

## Burbage....

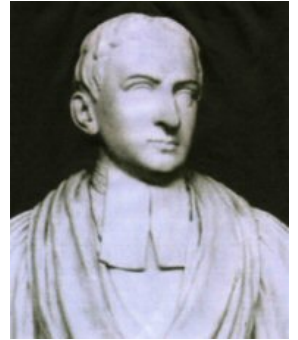
The first written account of Burbage is in 1043, when **Leofric of Mercia** and his wife **Gydgifu** (better known as **Godiva**) founded the Abbey of St. Mary at Coventry. Today it is a suburb of Hinckley in Leicestershire. Burbage, first known as Burbach, its name derived from a species of thistle that grew locally next to a stream which was one of the sources of the River Soar.

Burbage was a small farming community for many centuries. Its population expanded initially through the cottage industries that developed on the introduction of the knitting frame in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and again in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries through further mechanisation and the establishment of hosiery and knitwear factories in the area.

The village has had a number of notable residents recognised through a local blue plaque scheme:

**Roger Cotes** (1682 – 1716), the mathematician is renowned for his work with Sir Isaac Newton. Born at Burbage rectory on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1682, the second son of Robert Cotes, Rector of Burbage.

At the age of 26 he became the first Plumian Professor of astronomy and experimental astronomy at Cambridge collaborating with Newton on his famous work Principia which explained Newton's theory of universal gravitation.



*Bust of Roger Cotes*



*Kinard Baghot de la Bere*

**Kinard Baghot de la Bere** (1837 - 1932), he moved to the area from Wales after purchasing Burbage Hall. Born Kinard Edwards in Prestbury, Gloucestershire, the third son of the Rector John Edwards. The family had adopted the Baghot de la Bere name descended through his maternal line.

Kinard studied Civil Engineering at Marlborough College under Brunel. He later superintended large engineering works with expenditures of £250,000. Work took him as far afield as South America.

His youngest son Stephen, born in December 1877, became an artist of some repute. Educated at Ilkley College before studying art in London and Paris. His works featured in many leading galleries in Paris, Madrid and Venice including the Royal Academy. He illustrated various books – Don Quixote, Gulliver's travels and worked on leading magazines and periodicals up to the 1920's.

Amongst other notable former residents of the village are: **George Canning** (1770 – 1827), Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from April to August 1827: **Charles Chamberlain Hurst** (1870 – 1947) was a pioneering geneticist, he worked on the hybridisation of orchids at Burbage Nurseries, he also set up the Burbage Experimental Station and was involved in the early development of Mendelian genetics at Cambridge University.

The parish church of **St. Catherine's** is dedicated to Catherine of Alexandria and has recorded history dating from 1209. The registers date from 1562. The oldest part of the church is the tower where foundations are believed to be Saxon. The present church was extensively rebuilt in 1842 although the south door dates from 1633.

The centre of the village is a designated conservation area with a number of notable buildings and these include:

- Archer Cottage – over 500 years old it was originally the Parish Town Hall
- Cedar Lawns – an 18<sup>th</sup> century house once surrounded by large grounds
- Burbage Manor House – dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century with many additions
- Burbage Hall – has parts dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a 17<sup>th</sup> century exterior.
- The Grange – dates from 1608, the historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner described it as having the best interior for a house of this period



*Burbage Conservation Area*

Further information of the village, its buildings and people may be obtained via the Burbage Heritage Group Website, [www.burbageheritage.co.uk](http://www.burbageheritage.co.uk), also heritage boards around the village celebrate its history, its buildings and its people, and also remember those that gave their lives in World War One.

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