

Chapter Eight: A lost way of life – farms in the parish

Like everywhere else in England, the farms in Edingale parish have consolidated, with few of the post-inclosure farms remaining now as unified businesses. Of the 13 farms listed here post-inclosure, only three now operate as full-time agricultural businesses based in the parish (ignoring the complication of Pessall Farm). While for more than 200 years, these farms were far and away the major employers in the parish, full-time non-family workers now account for fewer than ten people. Where this trend will finally end is hard to predict.

Farms in Oakley

As previously mentioned, the historic township of Oakley was split between the Catton and Elford estates. In 1939, a bible was presented to Mrs Anson, of Catton Hall, from the tenants and staff of the estate, which lists Mansditch, Raddle, Pessall Pitts, The Crosses, Donkhill Pits and Oakley House farms among others. So the Catton influence on Oakley extended well into the twentieth century.

Oakley House, Oakley

The Croxall registers record that the Haseldine family lived at Oakley, which we can presume to be Oakley House. The last entry for this family is 1620 and the registers then show two generations of the Dakin family living there: Thomas Dakin who died in 1657, followed by his son, Robert. Thomas was listed as being churchwarden of Croxall in 1626 and in 1633.

Three generations of the Booth family then lived at Oakley House. John Booth, born in 1710, had seven children. His son George (1753-1836) married Catherine and they had thirteen children, including Charles (1788-1844) who married Anna Maria. Charles died on the 31st December 1844, aged 58. They appear not to have had any children.

The 1851 census lists Anna Maria as a “*widow aged 77, farming 115 acres employing one labourer*” living with her unmarried nephew, John Bakewell, who was aged 56 and described as “*farm bailiff.*” Also living in the household was Henry Martin, a gardener and groom, Hannah Mason, a cook and Matilda Horton, a housemaid.

Anna Maria died on the 11th February 1870, aged 86. She was, of course, the Maria Booth whose charitable bequest was described earlier.

The tenancy of Oakley Farm then passed to David Cunningham from Scotland. He is listed in the 1881 and 1891 censuses as a single man, living with his housekeeper, farming 115 acres and employing one man.

In 1901, Alfred Hooley, from Cheshire was tenant. He was married to Sarah and they lived with their daughter, Sarah. Their son was farming at Raddle Farm, Edingale. Trade journals place C Payne at Oakley Farm between 1910 and 1913.

William and Louisa Arblaster next lived and farmed at Oakley, also George and Florence Arblaster. The Arblasters were listed as tenants of the Catton estate in the 1939 bible presented to Mrs Anson. George Arblaster was a member of the parish council for many years. At some point after this, Catton sold Oakley Farm to Arthur Ward.

Arthur Ward, of White Knights (the vicarage at Croxall) bought Oakley Farm and was also the owner of Gills Cables at Hopwas. The Treadwell family lived here for many years as his tenants, followed by Tom Bickley. Arthur Ward's son, John, moved to Oakley Cottage with his wife Elaine. Arthur Ward was a member of the parish council for many years.

The Wards then sold to the Whittaker family. Mrs Whittaker opened a teashop and sold eggs, produce and clothes. It was subsequently sold on to Dick Malin from Denby, Derbyshire. Roger and Anne-Marie Llewellyn are the current owners of Oakley Farm from where they run their business. Roger is a current churchwarden at Croxall.

Broadfields Oakley

Broadfields was a substantial farm owned for many years by the Elford estate, including, later in the nineteenth century, by Mary Howard. The first mention of Broadfields in the Croxall registers connects the Lakin family with Broadfields House, Oakley. Robert Lakin was buried at Alrewas in 1741 and "widow Lakin" of Broadfield House was buried in Croxall 1745. The Lakins were a long-established Alrewas family.

John and Mary Winter then lived at Broadfields where they had four children, Mary, Samuel, Sarah and John. Their son Samuel went on to farm at Orgreave Hall and he died in 1847, aged 54. Their son, John, continued to farm at Broadfields and was listed in the Oakley tithe map of 1840. He died in 1859, aged 62.

Walter and Helen Oldacre are in the Croxall census of 1861 as living and farming at Broadfields. They farmed 230 acres and employed five men and three boys. They had six children, and living in the household with them were a cook, nurse, housemaid and groom. Croxall school logbooks note that Mr and Mrs Oldacre were regular visitors to the school and bought materials such as new reading books, slate, pencils and chalk for the children.

A number of tenants then followed: William Smith from Lullington; Charles and Elizabeth Hunter; John and Violet Leak, followed by Joseph and Annie Wint. Douglas Shaw then farmed Broadfields, followed by his son, Stanley.

In the 1970s, Redland Aggregates bought Broadfields and extracted the gravel by Mytholme Cottage. They took sand and gravel on both sides of the railway and filled and reinstated the Croxall side of the railway while leaving the Alrewas side as a pool. They then removed the plant and sold the land to Geoff Mallaber of Alrewas. He later sold the main block of land to Startins of Croxall Grange.

The house, buildings and paddocks were sold to Mr Waller and he has developed the barns into three dwellings, Salters and Chetwynd Cottages and Chetwynd House.

New Buildings Farm

New Buildings Farm is the most recently built farm in Oakley, formed in 1938 by Percy and Gladys Thompstone. They had four sons, Peter, William (Bill), David and John. Percy died in 1973; his son Bill continued to farm the land.

Bill retired in 2000 and now lives in Edingale. The farmhouse and buildings, together with six acres of land, were sold to Mr Webb of Rugeley. 107 acres of land were sold to Geoff Cliffe of Broadfields Farm, Edingale.

Farms in Croxall

The farms on the Croxall estate have been longer established because they remained in the ownership of the manor for longer, and so the boundaries were determined much earlier than elsewhere in the parish. Certainly in legal documents belonging to the Curzon family as early as 1450, the names of "*Broodfylde*" and "*Peysshille Pyttes*" are mentioned. It is also noticeable that none of the farmers is local to the parish – they all come from outside.

The farmers of Croxall Hall

In 1841, Croxall Hall was described as a "*farm of 473 acres*", employing four labourers (this is before The Grange was built). The tithe map of 1843 gives a clear picture of the parish of Croxall, the field names and the farmers at this time. John Lager was farming the lands around the Hall jointly with James Baxter. John appeared to be living in the Hall with his family. William Walker Ward from Repton followed him.

By 1861, William Godfrey, aged 28 from Calverston, Buckinghamshire, was "*farming 436 acres*". He was married to Elizabeth Lucy and they had seven children. Also living in the household was Elizabeth Goodman (mother-in-law) a widow who was described as a "*shareholder*" from Binfield, Berkshire.

The Croxall school logbooks show that Mr and Mrs Godfrey visited the village school regularly. Mrs Godfrey heard the children singing and assisted with the infants.

The school logbook also records: "*19th May 1868 – Miss German came this morning to inquire the numbers of children for tea drinking.*" "*23rd May 1868 Mr Prinsep's wedding tea.*" It was at this point that Thomas Levett-Prinsep arrived at Croxall Hall. He had inherited the estate and was renovating the Hall as a family home. He also built The Grange for the purpose of controlling the farmland.

Thomas Levett-Prinsep and his wife, Georgina had four children, Katherine Mary (1875), Georgina (1877), Thomas (1880) and Edith Marion (1882).

On the 7th June 1896 there was a holiday at the school because of the marriage of Miss Prinsep of Croxall Hall. The 1901 census places Thomas and Georgina living at Croxall Hall with their three children, plus a domestic nurse, a cook, a parlour maid, housemaid and

kitchen maid. In the two cottages next to the hall lived the coachman and his family and the gardener and his family.

Georgina was buried in 1919, aged 71, and Thomas was buried on the 19th July 1932, aged 87. Their daughter, Georgina, lived at Walton Hall and died in 1964, aged 87, and their son, Thomas, described as a “*gentleman*”, lived at Barton. He died in 1971, aged 91.

The school logbook records:

“18th July 1932 – The Rev TR Pelham-Thornman came to the school and requested that the choir boys should be present at the funeral of T Prinsep Esq, who was the first Foundation Manager of this school – funeral at Croxall on 19th July 1932 at 2.30 pm.”

The Grange

The Grange was built in the later 1860s and is first listed in the 1871 census for Croxall. The holding consisted of 438 acres of land and nine men and two boys were employed.

Its first farmer was George German (brother of John at Broadfields). George was married to Sarah and living with them were two sons, William and Harry. Also living there was George’s nephew, Joseph Henry Stevenson, aged 17. He was described as an “*agricultural pupil*.” By 1881, Joseph was managing Fields Farm at Edingale.

The 1881 census states that The Grange was 442 acres in extent, employing four men and one boy. George German was described as a “*farm bailiff*.” George retired and went to live in Alrewas where he died in 1904, aged 80, and Sarah died in 1906, aged 80. They are both buried at Croxall.

Thomas and Kate Haftes then farmed The Grange, followed by Robert Wylie, who was a Scot. He was married to Jean and they had three children: Margaret (1863), Jeannie (1865) and Andrew (1867). Eight servants were listed as living in the house. Jean Wylie was buried in 1896, aged 70. The 1901 census places Andrew as head of the household. He had married Ellen Fanny and they had a daughter, Sybil. They went on to have Mary and Robert.

By the time of the sale of Croxall Hall and its assets, Robert and Arthur Hilderley were tenants of The Grange, which they bought. Robert Hilderley died in 1922, aged 74, and his wife, Elizabeth, in 1925, aged 67. Arthur Hilderley died in 1949. The farm was then put up for sale and the sale particulars for 1950 state, “*The Midlands Electricity Board have devised a scheme and are shortly to take the electricity from Edingale to Croxall and the main will cross the farm.*” The shooting at Croxall was let for the 1950-1951 season to Colonel G H Anson of Catton.

George Startin bought The Grange in 1950 and, with his son Edward (Ted) and grandson, James, the family runs it to the present day.

Pessall Pits (Pessall Farm)

The Pits element of the farm name refers to the many marl (clay) pits in and around Pessall. Bullock shoes have been found on the un-metalled part of Pessall Lane (so called 'Green Lane') and it can be presumed that these were carrying heavy loads from local brick kilns or pits. At least three Pessall field names contain a reference to brick kilns. In the Victorian period, clay was extracted from Pessall to be fired into both bricks and earthenware in kilns that stood near the Holly Bush pub.

It is likely that the Kensal family farmed at or around Pessall. There are two field names on Pessall Farm called Kensel's Close and Kensel's Meadow. In a marriage settlement of George Curzon and Mary Levenson in 1581 it says that the Pingle Meadow was in the tenure of Roger Kensal. The Croxall and Edingale parish registers start from the 1570s and the Kensal (sic) family appear in both until the last entry in the Croxall register:

"1746 – Widow Kensal of the parish of Croxall in the County of Derby was buried 10th July. Affidavit made before the Minister at Edingale by Widow Owen."

A survey and valuation of the vicarage of Croxall, taken in June 1809, places William German as the farmer at Pessall Pits Farm. William's son, John German, farmed at Broadfields Farm (Croxall, not Oakley) with his family. For a time, father and son farmed Pessall Pits and Broadfields side by side.



Pessall Pits from the Croxall Estate sale catalogue - 1920

After William German's death in 1810, numerous tenants farmed Pessall Pits. The tithe map of 1843 places Francis Foster here. Charles Smith, who was born in Harlaston in 1812, followed him. At that time, Pessall had 337 acres of land and employed eight labourers and five boys. By 1881, Henry Howson, from Ellastone, Stafford was the tenant, and, by 1891, Joseph Cartwright, from Wombourne. The 1901 census places Thomas James Beech as head of the household. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth, and children:

Ellen, William George, and Margaret. Also boarding at the farm was Gertrude Davies, aged 26, who was governess at Croxall school.

By 1920, at the time of the sale of the Croxall estate, the tenants were father and son Thomas and William Beech. The Catton estate bought Pessall Pits and the Beech family continued to farm there. At some point, the Beeches bought the farm, and they, in turn, sold to Mr and Mrs Robinson. It was subsequently sold on to Bill Reeves.

In 1954, Staffordshire County Council purchased the farm from Mr Reeves. At that time, it comprised 361 acres with two farm cottages and a further six dwelling houses. Four houses, with outbuildings and gardens, were in Edingale village; two houses, with outbuildings and gardens, were situated on the Lullington Road, Edingale.

The council divided the original farmhouse into two and utilised the two farm cottages as two further farms. They then built a further four houses, making a total of eight holdings. These were let from 1954 and the original tenants were: Fred and May Mellor and George and Edith Watkiss (in the original farmhouse); Bill and Norma Turnock; Tom and Mary Potts; Edmund and Olive Pott; Les and Lill Birchall; Jack and Emily Dolman; and John and Norah Mason.

The first tenants of these farms inevitably had a lot of new fencing to do. They discovered that many of the existing fencing posts were of very old oak. Local people asserted that this wood had come from the Tudor farmhouse at Pessall Pits when the present, largely Victorian, building was erected/extended. While Pessall remains subdivided into eight farms, very few of these can now be said to form full-time family businesses. Some consolidation of the land is likely as the present tenancies end.

Broadfields Farm

The Croxall registers first list the Grundy family at Broadfields Farm. The tithe map of Croxall shows many fields named after this family, such as North Grundy's, South Grundy's and East Grundy's. John and Sarah Grundy of Broadfields both died in 1651. There were two further generations of the Grundy family. The last entries in the registers were Joseph Grundy's children being baptised in 1701 and 1703.

The 1809 valuation of the vicarage of Croxall, places John German at Broadfields. He had lived at Pessall Pits farm, where his father, William, farmed. He married Mary Goring, from Barton-under-Needwood and they had eight children, all born at Broadfields: Mary, Ann, Sarah, John junior, George, Eliza, Thomas Goring and William.

John died on the 27th April 1848, aged 60. An inscription at Croxall church reads:

“He lived an upright and useful life, and after suffering a long and painful affliction with much patience and fortitude he died in the full assurance of a blissful immortality.”

By 1851, four children remained at home with Mary: Sarah, John Jr, George and Eliza. Mary died in 1853, aged 61.

By 1861 John German junior was 37, unmarried and farming Broadfields Farm. He employed 11 labourers and seven boys. Still living at home with him were his brother, George, and sister, Eliza. Also living in the household was their unmarried aunt, Elizabeth Goring, from Barton-under-Needwood. Elizabeth died in 1865, aged 71.

Croxall school logbooks record Eliza German visiting regularly to teach needlework. She also appears to have been involved in life at Croxall Hall. She disappears from the logbooks around 1883. By that time, she would have been 55 and had spent much of her life helping in the school. An entry is recorded on 18th June 1875. *“After 4 o’clock, John German cautioned the boys against getting into his mowing field.”*

By 1871, George had married and left home to manage the newly created Croxall Grange. Sarah, his sister, had returned home to be housekeeper for John. A nephew, William, aged seven, was also living in the household (he was George’s son).

The 1901 census places John and Eliza living together but soon afterwards they retired and went to live in Alrewas. John died there in 1907, aged 84, and his sister, Eliza, in 1908, aged 80. They both returned to Croxall for burial.



Binding corn at Broadfields Farm around 1908 – courtesy of Richard Cliffe

Thomas Cliffe (above, holding a pitchfork) and his wife, Mary Alice, became the new tenants of Broadfields Farm. They had eight children: Bella, Sally, Alice, Jim, George, Thomas, Fred and Arthur. Fred is pictured on horseback. He married Annie and had five children: Tom, Mary (Kirkland), Nancy (Hodson-Walker), Dorothy (Goodwin) and John. Fred’s younger brother, Arthur, is the boy sitting in the middle of the foreground. Arthur married Elsie and had three children.

Thomas senior died in 1918, aged 68. At the time of the sale of the Croxall estate, Mary Alice and her son, Thomas, bought Broadfields and farmed it along with Arthur. George, meanwhile, bought Edingale Fields Farm. Thomas never married, and after his death in 1936, aged 43, Mary Alice went to live in Edingale House Farm with her daughter, Alice, who had married Jos Holland. Mary Alice died in 1944, aged 87; her son George died in 1938, aged 59.

Harry Cliffe bought Broadfields Farm in 1937. His son and grandson (Geoffrey and Richard) continue to farm it to the present date. Harry also purchased Edingale Fields Farm after Edith Amy Cliffe died in 1957, aged 80 (widow of George Cliffe).

Croxall Mill

The Mill is the site of one of Croxall's ancient mills. "*Edith at the Mill*" is mentioned in the Alrewas court rolls of 1259. More recently, the Croxall tithe map of 1843 places John Marlow at Croxall Mill.

In 1851, Thomas Beach from Fradley was described as a "*miller and farmer.*" He was married to Harriet and they had nine children. In 1871 and 1881, Thomas was described as a "*farmer of 250 acres, employing one man.*" Four children were still living at home. In 1871, his 15-year-old daughter, Hannah, was living at the Croxall schoolhouse with Sarah Childs, the schoolmistress. Hannah was described as a "*boarder*" and "*pupil teacher*". The school logbooks place her there from 1869 until 25th March 1875 when they state, "*Hannah Beach, having completed her apprenticeship, resigned her post as pupil teacher.*"

Thomas was buried in 1890, aged 76. Harriet remained at the Mill with her unmarried son, Edward. She died in 1891, aged 75, and Edward in 1892, aged 44. After Edward's death, William Nock lived at 'Oakley Mill' and was described as "*miller and farmer.*"

In the 1901 census, Croxall Mill was uninhabited. At the time of the sale of Croxall estate, John Thompstone of Elford Park Farm bought it, and his son, Joe Thompstone and wife, Alice, farmed there.

In 1946, Fred Ball purchased Croxall Mill. When he retired, he built Wayside on the Croxall Road out of Edingale. Croxall Mill Farm is still in the ownership of the Ball family, but Ricky Jones of The Grange at Harlaston farms the land.

Farms in Edingale

Raddle Farm

Raddle Farm is not marked on the inclosure map – and so post-dates the inclosure. The first records we have show that the Horton family at Catton Hall owned Raddle Farm even though the land was in the parish of Edingale. A document of 1831 states that the land belonged to "*Robert John Wilmot Horton Esq Baronet.*"

The Buller family were the tenant farmers at Raddle Farm and were of great significance in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The first time we see them mentioned in the Edingale registers is on the 11th June 1732 when Walter Buller of the parish of Edingale married Ann Gadsby of Edingale.

A further entry in the register states: *“May 20th 1742 Charles Rider sojourner at Walter Buller’s and workman at Catton Hall was buried in Edingale churchyard Staffordshire.”*

Historians have dated the building of Catton Hall by this entry as, astonishingly, there is little other written evidence of it. Ann died in 1744 and Walter in 1777.

Three further generations lived at Raddle Farm. Walter Buller the second died on the 5th December 1819, aged 85. The burial records for Edingale record that he was a *“farmer and for many years parish clerk.”* Walter Buller the third was in the 1841 census described of *“independent means.”* Walter Buller the fourth was described as a *“bailiff”* in the 1841 census and by, 1851, (after the death of his father) he was described as *“a farmer of 300 acres, employing nine labourers.”* Walter died on the 12th August 1860, aged 58, thus ending the long association of the Buller family with the farm.

By 1891, the Hooley family had moved to Raddle Farm. Alfred Hooley, was born in Cheshire, in 1852 and was married to Sarah. They had five children: Ernest, Mary, Jane, Alfred and Sarah. In 1902, the Hooley family built Brook House Farm on land from The Firs and left Raddle Farm. Some say they had a dispute with the Catton estate.



Miss Mary Egan and her husband Robert Egan J.P. Various county, district and parish councillor and Poor Law guardian – courtesy of Janet Bowman

In 1906, Robert Garland of Cheshire took the tenancy at the tender age of 22. In 1952, Mr Garland purchased the farm from the Catton estate. He became very involved in civic matters and held a number of elected posts. He was the first chairman and treasurer of Edingale Parish Council when it was formed in 1934 and he became a Justice of the Peace in 1937. He was a member of the Tamworth Rural District Council and Staffordshire County Council and chairman of the Tamworth Poor Law Institute.

Robert died on 2nd July 1953, aged 69. His wife, Mary Ellen, died on 22nd November, 1966. His brother, Henry Arthur (Harry) farmed Mansditch Farm and then Church Farm with his wife, Kathleen. On Robert Garland's death, the farm passed to him and his nephew, Bob Garland.

Bob Garland has been farming at Raddle Farm since 1958. From 1981, he and his sons, James and Ian, have developed Garlands' Shooting Grounds, one of the few Edingale – based farm diversification businesses. They have expanded the facilities to include a clubhouse, which contains a bar, restaurant and meeting room, which complement the sports facilities for clay target shooting.

Brook House Farm

Brook House Farm is one of the modern farms in Edingale, built by the Hooley family in 1902 on 80 acres of land from The Firs.

In the 1901 census, Alfred Hooley junior, aged 20, was head of the household, at Raddle Farm. Living with him was his sister Jane and his uncle Arthur (his father's brother). The census places his father, Alfred, living at Oakley Farm with his wife and younger daughter, Sarah. When Brook House Farm was built, the whole family moved in together.

Alfred junior died in 1943, aged 62, and on his death he left Brook House Farm to the Lindop family at Fields Farm. Horace Yeoman Lindop and his wife Edith lived at Brook House with their five children.

Ken and Maud Lindop still live at the farmhouse but the land has been sold to Roy Bailey of Lady Leys, Lullington.

Edingale Fields Farm

Edingale Fields Farm consisted of around 120 acres on the left hand side of the Lullington Road. Its eastern boundary is part of the border between Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

It bears the most ancient of farm names as the 'Edingale Fields' were the common arable land before the Middle Ages. Post-inclosure, the farm was owned by the vicar of Alrewas as a settlement of the great tithes. We have a plan of the farm dated 1831 that shows the boundaries and field names. Again it is noticeable that the Lullington Road is called by its older name of Long Ditch Road.

The earliest occupier of the farm we can trace was Thomas Hatchett. He was born in 1761 and was married to Dorothy. Thomas died on the 6th February 1815, aged 59 and Dorothy died on the 29th May 1815, aged 54. Thomas and Jane are buried in the raised sarcophagus in Edingale churchyard and the inscription refers to “*Edengale Fields*”.

In 1881, Arthur Dagley lived at Edingale Fields Farm. He was born in 1852 in Rosliston, Derbyshire and lived with Emma, his wife, and their two children, Howard, and Edith. His parents, Joseph and Dorothy, who originated from Branston, also lived in the household. In 1891, Joseph, his father, was 67 and working as a grocer. In the 1901 census Arthur is head of the household with his son, Howard, described as a “*brewer’s clerk*” and Edith was a “*ladies’ costumer’s assistant*”. His mother, Dorothy, died in 1904, aged 92.

It is not clear when the farm ceased to be tenanted. George Cliffe (brother of Thomas and Arthur of Broadfields Farm) owned Edingale Fields farm from the early 1900s. George was vice-chairman of the newly created Edingale Parish Council. He married Edith Amy and they had four daughters. He died in 1938, aged 59, and Edith died in 1957, aged 80.

In March 1957, Edingale Fields, together with two farm cottages (now the kennels) were sold to Harry Cliffe of Broadfields Farm. Subsequently, his son Geoff and grandson Richard, lived in Edingale Fields farmhouse. The house was originally three-storeys high but, in modernising it, Geoff reduced it to a two-storey house and gave it its present frontage.

It was sold as a private dwelling to Mike and Linda Cook, but the land continues to be in the ownership of the Cliffe family, who farm it from Broadfields. There are now three barn conversions in the farmstead, with capacity for more.

Poplars Farm

Poplars Farm is another relatively new farm in the village of Edingale. It lies immediately to the south of the Edingale – Lullington Road, with its eastern boundary being the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border.

A map of 1901 shows Mr A Simpson farming Poplars Farm. This Mr Simpson is presumed to be the father of Archibald ‘Laddie’ Simpson who followed him. Laddie was born in 1900 and, for many years, was the councillor for Edingale on Lichfield Rural District Council (pre-1974). He died in 1986, aged 86. His wife, Bella, died in 1976, aged 78.

Their son, John, farmed Poplars Farm with his wife, Doris. They had two daughters, Brenda and Jennifer. John and Doris retired in 1983 and moved to Barton-under-Needwood.

At the time of the sale of the farm on 6th December 1983, it consisted of 208 acres. Geoff Cliff, from Broadfields Farm, and Bob Garland, from Raddle Farm, bought most of the land on the sale of Poplars Farm. Bob Garland subsequently sold land on to Brian Hancock, of Pessall Farm. He and his family now live in new houses at Poplars Farm. The original

house is now a private dwelling. Another barn within the curtilage of the farmland has also been converted into a residence – Oakdene.

Crabtree Farm

Crabtree lies on the left hand side of Mill Lane. This small farm constituted the Edingale glebe land in Mill Lane at a total of around 30 acres. The farm buildings are now converted to a house but are at least Victorian in origin. The original bungalow was built by a former vicar of Edingale and Harlaston, and has now been much extended. The tenants of Crabtree were Mr Johnson, followed by his daughter, Mrs Foulds. Mrs Foulds was for many years organist at Edingale church and is pictured with the choir on page 48 Mr and Mrs Williams are the current owners.