

4 Armistead Barns

Raymond Spendley: I was born at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire on 2 April 1947. My parents, Herbert John Spendley, born in Sunderland and Edith Spendley, née Dickinson, born in Bradford, moved back to Bradford when I was six months old. I was educated at West Lane Secondary Modern School, Baildon and left school at fifteen to become an apprentice carpenter with a small Shipley firm, going to night and day school at Saltaire Technical College.

I joined the army in 1966, did my basic training at Catterick, then joined my regiment, 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, in Aden. The regiment moved to Northern Ireland in October 1966 for a three year tour of duty at Omagh, County Tyrone where I met my wife, Rose Anne Marie Kelly. We were married at Omagh on 10 April 1969, my mother's birthday. The regiment was posted to Germany for three years at "Sennerlarger" near Paderborn. Our daughter, Andrea Justine, was born in Germany on 9 May 1970. Whilst serving in Germany I did one emergency tour to Belfast and six months with the United Nations in Cyprus. My regiment was posted to Tidworth (Wiltshire) for three years and I did one more emergency tour to Northern Ireland. I was demobed from the army in January 1975 as a troop sergeant chieftain tank commander.

For the next nine years I worked for Hampshire county council as deputy officer in charge of a home for the elderly. In 1985 I bought a small company from my friend. I called it Wessex Inn-Bar Supplies and ran the company from my garage. I also ran a taxi company called Kingsworthy Taxis.

In 1966 my wife and I separated and I came back to Yorkshire and bought a mobile home at Threshfield. I put my name on the waiting list with Sanctuary Housing and was offered the flat where I live now.