

King Harold Day – Waltham Abbey 15th Oct 2005

Harold, King of England was killed at the Battle of Hastings 1066 and buried at the Abbey of Waltham.

My Saxon forbear Hereward the Wake, valiantly continued the fight against William the Conqueror and his foreign Norman invaders.

Domesday Book records that Hereward owned land at Bourne in the Lincolnshire Fenland. He and his supporters opposed the ruthless and unjust rule by the French and created a stronghold on the Isle of Ely. William attacked them by land and water but was defeated. He declared Hereward to be an outlaw.

The Wakes married Hereward's descendants and inherited Bourne. In 1138 we founded the Abbey of Bourne and were the Lords of the Manors of Bourne and Deeping for about 400 years.

Sir Samuel Jones owned the Waltham Estate in the 17th Century. He died in 1672 when his Wake nephew succeeded him. Since then my family have been Lords of the Manor of Waltham for over 300 years.

Lady Wake and I are very sorry we cannot enjoy King Harold Day with you.

Pride in ~~the~~ local history is important.

Congratulations on remembering England's last noble Saxon King.

Hereward Wake

Hereward Wake
Lord of the Manor