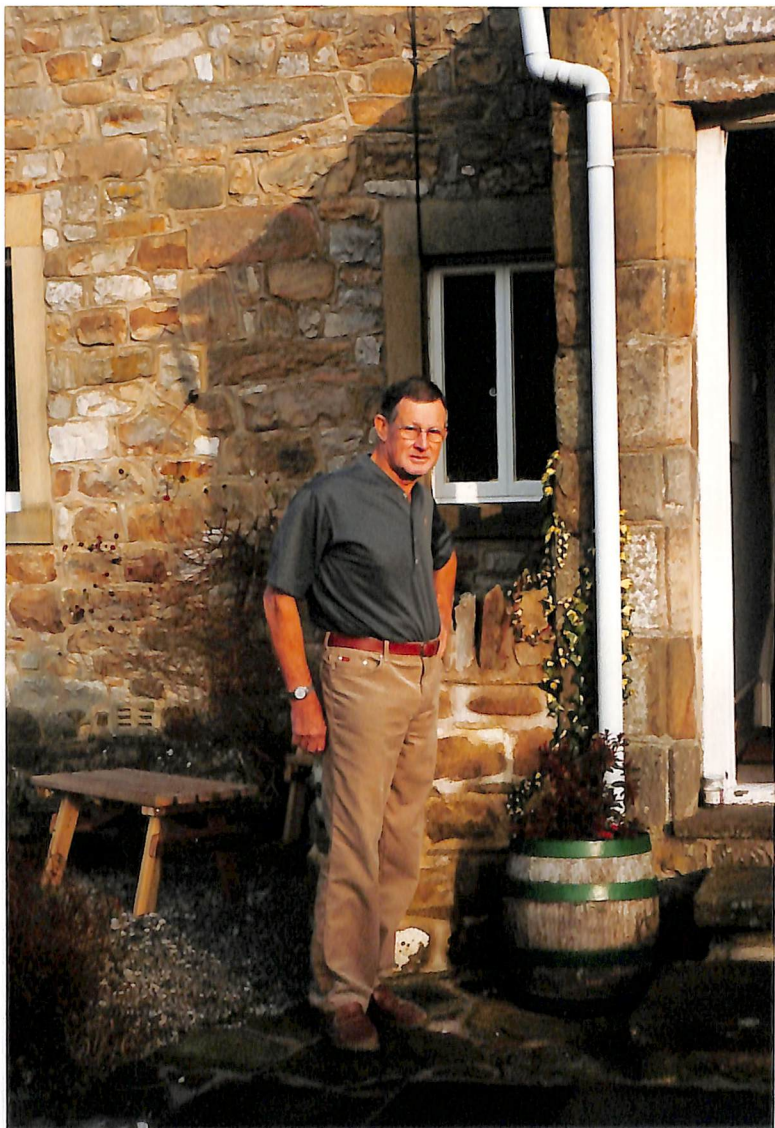


Owner & sole occupant BARRY CLIFF

I spent my boyhood on the outskirts of LEEDS in the village of RAWDON. My father, who was a wool merchant in BRADFORD encouraged both my two sisters and myself to appreciate the Yorkshire Dales by frequent family visits and he emphasised to us that we were 'very fortunate to be brought up with the Dales close at hand'. It was perhaps his wisdom which instilled a love of the Dales in me and resulted in my eventual buying property here.



ELBECK COTTAGE

The property now known as Elbeck Cottage was originally a barn at the western end of Elbeck Farm (built 1707). The barn was used as a calf-house where calves were tied up and fed during the winter months. There was a loft above the calf house with steps leading up to it from the outside and presumably used for hay. A stone lintel is still evident in the present wall from the loft door. There was a lean-to shed used for sheep gathering at the gable end of the barn and to the North was a croft with a sheep dip and folds. This croft is now attached to Foss View property.

Elbeck Farm was sold in 1961 to Mr and Mrs Holmes from Ben Rhydding near Ilkley. They had 4 boys and owned a mill in Bradford making packing cases. They completely changed the old farm house into a 5 bedroomed house and re-roofed the whole building including the barn. They also renovated the calf-house so that it could be made into living quarters at some future time and they also walled-off a strip of land along the river side to go with this property.

The next owner was Mr Martin Bendelow, a single young man from Leeds who bought the whole property from Mr and Mrs Holmes and it was he who completed the conversion of the barn into "Elbeck Cottage" with a view to his parents living there. However, the whole property was once again sold, this time to Mr and Mrs Ron Walker. They lived in Elbeck House for over 20 years and brought their 5 children up there but they sold off Elbeck Cottage to Mr and Mrs Bill Rushby who developed the garden alongside the river and built a garage, with a room above, behind the property on the site of the old sheep dip. With its very steep roof this building is now nicknamed "the chapel".

The next owners of Elbeck Cottage were Mr and Mrs Steven Whittaker who bought it from Mr and Mrs Rushby in 1985. With their 2 young sons they used it as a week end cottage since they ran a pub in Halifax and only visited the cottage periodically. The property changed hands again when Paul and Karen Revell bought it in 1988 and they lived in it full time before selling it in 1997 to myself, Barry Cliff.

I spent my boyhood on the outskirts of Leeds in the village of Rawdon. My father, who was a wool merchant in Bradford, encouraged both my two sisters and myself to appreciate the Yorkshire Dales by frequent family visits and he emphasised to us that we were 'very fortunate to be brought up with the Dales close at hand'. It was perhaps his wisdom which instilled a love of the Dales in me and resulted in my eventually buying property here.

After conscription in the Royal Navy at the age of 18 and serving two years, I then did a year of practical farming, six months of which was on a dairy farm at Low Bentham, only 15 miles from Litton. This was a prerequisite for entry to Leeds University to study agriculture. I graduated from Leeds and continued with studying at Cambridge University and the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad in the Caribbean to specialise in tropical agriculture.

I found work in Kenya, East Africa, living in the african reserve and teaching soil conservation, maize, rice, tea and coffee growing. I was fortunate enough to live and work on the slopes of Mount Kenya during this period, enabling me to practice my passion for mountaineering with a number of first ascents on the faces of the mountain. When Kenya became independent in 1963, I was a member of the climbing team which raised the flag on the summit of Mount Kenya and 2 months later, with a colleague... Rusty Baillie... climbed the two mountains Kilimanjaro 19,340 ft and Mount Kenya 17,058 ft within 24 hours (Guinness Book of Records 1974). This feat, as yet unrepeated, is scheduled to be a millennium celebration event in Kenya as an organised race for charity.

I later became a commercial pilot and for a time flew crop-spraying aircraft and light aircraft with tourists 'on safari'. Later, I worked in Guyana, South America, in the dual role of agronomist/pilot for a large sugar estate company before then operating a bush flying operation with a De Havilland Beaver on floats in the Amazon forest.

In an attempt to return to my profession of agriculture I returned to the U.K. and studied for an M.Sc.(Crop Protection) at Reading University. Whilst there I was offered a position with the World Health Organization to manage the aerial operations in the River Blindness campaign in West Africa. Operating 12 helicopters and 2 fixed wing aircraft I was in charge of the

aircraft fleet and pilots and was responsible for the aerial release of larvicide into the rivers. (river blindness is transmitted by the bite of a fly which breeds in the rivers). I held this position for 10 years.

On retirement from the World Health Organization I bought a wooden Colin Archer ketch and based it in Corsica, working and living on it for 6 months each year. During the 11 years I owned it, with 2 crew we made a 10,000 mile voyage across the Atlantic ocean to South America, navigating solely by sextant.

With my passion for the sea and mountains it would seem perhaps out of character to settle in the quiet village of Litton. However, interspersed with periods abroad, I enjoy living here amongst the Dales countryside and its people.