in Yorkshire.

Ilbert set about building his principal castle at Pontefract which became one of the great castles of northern England. At this time he also received, from the King, land in Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire. Added to this, there were also 170 Lordships, within these counties, but also elsewhere.

When Ilbert died in 1093, he was succeeded by his son, Robert who is the first de Lacy recorded to have had land in what is now North East Lancashire. In those days there was no county of Lancashire: the north was regarded as part of Yorkshire, the south part of Cheshire. However, one of Robert's Lordships was that of Blackburnshire, otherwise the Honor of Clitheroe, and part of this was the Manor of Ightenhill.

Robert de Lacy was Lord at a difficult time. When William died in 1087 he was succeeded, as King of England, by his second son William Rufus. The older son, Robert Curthose, became Duke of Normandy. A third son, Henry, got little from his father but, eventually, it was he who brought England and Normandy under one rule again.

Robert de Lacy was involved in two conspiracies against the Crown. These were in favour of Robert Curthose but both revolts were unsuccessful and de Lacy was twice banished. His estates passed to Hugh de la Val and William Maltravers. The latter, at one time, held the Honor of Clitheroe by lease from Henry I, but he was murdered

and, in 1135 (the year in which Henry I died) Robert de Lacy's son, another Ilbert, was restored to his father's estates though he had been involved in at least one of the conspiracies.

The de Lacys had been restored and they retained control of their huge estates, including the Honor of Clitheroe, and the Manor of Ightenhill, until 1310. However, the second Ilbert was succeeded by his younger brother, Henry, but when his son, another Robert, died in 1193, the male line of the de Lacys came to an end.

There was a successor, Roger de Lacy, but he was not a blood relative to the de Lacys. He adopted the name when he succeeded to the estates in 1193. Roger was a descendant of the latter Robert's wife's sister, Awbrey. She married Richard Fitz Eustace, Lord of Halton and Constable of Chester. Their son was John, the founder of Stanlaw Abbey, the forerunner of Whalley Abbey. He died on Crusade at Tyre in 1190 and he was succeeded, by 1193, by Roger.

Roger de Lacy fought in Wales and France and was known as the "terror and scourge of the Welsh", alternatively "Roger from Hell". He was with Richard I at the siege of Acre, but, on the death of the King in 1199, he became a loyal supporter of King John. We know that Roger had something of an impact on our locality. It was he who, on the marriage of his daughter, Alice, to Geoffrey, son of Robert, the Dean of Whalley, granted Tunley, near Burnley, to his new son-in-law. Geoffrey was the ancestor of the Towneley family.

This new line of de Lacys remained in possession of the estates for less than a century after the death of Roger in 1211. He was succeeded by John de Lacy. Originally he was a friend of King John but, after a disagreement between the two, he joined the barons who forced the King to agree to Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. John was created Earl of Lincoln, by Henry III, in 1232. He died in 1240.

The last of the de Lacys came into possession of the estate on the death, in 1258, of Edmund, the son of John. This was Henry, the most important of the de Lacys. He was the friend and confidant of Edward I and he served the King as soldier and statesman. This Henry was a great patron of the area obtaining, in 1294, the right, from Edward I, to hold a market in Burnley. He also established both corn and fulling mills in Burnley.

Unfortunately, both of his sons, Edmund and John, died in his lifetime. It is understood that Edmund died at Denbigh after being drowned in a draw well at the castle. This incident has been confused, in the past, with a drowning at Ightenhill and, in some accounts, Edmund

died at Ightenhill, not Denbigh. It is likely that, if the incident took place, it happened in North Wales.

Henry's daughter, Alice de Lacy, married Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, cousin to Edward II, and the de Lacy lands came to him but he led a rebellion against the King, was captured and beheaded at his own castle at Pontefract in 1322. The estate was then in royal hands for a few years and it was at this time that Edward II visited Ightenhill.

In 1327, on the death of Edward II, his son, Edward III, restored the de Lacy lands, and the title, to Earl Thomas's brother, Henry, who was succeeded by his son, Henry of Grosmont, who was made Duke of Lancaster. Duke Henry was succeeded by his son-in-law, John of Gaunt, himself the son of Edward III. John's son became Henry IV in 1399 and, from then to 1660, the Honor of Clitheroe, and the Manor of Ightenhill, were in royal hands.



What did the Manor do?

Though the manor was the property of its Lord he did not want to be involved in its day to day affairs. This was particularly so at Ightenhill because its Lord had many manors on his large estates which were located in England, Wales and Ireland. The Lord appointed a bailiff/steward, who may have lived in the Manor House, and who was responsible for its various functions.

These included the administration of local justice for which there was a court comprised of local men. The manor was also responsible for ensuring that local agriculture was effective: when there were disputes between farmers

another court settled the problems which ranged from the use of the land to the taking of turf (for burning), timber, stone and coal.

In return, the Lord expected local people to work on the land in his personal ownership, much of

which was in his demesne (private farm) at Ightenhill.



In the 13th and 14th Centuries the manor house at Ightenhill also administered the Lord's manorial grange (a farm in the ownership of Kirkstall Abbey) at Cliviger. More importantly, the hunting chase of Pendle (from 1399 the Royal Forest of Pendle) was also managed from the Manor House whose bailiff also had the significant task of overseeing the rearing of horses for the Lord who would use them for military purposes, in tournaments and possibly for hunting.

The manor was also responsible for a number of other functions. It provided a pinfold for the sheep which were grazed on the commons and a pinder to look after the sheep. Another function was to maintain boundaries. This was usually the job of the hedge-looker but in Ightenhill the man who looked after the boundaries may have had another name. Perhaps the most popular job was that of the ale-taster but only if the ale was good!

The Manor House at Ightenhill, from the time it was built in the 1180s to c1523, was the most important civil building in the area. Its significance was second only to the Parish Church in Whalley and St Peter's in Burnley.

What did the Manor House look like?

The site of the Manor House has been known for many years but very little of it remains. There are no contemporary descriptions of what the building looked like but we know its general shape at ground level and roughly when it was built.

Ightenhill Manor House conforms to the plan of Norman manors built in the 12th Century in the Midlands and the more northern parts of England.

A number of these have survived; good examples include Boothby Pagnell in Lincolnshire and Millichope in Shropshire. Like Ightenhill, they are rectangular buildings. The manor house at Ightenhill would have contained some of the features of these buildings. It can not be said that, though there was a chimney at Ightenhill, it was internal, as it was at Millichope. Similarly, we do not know if there was an external stair way to an upper floor, as is the case at Boothby Pagnell. We can not even say, with complete certainty, that there were two floors at Ightenhill but this is likely to be the case, if only for the views that could be afforded from an upper floor.

As the building survived for about 350 years it is likely that some Norman features did not survive and that they were replaced, and added to, by others from later periods. We have tried to show this in our reconstructions of the building.

What we do know is that Ightenhill Manor House was very solidly built out of local stone and timber from the



manor itself. The Manor of Ightenhill was well known for the quality of its timber in the Middle Ages. The roof may initially have been of thatch, made not from straw, but from local reeds which were more durable than straw. In any case grain crops, from which straw is derived, does not grow well in North East Lancashire. Taking into account the amount of stone on the site, it is likely that the later building had a substantial stone roof.

It should be pointed out that the siting and style of the windows and door etc., in our reconstructions, are conjectural but we do know that the doors had carved jambs and that the windows had mullions. The latter may have been inserted into the building in the 14th Century when it is known that improvements and alterations were made at the time of the visit of Edward II.

Why was the Manor House built where it was?

The site of the manor house at Ightenhill was chosen very well. It was situated on the top of a substantial hill from where almost all of the manor could be seen. The views to the north and the west remain but those, particularly to the east have been spoiled by recent house building.

The dominant position of the manor house meant that local people would have been aware of the building at least most of the time, perhaps of importance in the early part of its history. Also, the situation of the building might have been significant in defensive terms – the manor house was built in troubled times and it is likely that the building served as a place from which to look out for lawless bands which may have had designs on property in the area. This certainly happened in 1323 when Ightenhill, Pendle and Trawden were attacked during a period of civil strife. The other substantial building in Ightenhill, Gawthorpe Hall, was originally a tower house built for defensive reasons.

What would the site have looked like when the Manor House was in use?

In the Middle Ages the manor house was at the centre of manorial life. It should be seen both in the context of the Lord's Demesne, which surrounded the house, and as the centre of the whole manor.

Of course, the site itself changed over the years but we do have two partial descriptions. The first refers to 1323 when the Manor House was being prepared for a visit from King Edward II. This description refers to “the King's Chamber”, a bake house, stables and two barns. Roger the mason was paid £5 14s 4d (£5.72p) for making a new chimney, a substantial sum at that time.

In 1522 most of the manor house was in ruins but there was a great hall, a guest chamber, a kitchen, a butler's house and a “pantree”. There was also a “furnace house” and a “long chamber at the end of the hall”. A park keeper's house was still standing and was covered in “sclaitstones” (stone roofing). A chapel and a stable were still standing. It is known that there was also a blacksmith's shop at the site though we can not be sure about dates.

So there was not merely one building at the site of the manor house. It was a small complex of buildings intended not only for farming but also for administration. People lived there and visitors could be accommodated.

Mention of the “great hall” is significant because it was here that the courts associated with the manor often met. They did not always meet there. Sometimes they would meet



at St Peter's and, latterly, courts relating to the Royal Forest met at Higham on the other side of the Calder but connected to Ightenhill by a route which can still be followed.

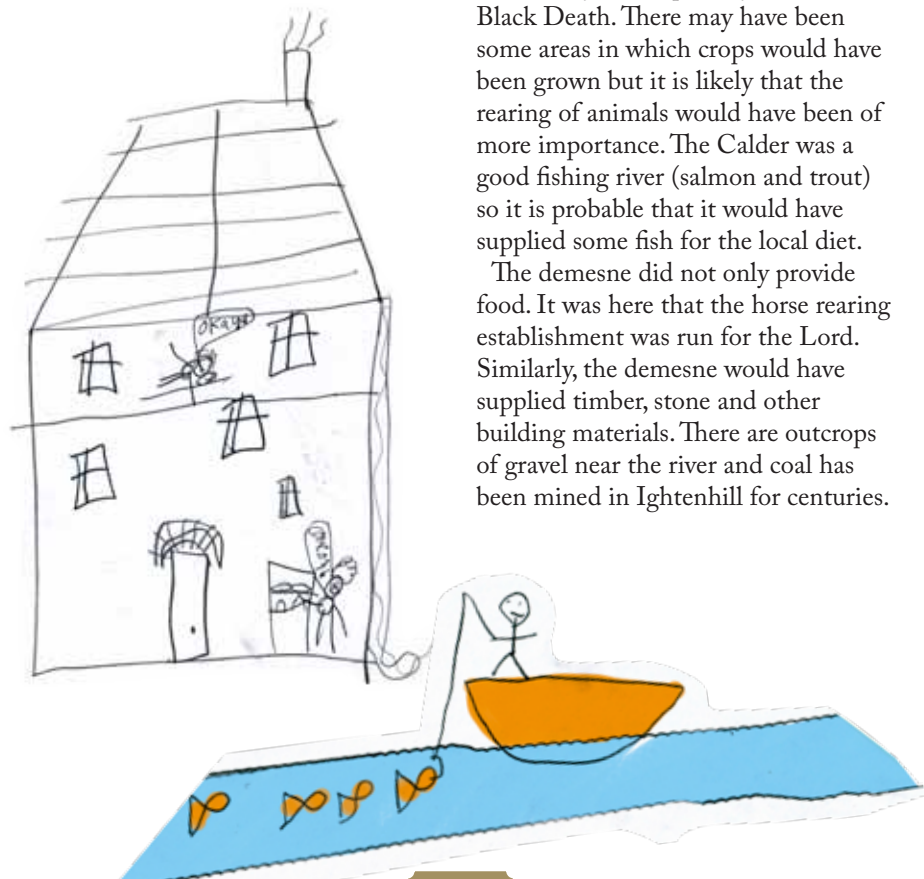
Finally, it can not be determined whether the site of the Manor House at Ightenhill was defended by a structure designed for that purpose. The manor house at Wharram Percy in North Yorkshire was defended by a ditch and mound on which there appears to have been a strong wooden fence. Something like this may have existed at Ightenhill but a full scale archaeological dig will be necessary to determine whether this is the case or not.

What was the Lord's Demesne?

The Lord of the Manor kept to himself a portion of his manor for his own purposes. In later years the word demesne referred to the private part of a landowner's estate, as in nearby Huntroyde. At Ightenhill, the Lord's demesne consisted of much of what is now the civil parish and it might have included part of the West Close area of Higham and Royle.

In the early Middle Ages some of the demesne land would have been farmed on the Lord's behalf by unfree families of the manor. This was commuted to a money rent especially after the Black Death. There may have been some areas in which crops would have been grown but it is likely that the rearing of animals would have been of more importance. The Calder was a good fishing river (salmon and trout) so it is probable that it would have supplied some fish for the local diet.

The demesne did not only provide food. It was here that the horse rearing establishment was run for the Lord. Similarly, the demesne would have supplied timber, stone and other building materials. There are outcrops of gravel near the river and coal has been mined in Ightenhill for centuries.



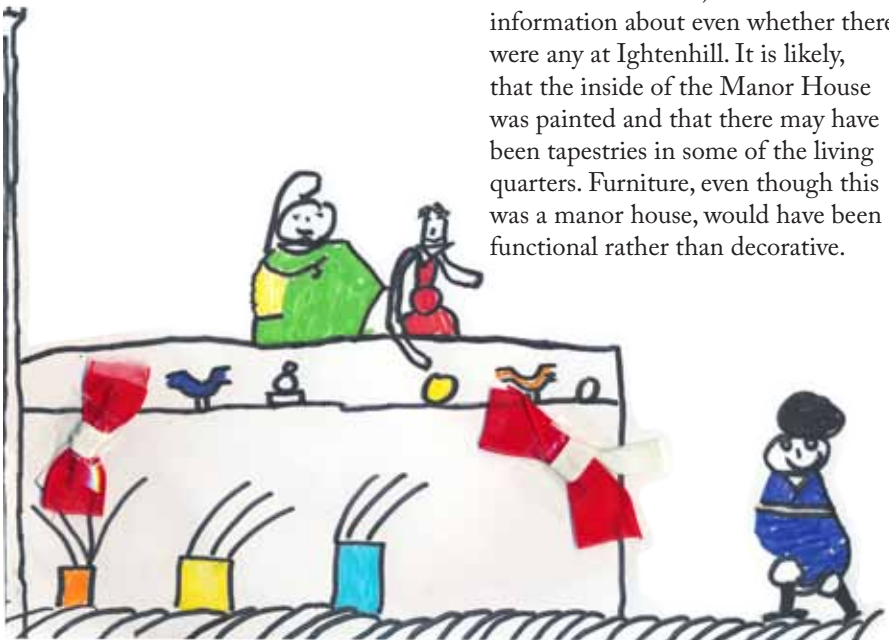
What was it like inside the Manor House?

First, the likely assumption must be made that the manor house was on two floors. If that is the case the great hall, at least initially, would have occupied almost the whole of the ground floor. It was here that the courts were held and there might have been the special furniture that was needed when courts were being held. However, almost all the rooms in the manor house would have had several different uses. If the Lord was present, as occasionally he was, tenants would be greeted in the great hall which might also have been used for dining purposes. The great hall is likely to have been the place where some of those who worked at the Manor House may have slept.

The upper floor would have had the chambers, often called “the solar” because it was the sunniest part of the building, where the Lord and his family lived. At Ightenhill the Lord of the Manor lived elsewhere on his estate, so the bailiff/steward might live in these chambers but he would be expected to move out if the Lord came visiting!

The situation is that we do not know a great deal about the actual use of the Manor House itself but we should get out of our minds the current convention of living, cooking, washing and sleeping spaces. In the past people slept where they could and washed at the local well (there was one on the site). They needed somewhere to cook food but even the kitchen was a popular place to sleep. After all, it was likely to be just about the warmest place in the building!

As for decorations, we have no information about even whether there were any at Ightenhill. It is likely, that the inside of the Manor House was painted and that there may have been tapestries in some of the living quarters. Furniture, even though this was a manor house, would have been functional rather than decorative.





Was there a Chapel?

The answer to that is “yes” but we know almost nothing about it. We are not even sure whether it was part of the manor house or whether it was elsewhere on the site. However, it is thought that the chapel was not within the manor house itself. It is not known to whom the chapel might have been dedicated and we have no information about a

resident priest to serve the chapel.

The importance of the chapel is that it was one of only two places of worship known to have existed in the manor in the Middle Ages. The other was St Peter’s in Burnley, though it is possible that the manorial granges at Cliviger and Extwistle (both within the manor) had their own chapels.

Why did King Edward II visit Ightenhill?

There has been some speculation about why Edward II visited the Manor House at Ightenhill but it is known that the King spent a few days there in 1323. It could be related to Edward's victory over his rebellious cousin Thomas, Earl of Lancaster which took place at Boroughbridge in Yorkshire the year before. The death of Earl Thomas (he was beheaded after the battle) resulted in his estates falling into the hands of the King and that Edward was merely inspecting his new property.

The reference to "the King's Chamber" at the manor in the 1323 accounts may confirm this but historian Mathew Wall is of the opinion that Edward was in the locality to assess the break down in public order which was a feature of much of the north of England during the King's reign. We know that a force from Skipton attacked Ightenhill, Pendle and Trawden in 1323 and that there were other more serious events in Lancashire at this time. One of them was the destruction of the original Salmesbury Hall which had taken place the year before. In 1325 a new hall was built on another site.

Edward II retained the throne until 1327 when, partly because of his failings as King, he was murdered at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. He was succeeded by his son, Edward III, who was only a boy at the time but, at the beginning of his long reign, Earl Thomas's lands were restored to the Earl's brother, Henry.



The site of the Norman Manor House at Ightenhill, near Burnley, Lancashire has been known for many years. Almost nothing now remains of the building.

The current owner of the site, Ightenhill Parish Council, made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and with the help of the local community, the site and the area around it has been surveyed and researched. This booklet is one of the results.



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