

Stewart Lund

I have lived in Litton for 45 years. I was born at East Garth farm where my dad farms and still farms. We moved to West farm when I was 12 when my dad took the tenancy on. When I was 17 I went to work for George Emmott at Armistead farm. I lived in with them for 4 years until they went to Derbyshire to farm in 1976. Then I went to live with my grandma in Arncliffe for 2 years until I got married to my wife Sandra from Garsdale in 1978. I got a house to rent of a farmer in Halton Gill called Bobby Chapman who I worked for as well. as being in partnership with my brother at West farm Litton.

We lived at Halton Gill for 16 years until Sanctuary Housing bought the barns of Janet Beard's at Armistead farm and converted 5 houses for local people, and we came to No. 5 in 1994 which is near to where I work We have 1200 acres and 1000 sheep mostly Swaledale.

The changes I have noticed are not many local people left since I was a boy, only my father, my brother and Eddie and Peggy. Nearly every house has changed hands. There were 6 working farms all with big families, now only 3 farms left. I think we have to accept change because it's happening all over England not always for the better. There are a lot of money folk from the towns coming into the dale. Local people can not afford to buy the houses around them.. You need young people and children to keep the school open where my father and I went, and my children, all at Arncliffe School.

The advantage of living here is it's a safe place to bring a family up, full of nature and animals and beautiful scenery. The disadvantage is it rains too much which you get fed up with. The wild flowers I like are primroses and bluebells.

The house where I live was a building for horses and bulls. I don't know how old it is or who built it. My great grandad Alfred Pullan farmed Armistead farm and

his son Frank took over and farmed until 1966 when he died of cancer. Then George Emmott farmed it for 10 years and the farm was split up in 1976.

Sandra Lund

I have lived in Littondale for 22 years. Before I married Stewart I lived in Garsdale. My father Patrick Brown worked as a railman on the Settle-Carlisle line.

His father was Richard Brown. He was born in Kettlewell at Dam Cottage and went to school there. His father was a lead miner, and his father before that had helped lay the first stones on the Settle-Carlisle line. My grandfather's parents left Kettlewell for Garsdale and left him to work for his Uncle Richard and Auntie Margaret who farmed Haytongue and Hagdyke. This was 1880. He left and became Head Gamekeeper at Moorland Cottage for Mr C.W. Garnett. He was there for over 40 years before he died.

My Nanna, Mary Harper nee Yates, my mother's side of the family, when I told her 25 years ago that I was going out with Stewart from Litton, she said 'what a small world' it was as she had worked at Ellerbeck in Litton as a young girl of 13 years. She left school on a Friday and her father walked her over from Horton-in-Ribblesdale by Pen-y-Ghent on Sunday and left her at Ellerbeck to become a housemaid. This was in 1918.

She left sometime later to work on a farm in Hawes. She met my Grandad at Garsdale Station whilst he was working and she was waiting for a horse and trap to Hawes. My Grandad Thomas Harper worked on the Settle-Carlisle from 1926-1970. They married in 1927.

After Stewart and I married we lived in Halton Gill for 16 years. Thanks to Janet Beard and Janet Taylor we came to live in Armistead Barns 6 years ago.

Stewart farms at West Farm with his brother Stephen but as Stephen lives on the farm, and the cost of houses is so high due to Holiday Cottages and people buying 'from off', we could not afford a house of our own.

This is where the two Janets came to our rescue and that of other residents of Armistead Barns. There was a need for low cost housing for local people so Janet Taylor got together with Sanctuary Housing in Leeds, and after very hard work, battling against 'locals' who did not want change, Janet Beard sold her barns to enable homes for 5 families. It was a traumatic time for all involved and upsetting to learn of the opposition.

The day we heard we had got the house will be one I will never forget. I hugged 'Jack the Post' and all of us went to visit Janet Taylor, me still running around Litton in my slippers on 'Cloud 9'.

Thank you 'Janets'. I know neither of them will want recognition, because that's the kind of people they are, but they made me and my family realise the good some people have in them.

Number 5 Armistead Barns used to house the Bull from Armistead Farm, when Stewart worked for George Emmott, he used to clean out the Barn he now loves living in. We have a lovely garden and super views from all angles.

I work 3 days a week at the 'Naked Man Cafe' in Settle, I travel 12 miles. In winter it is difficult to get over the top, on the Pen-y-Ghent road.

I like living in Litton and think it is lovely for my family to be growing up in such lovely surroundings. We have three children, Emma 18, Katy 16 and Jack 11. They all went to Arncliffe C of E Primary School. A school bus from Kettlewell picked them up each morning, the same bus as picked up their Dad Stewart when he went, only now of course it is the son of Mr Wilkinson. The tradition goes on!

After Arncliffe Emma and Katy went to Upper Wharfedale where they both did very well. Both girls got 9 GCSE's. Jack is still at upper Wharfedale. Emma then went to Settle Community College to do 2 years advanced Business Studies. Now

she works in Skipton for Thorpe Industries as an Assistant Sales Manager. She has her own little car, much needed when you live where we do. The young ones need their independence.

Katy goes to Craven College in Skipton where she is studying Hair and Beauty Therapy, this course is for 3 years. Her ambition is to work on a cruise liner, living in the country does not stop her!

Jack longs to be a farmer like his Grandad, Dad and uncle Stephen. We just hope farming will still be there for him. He is a true country boy, he loves ferreting.

## Living In Litton

I have lived in Litton for about 5 years, and although it is quiet, I wouldn't change it for a noisy city.

I like the way that you can play outside with your friends without the fear of lots of fast cars zooming past!

I also like the surroundings and watching different animals build their homes. I have learnt a lot living in the dales because I now know which animals live where and know what types of birds live around here, like Robins, Swallows, Sandpipers, Oyster Catchers and many more.

My dad is a farmer and I enjoy walking on the moors gathering the sheep, and stopping to look at the view of beautiful hills and trees instead of a factory emptying thick black smoke into the air.

I like to look out of my window and see sheep and cows grazing in the fields. Litton is pretty all year around even when it rains, and I think that is why everyone wants to come and admire the dales.

Many people who live in towns say to me that they would love to live up here, now I know that I am very lucky boy.

By Jack Lund Age 11