

Chapter Seven: A walk around Edingale

Like too many local villages, Edingale is hardly recognisable from the village of 50 years ago. The intervening period has probably seen more change and growth than any other in the village's 2000 year or more history. This section highlights some of those changes by taking the reader on a walk that starts where the Croxall Road enters the village.

The first house on your left is **The Gables**. Its whitewashed brick work has signalled the entrance of Edingale for at least two centuries. An unusual building, The Gables is of a much higher quality of construction than any other contemporaneous cottage in the village. Originally three bedroomed, converted to two, it has been extended recently with the loss of most of its chimney and the addition of a bedroom. The cottage was owned by the Croxall estate and included in the sale of 1920 as "*a superior cottage and garden.*" Tony and Pauline Blake built Meadow View in the garden attached to The Gables when Mrs Blake senior owned it.



*The Gables before extension, about 1965
– courtesy of Pauline and Tony Blake*

On your left then lies Pessall Lane. Four of the council-built houses on the left were the first council homes built in the village, constructed on some post-inclosure allotment gardens in 1932. The other two were built in 1938. On your right are the wooden homes of a Swedish design built shortly after the war. Just before the bridge over Pessall Brook is Ben Collingwood's yard: the last remaining piece of post-inclosure allotment land in the village providing a link with our common fields and also (incidentally) evidencing how long the Collingwood family has lived in the village.

Turning round and heading out of Pessall Lane, the school and School Lane face you. **School House** is almost certainly the oldest house remaining in the village. When the present owners renovated it, they discovered that the core of the building is a timber-framed hall and cross wing with large wall panels and curved wooden braces. This form of construction is dated no later than 1550 "*but fifteenth century is more likely.*" When built, the hall would have been a large, open room that was multi-functional in its use. The

smoke of an open fire in the hall blackened timbers in what is now the upstairs of the house. The 'upstairs' is therefore a subsequent creation within the hall. A cross wing with other rooms would have been contemporary with the hall. This was no 'rude cottage' – it was the dwelling of a yeoman farmer of some means. Various additions and improvements, including the creation of the upper storey within the building, and the construction of the schoolroom in 1820, complete the building we see today. After the Mary Howard School opened, but before the first village hall was purchased, the schoolroom was used for village events such as whist drives and meetings. It was then the home of the parish clerk for many years. The money from the sale to its present owners endowed the *Croxall and Edingale Church of England Charity*.



The Old School House by Helen Pilgrim

Opposite School House is **Lilac Cottage**. Another old cottage (marked on the inclosure map of 1791), historically, Lilac Cottage was within an 'island' of Staffordshire, completely surrounded by Derbyshire Edingale. In the last century, the cottage was the site of one of the village shops run by Win Hobley. Her mother Lizzie was a First World War widow, after Win's father, Private John Hobley, had been killed in action in France on the 23rd November 1916. Win's siblings, Ron and Bet are pictured in the school photograph of 1925. Mrs Hobley senior married Tom Lindop, but the shop had closed by her death in 1942. Mrs Linton then lived at Lilac Cottage for many years.

Ahead of you, School Lane leads down to the **Pingle Meadow**, long associated with Church Farm, and still in the ownership of the Garland family. The Pingle's woodland planting is an amenity for the whole village. Behind the old school, stretching towards the Pingle are East Holme and West Holme. A complex of barns stood in the middle of these fields until the late 1960s. Of ancient origin, the Croxall registers list John and Maria Wilson as living at "*Westholm in the parish of Croxall*" when their children were baptised in 1725 and 1726. Also, the Croxall census of 1861 notes that three Irish labourers were

living in Holme Barn: Dominick and Thomas Manion from Roscommon and boarding with them was Michael Ryan, from Castlerea, Ireland, who worked as a cowman.

If you retrace your steps to Croxall Road and turn right, you now have council-built homes on your right and left (those still rented are now in the ownership of HomeZone housing association). The properties on your right were built in 1938 on a greenfield site. They were known initially as The Crescent and there was some discussion about whether they should be named after Alderman Robert Garland. On the 1794 inclosure map, a cottage stood about two-thirds of the way towards Moores Croft, but, by the Ordnance Survey map of 1913, this had disappeared. The houses on your left date from 1962/3 and replace the terrace of old cottages shown in Helen Pilgrim's watercolour below. Two further cottages stood out of 'camera shot' to the extreme left of Helen's picture. These were the oldest of the terrace and are marked on the inclosure map. The cottages pictured in the foreground were not, and probably date from the early nineteenth century. A further five cottages stood behind the pictured terrace, roughly at the edge of what is now the Blakeways development.



Cottages that were opposite Moores Croft entrance by Helen Pilgrim

Our walk has now taken us to the junction of Croxall Road and Moores Croft. The houses on the left hand side of Moores Croft were built in 1982 on the site of the old village hall pictured overleaf and two cottages and gardens. The old hall was a wooden structure, bought second-hand from Tatenhill and located here in 1953. Alice Dicken, grandmother of a present-day resident of the houses, occupied one of the cottages. Moores Croft is the ancient name of the road, but we have been unable to determine its origin. It may be explained as a track leading to hay meadows; it certainly doesn't appear to have any connection with a former owner.

At the corner of Moores Croft is the new **village hall**. Opened in 1977, at a cost of £31,000, the hall replaced the wooden building. It has recently been extensively refurbished. The remaining council-built houses and flats were completed in 1978.



The 1953 village hall towards the end of its life

Back out onto Croxall Road, turning right and right again brings us under the ancient oak tree into the **Woodyard**. In some ways, this was the centre of the village. Even within living memory, courting couples would meet under the old oak tree. This was also the closest that old Edingale ever got to an industrial estate as there was a smithy (on two sites, latterly the present-day Forge Cottage), and shoeing shed, a brick and thatched wheelwright's shop and a wood-drying room. There was also a stable, hay store and two sheds, as the nineteenth century owners of the Woodyard also farmed from there. There was a garden and orchard, with water coming from a village pump.

The gable of the Woodyard cottages can be seen in the background of Helen Pilgrim's picture on page 69. This was an exceptional set of cottages, as ancient as those in Schofield Lane, but more substantial, with decorative herringbone brickwork on the gable end. Their demolition in 1972 by the then owner, Mr Joe Golubic, was an act of wanton desecration, still regretted by villagers today.

On the right, towards Forge Cottage (then Golubic's residence) stood The Square. A Croxall curate, the Reverend Ralph Watson, is noted as living at Croxall Villa, in the Square in the 1861 Croxall census.

Behind Forge Cottage is **Joe's Cave**, a bungalow newly built by Sean and Karen Murray on the site of a nuclear bunker. Joe Golubic constructed this, one of Edingale's more unusual features, in 1963, when the cold war was at its height. It is described in the next section.

By turning 180 degrees and retracing our steps to Croxall Road, we pass the modern house that for almost 40 years was the **village shop**, built in 1963 by John Duggins, a son of the then landlord of the Black Horse, on land he bought from The Firs. The shop was sold in 1971 and passed through six owners until contemporary economics and shopping patterns saw it close in 1999.

Opposite it are the '**Airey**' concrete panel houses built in 1949: roomy to live in, with lovely gardens, these aren't the village's biggest visual asset. The houses stand on the site

of yet another ancient row of cottages, nine in total, some of them dating from at least the mid eighteenth century and pictured in about 1920 below. Among the small boys at the front of the photograph are Arthur Rowley, after whom Rowley Close is named, and Fred Bacon, currently Edingale's oldest male resident, who lives today in one of the Airey houses. Another small boy is Tom Wilcox, pictured by Helen Pilgrim as Jos Holland's groom in her commemorative print. The cottages had been part of The Firs farm and were purchased by the council for demolition. Fred and Emily Bacon were the first people to move in to the new houses at the grand weekly rent of £1.0s.8d (£1.03).



Cottages on the site of the Airey houses, about 1920

Our walk now comes to **Blakeways Close**. Built in 1990 on land once owned by the Blakeways family, this development has recently doubled in size with the addition of the David Wilson Homes on Rowley Close. Underneath Gordon and Josie Dale's house (the most westerly Charter Home) on the public amenity ground skirting Rowley Close, another of the three village forges once stood.

Facing Blakeways Close is **The Firs**. Empty for many years now, its Georgian frontage boarded up, The Firs is one of Edingale's largest homes. The inclosure documents of 1794 list the owner of The Firs as William Pimm. The Pimms were a longstanding village family and The Firs was in the Croxall part of Edingale, so their details are recorded in the Croxall registers from the 1500s; throughout the registers, Pimm is spelt in many ways - "Pym, Pymme, Pim". A field called Pimm's Meadow appears on the Croxall tithe map of 1843, which, it is assumed, is connected with this family. It is situated in what is now Broadfields Farm.

White's Directory of Staffordshire for 1834 lists John Pimm as "gentleman" and his mother is also listed. The family is recorded in the 1841 census for Croxall, which includes Mary,

aged 70, living with her daughters, Mary and Louisa, and a granddaughter. They are described as of “*independent means*.”

By 1851, many of the Pimm family had died or had moved away, but legal documents suggest that their relatives retained The Firs and its associated land for the rest of the century, renting it to tenant farmers.

The Stratton family purchased The Firs in the late 1800s. Ann, Esther, Thomas Wright, and Charlotte came from Haunton. In 1894, the sisters, Charlotte, Esther and Ann, bought lands in Edingale on the river meadows, south of the church where the public footpaths run. They also bought other land in Edingale, including four fields off Raddle Lane (behind the Black Horse). Ann died in 1895, aged 69. She had never married. The census for 1901 places Thomas, aged 61, Esther, aged 62, and Charlotte, aged 55, at The Firs.

On 18th November 1901, the surviving siblings sold all their land holdings, which included the river meadow land (13 acres) and land situated along Raddle Lane (79 acres). The 80 acres became Brook House Farm which was farmed by Alfred Hooley. A favourite nephew, Frank Blakeway, inherited The Firs and its remaining farmland in 1901. His tale is told later in the book.

The Hopkins family then bought The Firs, followed by the Morgans. On Mr Morgan's death, his widow sold the house to Mr Woodley but retained some farmland which they sold to developers for the building of new houses in the village. This development was called Blakeways Close after Frank Blakeway. The Woodleys sold The Firs to Des Collingwood in the mid-1980s.

On the opposite side of the entrance to Hatchett Lane is **Fields Farm**. Only some of the present Fields Farm house is original. The rest of the house and barns have been newly constructed in a vernacular style during yet another episode where local planners let Edingale down. Of a form of construction known as the Staffordshire Longhouse, ironically, for most of its life, Fields Farm, like The Firs, was in Derbyshire. At inclosure in 1794, Fields Farm belonged to Thomas Levett-Prinsep of Croxall Hall.

It is believed that the Hatchet family farmed as tenants at Fields Farm. Andrew Hatchet was born in ‘Croxall’ in 1704, as were his father and grandfather. He married Sarah and they had ten children. Andrew seems to have held a responsible position in the community as evidenced in the parish register: “*1739 – Robert, the spurious son of Robert Smith sent to Andrew Hatchet (sic) by Mary Lovelidge, spinster, and servant at Andrew Hatchet's, was privately baptised at William Spencer's January 13th.*”

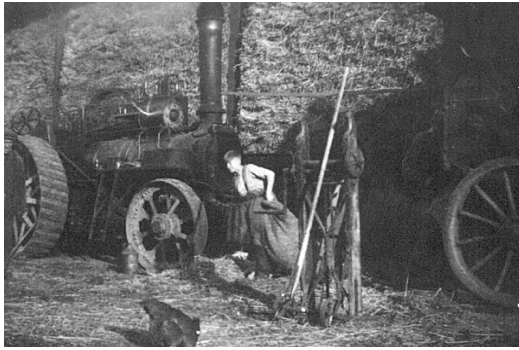
Andrew's great-grandson, Ralph, appears in the Croxall census farming 175 acres. Ralph died in 1861, aged 66, ending the line of Hatchets who lived at Fields Farm.



Fields Farm before redevelopment

When the Levett-Prinseps sold Croxall Hall and estate in 1920, they retained Fields Farm. They sold it to its then tenants, the Lindop family, in 1923. William Lindop had lived at Fields Farm since 1890 and his family continued to live there for the next century – thus Fields Farm had only two owning families in well over 200 years. The Lindops subsequently sold Fields Farm and the buildings and yard were developed into private houses. Roy Bailey of Lady Leys Farm, Lullington, now farms the land. William Lindop died in 1919, aged 80, and his wife Ann died in 1930, aged 82. They are pictured overleaf outside the door of Fields Farm.

There are a number of photographs featuring Lindy Lou – the Lindops' threshing engine. She was bought on the 3rd September 1924 by the Lindop family and was used to drive the threshing box until her sale in 1947. "Lindy Lou" was at Shugborough Hall on display for a time and is now preserved in a museum.



Top left, “Lindy Lou” – threshing engine with David Johnson; bottom left, threshing box – on top Horace Lindop and Lillian Welch, bottom, Alice Dicken and Jacky Robinson; right, William and Ann Lindop about 1900. All at Fields Farm – pictures courtesy of Ken and Maud Lindop and Pam Collingwood

Walking up Hatchett Lane towards the church, three houses dating from 1975 stand on your left. These were built on the orchard of Fields Farm. Opposite these is a small development (**Ashdene, Ahmer** and **Maycroft**) built by John Brooks who had purchased some of the paddocks at the rear of The Firs.

At the end of Hatchett Lane is Church Hollow and **Willow Cottage**. Willow Cottage is associated with five other cottages in Church Hollow that were connected with Church Farm. **Holly Down** and **Walton House**, stand on the site of the other five cottages. The Naylor family, who emigrated to Australia in the late 1970s, built the two new houses.

The demolished cottages, and Willow Cottage, were owned for a lengthy period by the Webb-Greene family. Thomas Webb-Greene died on 14th November 1875 and his family retained the estate until 1900. On 10th November 1900, the family sold the six cottages and the land behind them to John Hunt Dewes, a solicitor, from Wigginton Grange, Tamworth. He in turn sold, one cottage, Willow Cottage, plus the pigsty, coalhouse and the use of the pump to Charles Baxter. Mr. Baxter was a pig butcher by trade. He had two sons, George who became the publican of the Black Horse, and Frank who was the village postman for many years. Charles Baxter is one of the men standing outside Edingale church in a surviving photograph of the previous church building at page 44.

George Baxter inherited the property on 14th May 1916 when his father died and sold it at auction for £100. By 1954 Jos Holland of Edingale House Farm owned it and, in the late 1960s, Mr. Holland sold the cottage to Mr and Mrs Peter Tarrant. They used the land adjoining the cottage, which is now part of the churchyard, and the field to the rear, for a market gardening business. Mrs Cristabel Lythe, for many years head teacher at the school, lived at Willow Cottage, moving there with her family in 1979.

The last remaining tenants of the five demolished cottages were Mrs Robinson and Dickie Wood. Dickie Wood is pictured as a boy in the 1925 school photograph. He lived out his later years in a caravan in the corner of one of Mr. Holland's horse paddocks off the Harlaston Road and will be fondly remembered by many local people.

Mr Ted Poxon built the bungalows on the adjacent land, either side of **Church Walk**, which he had purchased from The Firs in 1962.

Finally, in this part of the village, the most westerly end of the vicarage garden is the site of two demolished houses. One known as 'Miss Garland's cottage' can be glimpsed in older pictures of the church. Miss Garland was the sister of a former vicar of Edingale.

Walking back to Croxall Road and turning right, on your left above the bank are the **Charter Homes**. Completed in 1972, they occupy part of the orchard and other land of Fields Farm. On your right, after Fields Farm there begins a variety of homes built by the Collingwood brothers, either as MacColl or Silverdale. The oldest of these is the first MacColl home ever built that was constructed on the site of 'Ginny's Hollow' – another ancient cottage, which marked the beginning of Staffordshire Edingale. To the east of these and down Church Lane, are homes built on the site of Samuel Thompstone's croft and barn, bought by Gerald and Des Collingwood in 1962. Further cottages used to stand by 'Ginny's Hollow' including 'Granny German's cottage' and a prominent village pump stood directly to the east of the tree roots.

In Church Lane are two other significant village homes: **Church Farm** and **The Vicarage**. Church Farm bears the date 1664, but its core is thought to be earlier than that at around 1620. It is one of the village's oldest farms.

The Wilson family possibly built and owned Church Farm. The Edingale registers are filled with their baptisms, marriages and burials from 1575 (the start of the registers). Thomas Wilson was from this family and he became vicar of Edingale on 29th September 1653 and began the second parish register book. He called himself 'clericus' which was a priest who had consented to hold cures under the commonwealth. He remained vicar until 1669 when his own death was recorded:

"Thomas Wilson grandaevus curatus hujus Capellae sepultus est decimo quarto die August 1669 per me Johan Hugh Vicarii de Croxal."

At the time of the inclosure, all of the Wilson family must either have died or left the district, as there are no fields allocated to them.

The inclosure map of Edingale shows Church Farm. The description given was “*one other ancient house marked No 24.*” The present archway entrance had not been built, as much of the farm courtyard dates from 1819. There were cottages in what is now the garden of Church Farm. They appear in the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 but are demolished by 1913. At inclosure, a further property was situated in the middle of what is now the paddock at Church Farm but there is no more recent evidence of this building.

Thomas Webb owned Church Farm after the inclosure. He was born in 1759 at Donkhill Pits in the parish of Croxall and was married to Eleanor. Eleanor Webb was buried at Croxall in 1822, aged 59 and Thomas died in 1843, aged 84. His address is given as ‘Longdon Cottage, Longdon Green’ in the Croxall burial register. His son, Thomas Webb-Greene, QC, JP, inherited all of the properties and land at Edingale and rented them to tenant farmers for the rest of the century. He lived at Baddow Hall, near Chelmsford.

Thomas Webb-Greene died on the 14th November 1875. In his will, dated 1875, it states, “... *including the additions made by his father or by himself with the house and homestead and all the cottages with bakehouse, piggeries and gardens belonging thereto of which farm and farmhouse with garden were late in the occupation of **Thomas Hatchett** deceased ...*”

Thomas Hatchett, who was born in 1775, appeared in the 1841 Edingale census as “*farmer.*” His son Thomas, born in 1804, was also a “*farmer*” until and including 1871. He married Hannah and had four children. Tragically three of them did not survive infancy. Their daughter, Margaret, married Thomas Booth of Tamhorn Farm, Whittington. She had a daughter, Mary Hannah Booth, of Tamhorn, who was buried in 1867, aged three weeks. Margaret died in 1872, aged 32, and is buried in a prominent grave at Edingale.

Thomas Webb-Green’s executors sold the Edingale estate in six lots on the 30th July 1900.

- ❑ Lot 1 was the farmhouse and buildings and 50 acres.
- ❑ Lot 2 was 90 acres along the Edingale to Lullington road with a barn and yard.
- ❑ Lot 3 was ten acres of meadow.
- ❑ Lot 4 was two cottages, gardens and outbuildings at the rear of the vicarage (see pencil sketch of Georgian church) occupied by the Flatman and Coates families.
- ❑ Lot 5 was six freehold cottages and gardens (Church Hollow).
- ❑ Lot 6 was a small garden near the Black Horse with a long frontage to the street.

Alfred Bunting Wardle bought lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. He granted Samuel Thompstone and his brother a tenancy commencing in 1900. Mr Wardle died on 29 January 1913 and his widow, Mary, sold Church Farm on 13 May 1921 to Samuel Thompstone as sitting tenant.

Mr Thompstone died on 6th June 1949 and his wife, Mabel Annie, moved to Tamworth. It is thought that she continued to rent out Church Farm. On 13th November 1962 Mrs Thompstone sold Church Farm to Henry Arthur (Harry) and Kathleen Garland of Mansditch Farm, Catton (Bob Garland of Raddle Farm’s parents). The houses at Schofield Lane remained in the ownership of the Thompstone family.

On his mother's retirement, Bob Garland sold the farmhouse to Alan and Janet Nunn, keeping most of the farmland. Church Farm's present owners are David and Katherine Clayton-Smith. They are currently converting a barn in the courtyard into a house.

The Vicarage is a very grand building for such a small and poor parish, and dates from the time of Queen Anne. Although there is no direct mention in the parish registers of its construction, it was built in the time of the Revd Griffith Vaughan, vicar from 1710-1717. After the vicarage was built, major rebuilding was undertaken on the church, completed in 1736 by the Revd Thomas Vaughan, vicar from 1717-1748. The registers mention his great generosity to the church at the time of his burial – *“Rev Vaughan, younger son of Griffith Vaughan, Archdeacon of Salop who was Minister of Edingale for 30 years and a great benefactor to ye church.”*

The Reverend Morgan was the last clergyman occupant. He was the vicar of both Croxall and Edingale and he lived in the vicarage until the end of 1955. It is now a substantial private home. The coach house in the vicarage grounds predates the main house by at least a century, probably more.

An about-turn will take you back to the tree roots, with the four cottages of **Schofield Lane** on your right. These cottages date from the early 1600s and are named after Thomas Scofield (sic) who lived in one of the cottages (there is more about his family later).



Schofield Lane showing the cottage that was two houses– Helen Pilgrim

This is the only remaining line of older buildings in the village. The third cottage was for many years last century the home of Miss Abel. She filled it with evacuees during the Second World War. It now belongs to Chris and Alan Webb – when they renovated it, they revealed that it was in fact two buildings – these being the buildings that belonged to Thomas Scofield. In a more modern twist, the cottage was the scene of filming for some episodes of *Crossroads* by Central Television in January 1986.

The most southerly cottage (nearest the field) was occupied by Sarah Hatchet at the time of the inclosure and is now the home of Arthur and Gladys Rowley. The cottage and gardens seem to have been in Derbyshire prior to the 1888 boundary amendments.

Back out again to what has now become Main Road, the house on your right is the **Old Post Office**, which indeed it was. The shop at the side of the house was in use up to 1987 when it was sold to its present owners, Gill and Gordon Hobbs. When refitting the shop, John Duggins found some sophisticated bread ovens: this then was the village bakery as well as shop and post office.

Opposite the Old Post Office is the **Black Horse Pub**. This building dates from at least three periods, with the Gadsbys' forge occupying the western end (briefly, the village shop in the later 1990s). The main frontage is the newest part of the building – around 100 years of age at most – with the older inn forming the rear of the present pub.



The Black Horse, the tree roots, the Old Post Office and Holland Court – Helen Pilgrim

In 1835, John Gadsby ran the Black Horse, together with his wife, Mary Radford. John was born in Edingale in 1787 from a long line of Gadsbys dating back to 1600s. The 1841 census lists John and his brothers living at the Black Horse: John, a victualler and blacksmith; Thomas a blacksmith; Ralph a blacksmith; Joseph an agricultural labourer and George an agricultural labourer. John's nephew, Decimus John Dicken, lived at the Black Horse after the death of his father, William Dicken. John Gadsby died on 16th July 1860, aged 73, but his wife continued to run the pub, employing a barman and a "boy blacksmith." The buildings at the west end of the pub were then stabling for carriers' horses. The carriers were James Collingwood, Joseph Spencer and Joseph Fairfield and Ann Dicken. They picked up at the Black Horse and the Holly Bush Inn, delivering to both Lichfield and Tamworth.

Mary Gadsby eventually retired and the running of the Black Horse transferred to Thomas Gadsby's family. In 1871 Thomas was described as a blacksmith. He lived with his son, George Henry, also a blacksmith. The trade directories of the time list his wife, Elizabeth, a dressmaker, as running the Black Horse. This remained the position in 1881.

There then came a succession of landlords: in the 1880s John Bowler ran the pub, but, by 1891, John Gilbert from Elford was a "*farmer and publican*." In 1895, William Banner was "*victualler*", followed by Arthur Moore, from Thornton, Leicester. Moore was still there by the 1901 census but *Kelly's Directory of 1917* places George Baxter as landlord.

In the twentieth century, the Black Horse had a long association with the Duggins family. Alfred Edward Duggins was born in 1898 and became licensee in 1930, running the pub with his wife, Daisy. His eldest son, Alf, took over in 1963 until his retirement in 1993. Following extensive refurbishment by more recent landlords, Gill and Gordon Hobbs and their daughter, Sarah, presently run the pub.

Remaining on the north side of Main Road, the next cottage is **Pear Tree Cottage**. Now fully extended, the older building is shown on the post card picture of Main Road overleaf. It is to the left of a perfectly magnificent elm tree that many present-day villagers will recall. As an aside, Edingale had many ancient elms: Croxall Road approaching the Black Horse was once almost a 'tunnel' of elms and the 'tree roots' were also ancient elms. The parish lost – and continues to lose – many fine trees to Dutch elm disease. Pear Tree Cottage is marked on the inclosure map and, therefore, pre-dates 1794.

Back to the Old Post Office – and the next development is **Holland Court**; four Silverdale houses built on the site of the cowsheds and barns to Edingale House Farm.

Edingale House Farm is for most villagers associated with only one name: E J 'Jos' Holland, who farmed it from 1909 to 1986. Not content with breeding world-famous shire horses, Edingale's only real claim to fame in the twentieth century, Jos also bred prize-winning Clun sheep and rare Tamworth sandy back pigs. A deeply evocative picture of the way his household and his farm worked is in the book *Princes of the Plough – The Master of Edingale* by Barry Cockcroft.

Edingale House is, of course, older than Jos Holland, although, with its outer render, it is not easy to date precisely. The rear (southerly) wing is Georgian in character and the farm is marked on the inclosure map when its owner was Elizabeth Hill. It was described as "*House and homestead of 1 acre 29 perches marked 38.*" The Hill family are found in the Edingale parish registers from the 1600s. Edingale House land remained dispersed and it was only in the nineteenth century, when the Smedley family arrived, that they began to buy and consolidate the land into a coherent block.

The Smedleys, Thomas with his sisters Anne, Mary and Elizabeth, came from Dunimere Farm in Harlaston. In the 1871 census, Edingale House Farm is described as the White House. Anne Smedley was the head of the household, aged 24 and unmarried. Elizabeth,

then aged 20, lived with her. Also living in the household was George Taylor, a farm bailiff; a cook, a housemaid and a groom.



Main Road about 1920 showing Edingale House Farm and part of a cowshed. Beyond the stable yard is the Holly Bush pub. To the left of the elm is Pear Tree Cottage

Elizabeth Smedley is mentioned in the *Tamworth Herald* of Saturday 26th February 1881 in the report of the opening of the new church at Edingale. It states: “*Miss E Smedley presided at the harmonium, and the choir, ... was led by Miss Smedley.*” The same article also mentions George Taylor “*the churchyard was put in order at the expense of the churchwarden, Mr Taylor.*” A further article in the *Tamworth Herald* dated 3rd January 1885 states “*The choir boys wore surplices for the first time in this church on Christmas day. The services of the gracious season have been very hearty and well attended, and the church looks very bright with its Christmas decorations. The Misses Smedley, Miss Garland, and Mrs C Smith arranged them with their usual taste and skill.*”

By 1881, the two sisters were joined by their widowed mother, Mary. She died in 1890, aged 71, and Elizabeth died in 1899. Anne then decided to leave Edingale House Farm and on, 9th March 1901, she sold it to Henry de Trafford of Haselour Hall, for the sum of £5,658. Anne moved to Tamworth where she died in 1916, aged 69. Anne, Elizabeth and their mother, Mary, are buried in Edingale churchyard.

In 1885, Augustus Henry de Trafford, a member of an old Lancashire family and son of a first Baronet, had bought Haselour Hall. He had 11 children, one of whom, also Augustus, died in the Boer War. A further son, Henry Joseph, bought Edingale House Farm in 1901. The stained glass windows in the Catholic church at Haunton relate the fate of Henry Joseph and his brother, Captain Thomas Cecil de Trafford:

“Pray for the soul of Henry Joseph de Trafford, Captain South Staffordshire Regiment killed in action at the battle of Loos – 25th September 1915, aged 38, in whose memory this window is dedicated by his mother RIP.”

“In loving memory of my dear husband Captain Thomas Cecil de Trafford, Royal Fusiliers, wounded and missing 11th November 1914.”

The Jacksons were tenants of Joseph de Trafford and they made considerable changes to Edingale House, such as installing new marble mantelpieces. Jos Holland followed.

Jos Holland died on 11th April 1986, aged 96, and, on 10th October 1986, 170 acres of farmland were sold off to separate individuals, with his grandchildren retaining 20 acres and a house on Holland Court. The **Stableyard nursery** forms part of the stables and pig yard of Edingale House Farm with three cottages (now sympathetically converted into a house). The nursery building is easily recognised from several photographs. It was the stable with a hayloft above. The lower buildings to the east of the courtyard were the pig sties and the centre of the courtyard was the farm midden! The photograph shows Tom Wilcox, groom to Jos Holland and was taken by the stable doors – now the main entrance to the nursery.



Tom Wilcox in the stable yard at Edingale House – courtesy of Pam Collingwood

Back to the Main Road – and heading towards the mini roundabout, the three new houses are built on the site of the Holly Bush Inn and three cottages. Another old building, pre-dating the inclosures, **The Holly Bush Inn** remained in business until it was demolished in 1971. The earliest records we have say that in 1835 the victualler of the Holly Bush was Richard Moore, born in 1771. The 1841 census describes him as a “*farmer and publican.*” His son, James, was a butcher, Joseph, a joiner and John an agricultural labourer. By 1851,

his son, John, was the innkeeper of the Holly Bush, with his wife, Jane. In 1861 John was described as a “*brick maker and publican.*” His son William worked in the brickyard.

The Post Office Directory of Staffordshire for 1872 lists John Moore: “*Old Holly Bush, brick and tile maker, butcher and baker*”, so he was a busy man. By 1881, John Moore was still the licensed victualler of the Holly Bush. His stepson, William Emery, was a carpenter and worked at the Woodyard. William’s brother, Moses Emery, was a grocer in the shop on the Lullington Road.

There was a succession of landlords over the next few years: In 1891, David Wright from Luffoth; in 1896 Thomas Huskins from Wilnecote, and, by 1901, we have documents to state that Morgan and Company (a small brewing company in Tamworth) owned the Holly Bush. By 1917 Henry Cowling was publican and *Kelly’s Directory of 1924* places Wilfred Baxter as publican. Ernest Clarridge followed him.

During this period, villagers remember that there were oak beams in all the rooms, including the bar, snug and smoke room, and beer was served straight from the barrel – so the barman would go down to the cellar to get beer from the barrel. Water was obtained from the pump across the road and oil lamps were still in use. By 1946, Ernest had retired from the Holly Bush and went to live in Pessall Lane. Simon Hemmings was the next landlord with his wife, Julia (May). Simon Hemmings died in 1944, his wife married Cyril Kinson and they continued to run the Holly Bush. May died in 1964 and Cyril left the village. Mrs Rose, who had been the landlady at a pub in Elford, then ran the Holly Bush until its demolition in 1971. The **water pump** is still opposite the site, the last remaining of the seven pumps and three wells marked on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map.



*Mrs Mary Jane Collingwood outside Briar Oak about 1910
– courtesy of Gerald Collingwood*

On the opposite side of the Harlaston Road is **Rose Cottage**. Again, a pre-inclosure building, this was presumably the house of the ‘pinner’ who was responsible for rounding up stray animals, as the pinfold – where they were kept – was immediately adjacent.

We leave the village via the Lullington Road. On your left, **Vine House** and **Briar Oak** both pre-date the inclosure. Vine House was the retirement home of Robert Garland senior who farmed Raddle Farm and is pictured at page 95. **Briar Oak** was the home of the Collingwood family (hard as it is to envisage so large a family in so small a space).

Opposite this are two final cottages, **Ivanhoe Cottage** and the Wrights' cottage, which was the location of the shop run by Moses Emery. Moses died in 1931, aged 75, and that was the end of that particular village shop.

Road names and families

Schofield Lane

Schofield Lane is named after Thomas Scofield (sic). He was born in 1740 in Edingale and he married Elizabeth Sleigh on the 24th December 1764. In the church register his profession was given as a "*labourer*". Their twin children, Thomas and Elizabeth, were baptised on the 31st August 1768.

At the time of the inclosure of lands at Edingale, Thomas senior was 51. It appears that he acquired gardens and two of the ancient houses, thus giving the name to Schofield Lane. He also owned a piece of land along the Harlaston Road.

Thomas was buried in Edingale on the 6th November 1829, aged 89. His wife, Elizabeth had died in 1802. Their daughter Catherine married John Radford, from Lullington, in 1801 and they had two children: Joseph and Thomas. In 1841, Thomas junior was listed as being of "*independent means*" aged 70. The family had clearly 'come up in the world'. Living next door to him was his sister, Catherine, and her husband, John, and, it is presumed, four grandchildren, William, Mary Anne, Catherine and Elizabeth.

The last sighting we have of them is John, aged 82, and Catherine, aged 84, in the 1851 census for Edingale.

Holland Court

Edward Joscelyn Holland, known as Jos, brought fame to Edingale through his skill with shire horses. He came to live in Edingale House Farm with his mother, two sisters and one brother in 1909 and in 1917 he married Alice Cliffe, of Broadfields Farm. Jos and Alice had one daughter, Mary, who married Cyril Blakeway from The Firs. Mary and Cyril emigrated to the United States where Mary still lives. Mary and Cyril had two children, Julie and Jim Blakeway, who live in Seattle, Washington.

For more than half a century, Jos was a successful breeder of shire horses, buying and selling them all over the world. Simultaneously, he was rearing a pedigree dairy herd, prize-winning Clun sheep and Tamworth pigs. He was honoured in 1983 for his work and services to agriculture when he received the MBE.



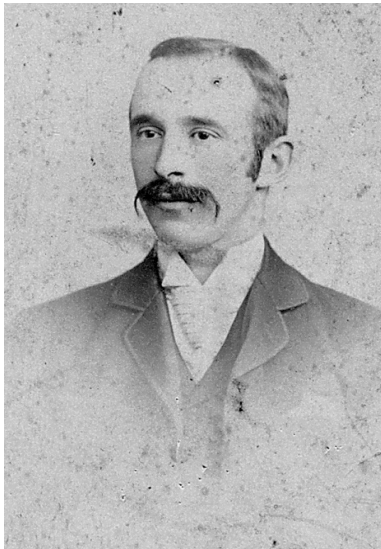
Mr and Mrs Holland on honeymoon in Bournemouth

In March 1984, apart from one young stallion, his entire stock of top-class shire horses went under the hammer, and 4000 people and buyers flocked into Edingale from as far afield as America and Canada.

Added to his farming interests, Jos was a collector of antique furniture. All came under the auctioneer's hammer in October 1986. Jos died in April 1986, aged 96.

Blakeways Close

Frank Blakeway was born in 1863 and his wife, Marian, in 1873. He was a favourite nephew of the Stratton family who owned The Firs. When the Strattons sold their land holdings in Edingale, in 1901, Marian and Frank moved to The Firs.



Left, Frank Blakeway around 1890. Right, Marian Blakeway and Mrs Stephenson (keeper of the Old Post Office) taking tea in the garden of The Firs – 1930s – courtesy of Julie Craker (née Blakeway)

They had four children: Eric Stratton, Olive, Cyril and Marian. Olive Blakeway was born in 1895 and worked at the Mary Howard School as a supplementary teacher from January 1926 until August 1934. The Headmistress of the school at that time was Dorothy Colclough. There were many entries in the school logbook concerning Olive:

“28th January 1929 – Miss Blakeways absent on account of her brother’s death.”
Another entry states: *“9th March 1933 – Miss Blakeway absent on leave on occasion of her sister’s departure for Africa.”*

She returned to the school in June 1939 as a supply teacher in place of Miss Fisher. Olive died on 2nd January 1991, aged 95.

Eric Stratton Blakeway, died of tuberculosis on the 27th January 1929, at the age of 26. As noted earlier, their second son, Cyril, married Mary Holland and moved to America. Their daughter, Marian, moved to Rhodesia in March 1933 and had a son and daughter.

Frank died on 8th February 1946, aged 83 and Marian on 15th January 1955. They are both buried in Edingale churchyard, together with their eldest son. Blakeways Close was developed on part of The Firs farmland and was named after him.

Rowley Close

Charles Rowley was born in 1805 at Hoar Cross, Staffordshire and he married Ann. The *Pigots Trade Directory of 1835* lists Charles Rowley as the schoolmaster in the Croxall School. The tithe map of 1843 also places him there.

Charles and Ann had three children, Charles, Marianne (Mary Ann) and Matthew. On Matthew’s gravestone it says, *“born at Croxall School House on 27th January 1837.”* Ann, his wife, died in 1838, aged 30, and, in the 1841 census for Croxall, Charles is living alone with his three children.

The 1851 census shows that Charles had left the School House but was still described as *“schoolmaster.”* He had married for a second time to Ann Royle and was living in the Edingale part of the village with a daughter, Mary, and his granddaughter, Margaret Ann Rowley. Charles died on 30th May 1869, aged 64. He was buried in Croxall churchyard with his first wife.

Mary Rowley (Charles’s youngest daughter) married Charles Dicken and they had five children. Mary died in 1884. Her son Charles Dicken had one daughter, Mary Ann Dicken who married Arthur Radford. Mary Radford lives in School Lane to this day.

Matthew Rowley (Charles’s youngest son) was an agricultural labourer. He married Jane and they had six children: Joseph, Amy, Tom, Alfred, Selina and Jane. Matthew died in 1924, aged 87, and Jane died in 1924, aged 82. They were buried in Croxall, next to his father Charles.

By 1901, Tom had married Emma and had four daughters: Ann (1896) Selina (1897) Dorothy (1900) and Helen. Tom died on 3rd February 1951, aged 77. Emma died on the 31st December 1957, aged 83.

Arthur Rowley is descended from this family. He married Gladys and, by 1999, had completed 53 years' unbroken service as an Edingale parish councillor. In recognition of this achievement, he and his wife were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. He has been a school governor, a member of the village hall committee, a founder member of the football club, a warden at Holy Trinity church and a trustee of the Maria Booth charity. Rowley Close was named as a fitting tribute to a lifetime's work for the village.

Hatchett Lane

The Hatchets (sic) were a longstanding village family. The details are very complex as they straddled the boundaries of the two parishes. Many Hatchets lived in the village and had the right to be buried in either Edingale or Croxall churchyards. As a result, details are split between the Edingale and Croxall registers. The spelling of Hatchet varies. For consistency, the spelling 'Hatchet' is used.

The Croxall register dates from 1586 and the Hatchet families were well established even then. For example, John and Alice Hatchet had Lawrence baptised, in 1618 and William Hatchett had a daughter, Margaret, baptised in 1624.

Thomas seems to have been a family name and the parish registers show that every generation had a Hatchet as a churchwarden at Edingale. For example, Thomas Hatchet was churchwarden in 1717. A further Thomas was churchwarden in 1750 and a further Thomas was churchwarden in 1801, 1803, 1809 and 1810. There are fields in Edingale that are named after the Hatchet family – Hatchet's Overclose and Hatchet's Gorse – which indicates the family's ancient connection with the village.

There are also references to the Hatchets being farmers. William Hatchet, farmer, was buried on the 25th February 1785 (Croxtall part of Edingale). Andrew Hatchet, born in 1704, is believed to have farmed at Fields Farm. Thomas Hatchet, born in 1775, farmed at Church Farm as did his son Thomas, born in 1804. Ralph Hatchet, born in 1798, farmed at Fields Farm. Thomas Hatchet, who died on 6th February 1815 aged 59, was buried in the raised sarcophagus in Edingale churchyard and was farmer at "*Edengale Fields*."

With such a large family, it is inevitable that they married into many of the local families in Edingale. For example: Elizabeth Hatchet married Walter Buller in 1788; Ann Hatchet married William Dicken and Henry Hatchet married Mary Collingwood.

By the end of the 1800s most of the Hatchets had died or had left the village. Some returned to be buried. For example, Sarah Hatchet moved to Burton-on-Trent and returned to be buried in Edingale on 21st November 1905, aged 72. The last entry in the parish register for Hatchet is for Sarah Hatchet of 77 Hunter Street, Burton-on-Trent who returned to the village for burial on 22nd January 1916, aged 57.