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# Memories of Hull House Farm

Peter Metcalfe, who lives in the village and for many years was our local window cleaner, has provided me with memories and photographs of his early life at Hull House Farm, which is situated up the Airton Road and is about a quarter of a mile beyond the railway bridge on the left hand side of the road. Many of you will have passed the farm – possibly following the footpath which adjoins the farm and crosses the field leading to and from Haw Lane.

Hull House farm was for many years the home of the Mellin family, who farmed locally and are remembered by many in Hellifield. The photographs are courtesy of Peter Metcalfe and his half-brother Terry Banks.

Peter Metcalfe was born at Hull House Farm in an adjoining cottage in 1955 and he lived there till 1969. His father Ted worked on the farm for Jack Mellin. Peter's brother Trevor, who also lived at the farm, will be another face around today's Hellifield that many will recognise. Trevor and Peter were keen fell runners in later life, and Trevor still keeps up his running today. Trevor is a familiar face at the Hellifield Jam Nights in the Black Horse. Both boys had a half-brother – Terry – and the family were looked after by their mother – known to all as Kitty.

Farming of course was much more labour intensive back in the early 1950's, and Hull House Farm was not unique in



*The view along the road to Hull House in the present day*



*Left to Right: Early 1950's Peter's Dad Ted Metcalfe, Jack Mellin, Fred Metcalfe. Walking the sheep towards Hull House.*



*Peter and Iris Dakin*

*From the left, the lads are Keith Lambert. Ian Tunnicliffe & Trevor Metcalfe.*

providing accommodation for farm workers and their families. Also



*Keith Lambert and Peter Dakin at Ormsgill Green - situated on land near Langber Lane above Hellifield*

employed on the farm was Peter Dakin who in the early 1960's moved with his family to Pan Beck farm. This farm was between Hellifield and Halton West was on land owned by the Yorke family of Halton West. Skip forward another 60 years and Peter's son Roger now runs the farm. Roger's elder brother Andrew who was born at Hull House farm will be familiar as the lead singer of Hellifield Band 'Time Bandits!

Peter Metcalfe spent many childhood days at Hull House and remembers Brian Lambert, another local lad, who later ran the village shop on Brook Street in the 1960's and 70's. Along with family members Colin and Keith, Brian and his brother Keith figure on many of the photographs, as does another local lad Ian Tunnicliffe.



*Brian Lambert stood next to the farms Massy Ferguson Tractor. Children left to right: Terry Banks (Peter and Trevor's half brother). Trevor sat on the tractor with arms folded, and Peter bottom right.*



*Above: Group photo of the staff at Hull House Farm in the 1950's  
Back row: From the left. Ted Metcalfe. Paul Dakin (Peters brother) Trevor Metcalfe. Peter Dakin. George Beresford. Front row far right: Jack Mellin.*



Peter's memories of childhood days at Hull House also have a cross-over connection with my wife. Heather's memories of childhood. Heather's dad George also worked at the farm during the late 1950's and early 1960's. Heather recalls living there with her Mum and Dad and brother Raymond before moving down to the village in the early 1960's.

Thanks go to Peter Metcalfe for sharing his photographs, which reflect a time when many Hellifield locals were connected by the farming community and many local breadwinners were employed on the numerous farms in and around the village of Hellifield.

*Outside the farm's adjoining cottage. From the left: Trevor Metcalfe. Colin Lambert and Terry banks.*

Ken Leak



*Above: Ethel Beresford, who's husband George worked at the farm, is next to Peter and Trevor's Mum 'Kitty'. Ethel and George Beresford lived at Hull House with daughter Heather and son Raymond, until moving to the village in the mid-1950's. (Heather Beresford became Mrs Heather Leak in 1996!)*