

Brief Answers to Charsfield Past December 2023 questions

Q1 - Long ago what did the following have in common - *Count Alan of Brittany, Robert of Glanville, Turstin son of Guy, Ralph of Savenay, Abbey of St Ethelreda (Ely), Hugh de Montfort, Geoffrey de Mandeville, Countess Adelaide of Aumale.*

They are all recorded in the Domesday Book as holding land in Charsfield in 1086. Countess Adelaide is particularly notable as she was the sister of King William I.

Q2 - In medieval times, Charsfield tithes were paid into which neighbouring parish?

Letheringham - either to Letheringham Priory whilst it existed (late 1100s to 1539) or to the Lords of the Manor there.

Q3 - Through the 13th to the early 17th century the Lords of Charsfield Manor (De Weyland, Tuddenham and Bedingfield) had what well-known Norfolk great hall in their ownership? - **Oxburgh Hall. The present building (completed 1482) was built by the Bedingfields.**

Q4 - What happened to unfortunate Thomas Tuddenham in the 1400s that caused that family to lose their right to be Lord of Charsfield Manor (and much else)?

Beheaded for treason in 1461 due to siding with the house of Lancaster when the Yorkist king Edward IV held sway. An attainder against him meant forfeiture of all property and rights he held and, potentially, penalties for the wider family. Later, Edmund Bedingfield (a descendant), through aiding the House of York, regained the forfeited estates.

Q5 - His great-grandparents Charles and Mary were buried in St Peter's graveyard in 1785; grandfather, Jonathan was born in Charsfield; father, Jonathan was a butcher in Melton; and the man in question was an attorney in Woodbridge? Who was he and what gave rise to his fame? -**The artist Thomas Churchyard** (see Charsfield website).

Q6 - This coloured sketch of a farmhouse appears on a recently discovered 1828 map of part of Charsfield.



The house does not look so very different nowadays. Which farm is it? -

Hill Farm. In 1828, it was part of the estate in Charsfield owned by John White who was recorded at the time of the Tithe Reforms (late 1830s) as owning the second largest acreage of land in the village (after the Manor). The earliest known use of the name "Hill Farm" is not until the 1870s.

Q7 - Where in Victorian Charsfield was "the tenpin ground"?

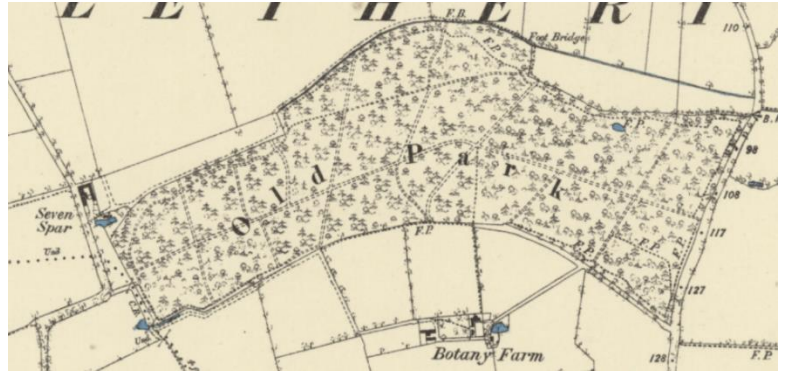
The Horse Shoes Inn. We know this from local newspapers back in 1855 where there were reports that, on 4th July, Lomas Smith, a tinker, stole from James Randall, a Charsfield farmer, a silver watch chain and keys. This robbery took place in the "tenpin ground" at the Horse Shoes Inn where "Mr Randall, who had drunk rather too freely, was laying down to refresh himself". Ten pin skittles, a game popular with ordinary people back then, was likely played at The Horse Shoes on lawn or hard ground, but there could have been a wooden alley.

Q8 - Back Road and Stone Street – two names used in the past for which village roadway?

The Wickham Market to Clopton Road (B1078). The use of these names varied through time. Back Road perhaps referred more to the eastern section where Shrubbery and Valley Farm are, Stone Street more to the western Debach end.

Q9 - Why was Park Lane so named?

Presumed to be because, up the lane, near Seven Spar farm, used to be the "Old Park" on the Letheringham side, probably once part of Letheringham Hall and maybe the Priory before that. There is a remnant still at the east end, next to the road in Letheringham. It was last shown as a substantial park (depicted above) in early-1900s OS maps.

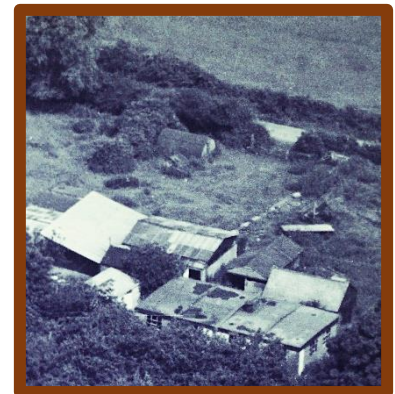


The early wartime register taken in September 1939 was still using Pemberton Lane as the name; not sure why or when it changed to Park Lane.

Q10 - In the early 1900s Edward Hodgson of Brook Farm donated land to the village for what purpose? - **to extend St Peter's churchyard at the back.**

Q11 - At which farm did the Charsfield Home Guard have their headquarters during World War 2? And where was their ammunition store?

Shrubbery Farm was the HQ. The ammunition store was in a Nissen hut just a bit along Hall Road on its south side (see the semi-circular hut in top half of this 1960s photo)



Q12 - In 1985 what award was won in the village?

The Three Horse Shoes won the Evening Star Pub of the Year award.

