

NORTHFIELD
Revealed

Animals of Northfield

This is Northfield Pound on Church Road. The structure dates from the 1600's. A pound is a place where stray animals were taken and "impounded". Owners had to pay a fine to retrieve their animal.

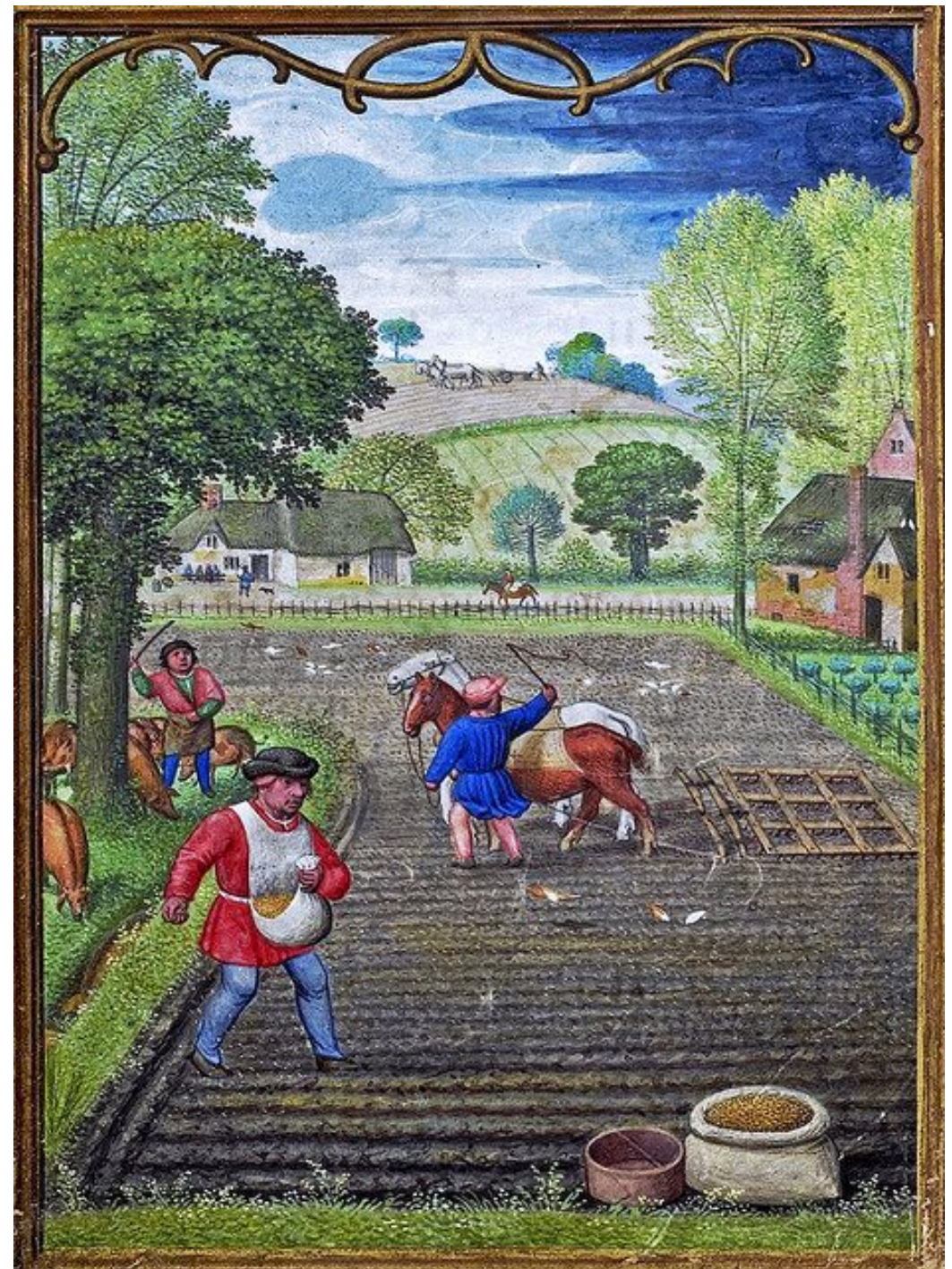
When Northfield was still very rural the area fell within the lands of Lord of the manor who lived at Dudley Castle. He allowed serfs or peasants to work the land in order to grow food and make a small living. The peasants paid rent on the land to the Lord. The rich stayed rich and the poor got poorer. The years of ploughing left a distinctive wavy appearance on the land. Known as 'ridge and furrow' it can just be seen at Victoria Common.

The 'common' land was where peasants were free to let their animals roam. Their animals were not really like the pets we have today but working animals who helped farm workers to do jobs on the land. Animals were also used to make food.

There are records to show that amongst the animals taken to the pound were bulls, cows, hens, pigs, boars (a kind of wild native pig), and even a swarm of bees.

Task Key Stage 1: Write a list of what is made from animals and what jobs they can help with. Draw the food and other useful items that they can make. When you are asked to, make an animal noise!

Task Key Stage 2: Try writing a diary entry for a farm worker starting from sunrise to sunset. Think about the lack of electricity and the hard, physical nature of his/her work. How do you think they measured happiness in their lives?



The Hennessy Hours, Labours of the Month September, Bening 1530