



ARNCLIFFE

SCHOOL

No.1 Armistead Barns

Well my name is Rachael Lund. I was born on 19th May 1973. As a baby I lived in Church Cottage, Halton Gill with my parents Gail and Gar Lund and my two older sisters Joanne and Vicky. We moved from there when I was about six months old, which is when my parents and grandparents swapped houses, so the next generation could run the farm – Bridge Farm, Foxup.

I remained there for as long as possible but college called so I had to move away for two years or so. Work had kept me away long enough and at last I was able to return home to help out on the farm. After a couple of years I had my first child – William Garnett Lund.

He was born on 3rd July 1995. We stayed at Bridge Farm when he was a baby but after a while I felt it was better to let us and my parents have a bit of space and independence – which is when this flat became available. Since moving to Litton, I have enjoyed my space and the farm is only a few miles away – it's not as though I left never to return, which is good.

William was around three years old when I had my second child, Edward Patrick Lund, born on 3rd August 1998, and so the three of us live here in our downstairs flat as full time residents, in this nice village with great neighbours – what more can you ask!

My reason for moving here is that I needed a place for me and my family to call HOME, and this was the only house for rent in the whole valley. We have lived here for just over two years. I moved in on the 1st September 1997. I don't work, being a single mum. I stay at home to look after my boys. I sometimes go up to my parents' farm to help out as William is tractor and farm mad – it makes him so happy.

In the short time I have lived here I have noticed a great change in the people who live here in the village. It's amazing how few people I actually know, it seems as if the richer commuters are making up a larger proportion of the residents, so we don't get the time or opportunity to get to know one another – which is a great shame not to know our fellow villagers. The meeting and chatting just doesn't happen.

My house is a great place to live, I have some really great neighbours, we get on very well which is a good thing as we are in a close space – lots of people in a small group of houses. The disadvantage of my house is not having a private garden, but at least we have a lawn and garden so we make the most of it.

The boys love nothing better than a walk by the river – it's lovely – even a walk up the road, we go spotting birds and flowers. When we are out and about William likes spotting celandines and dandelions, not to mention TRACTORS – we get to see a lot of them.

When the houses were converted from barns by Sanctuary Housing Association my eldest sister Joanne lived here with her fiancé Chris Wood and their children Nigel and Natalie. They enjoyed living here and did so for three years until they moved to a three bedroomed house in Kilnsey, which is another Sanctuary house. How they managed to live in this flat I just don't know – I find it hard to store all our stuff so they did real well living here.

William (aged 4) has told me to write the following:

I have a hamster called "Hammy", he's nice but can be grouchy and bite you in a morning sometimes.

I have some fish. Mummy has one with big tails, Edward has a gold one and I have two, one gold and a white one – he's called "Freddie".

I love going to Grandad's farm to ride my tractor and trainers and do the sheep.

I go to big school now (Arncliffe Primary School). It's great, I get to go on a bus. Jack Hirst goes too, he's my friend and we sit together. When I am bigger I am going to be a JCB Fastrax driver.