

So why has a "Brommy Girl" like Joy Owen, now in my 40s, chosen the Yorkshire Dales as home for the future.

Some fifteen years ago, I enjoyed a walking holiday with my mother in Malham. Following this, I found myself returning on a regular basis eventually as frequently as every few weeks. There was no doubt, the Yorkshire Dales, was where I wanted to be on a permanent basis.

my full time job as an Account Manager for an Information Technology services company means I am still travelling around the UK and, therefore, away from Yorkshire far more than I would like. I also still have family in Birmingham but everyone knows that I now regard Linton as my home.



## Croft Cottage

To introduction

- Litton is a Saxon word meaning "village on a torrent"
- Skirfare means "bright stream"

### *Personal Introduction*

So why has a "Brummy Girl" like Joy Owen, now in my 40s, chosen the Yorkshire Dales as home for the future ??.

Many of the locals would refer to me as an "Offcumdun", having spent most of my life to date in Birmingham, but I like to think that Yorkshire is in my blood. My grandfather, William Tomkinson, was a skilled worker in the "plating" industry working for Cannings. During the early 1920s, when work was hard to come by, he was given a job in Stirling, travelling from his home in Birmingham by bicycle !! The family, my grandmother, two aunts and an uncle, joined him there at a later date but after a few years decided to return to their home city. On the journey back they stopped off in Yorkshire when my grandfather managed to find work at Harewood House as an "odd job" man and gardener. It was whilst they were living in Middleton, Leeds that my mother (Amy Kitchen) was born in 1923. They stayed here for around another 4 years with only a few return visits since then until mum and I started hill walking about 15 years ago. When I found myself travelling here every few weeks I knew the Yorkshire Dales was where I wanted to be on a permanent basis.

My full time job as an Account Manager for an Information Technology services company (ZEDA) means I am still travelling around the UK and therefore away from Yorkshire far more than I would like. I also still have family in Birmingham but everyone knows that I now regard Litton as my home.

My extensive search for somewhere to live started in 1996. After a couple of disappointments, I was lucky enough to find Croft Cottage in October 1997.

### *History*

The previous owners, Gerard and Barbara Killarney, had decided to move back to Reading in Berkshire after living for 11 years in Litton. At the time Croft Cottage and Croft Barn were registered as one property but they decided to put them on the market as separate dwellings. The Killarneys had completely renovated Croft Cottage in 1986, adding the conservatory and utility extension in 1992. Since then I have only made minor

changes which include a new main door and the removal of a number of conifer trees from the garden.

From the documentation given to me when I became the new owner, I know that the house is at least 250 years old

Other previous owners are believed to include :

- James Ellison Died 1767 bequeathed to Henry Ellison (alias Dowbiggin)
  - Henry bequeathed to son James Ellison  
On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1824 the house was sold by Henry Ellison (son and executor of the John Ellison estate) to Josiah Mather for the sum of 5 shillings. (The Ellisons are Dales families whose men are recorded to have fought at Flodden in 1513). The house being occupied at the time by John Brook probably in a tenancy agreement.
  - Isabella Myers (Lancaster), wife of William Myers, appointed son Thomas Myers and son-in-law James Whaley Marshall as trustees following her death in 1900. Estate given to them or survivor (Thomas's wife Grace Margaret Myers or children) on trust for sale. *William died in 1934 – occupied Croft Cottage and used Tommy Croft which is located towards the edge of the village.*
  - James Whaley Marshall did not act as trustee and trust was disclaimed
  - Thomas Myers of Easthope bequeathed to daughters Sybil Pattinson (Penrith), Barbara Ellison Myers and Catherine Verity Edwards in 1931 (his wife Grace Margaret Myers renounced probate) – FIRST TRUSTEES
    - *Margaret Isobella Every (wife of Joseph Every, Liverpool) and Jessie Lockwood (wife of Stanley Lockwood, Bradford) - 1935*
    - *William Mather Myers (Keswick), Elsie Wilson (wife of Joseph Wilson, Keswick), Annie Elizabeth Robinson (wife of John Robinson, The Cottage, Litton), Katherine Annie Myers (Croft House, Litton) – mortgage of £384 in 1939 against Croft Cottage and Tommy Croft formerly occupied by William Myers*
    - *Supplemental mortgage raised by above for £300 in 1949, Annie's husband had died and Katherine had moved to Linton*
    - *Annie occupied property*
- NB: Above in italics were beneficiaries of Isobella Myers will**
- William Mather Myers (Keswick), Elsie Wilson (Keswick), Annie Elizabeth Robinson (Summerbridge) and Katherine Annie Myers (Harrogate) sold Croft Cottage and Tommy Croft in 1958

- Purchased by Norman Heaton 1958 £3,500
- Purchased by Charles William Mathias and Peggi Georgina Mathias 1971 for £10,000 – Croft Cottage (numbered 56 on ordnance survey map, 3 roods and 7 perches) and Tommy Croft (numbered 161 on ordnance survey map, 1 rood and 29 perches)
- Purchased by Herbert Stanley Waterhouse (Skipton) 1978. Known as Croft Cottage, 3 roods and 7 perches, numbered 56 on ordnance survey map in Parish of Litton. £34,750. Sub purchasers Stanley Roy Stitch and Betty Stitch
- Roy and Betty Stitch sold to Gerard and Barbara Killarney