

## **Memories of East View, Escrick (No's 1 to 8)**

1 to 8 'East View' (now 39 to 25 Skipwith Road) must be unique in the village. We still have connections with all the families who have lived in the houses since they were built in 1949/1950.

The land was sold by The Forbes Adam family to Derwent Rural District Council in June 1949 and the houses were built shortly after. Most are now privately owned.

It is said that the Estate Manager, Claude Thompson, did not want council houses in Escrick. Pressure was exerted and eventually 8 houses were allowed, but to be built 'outside' the village on Skipwith Road where no other houses existed. The only building on Skipwith Road at the time was the Police station, which has since been converted in to flats.

All the houses were three bed Semi-detached with outside coal house, toilet, wash-house and store. There was also a first floor bathroom and separate toilet.

All the tenants who moved in to the then 'new' houses were either ex-service men or Escrick born and bred.

It was said by someone in Selby District Council 40-45 years ago, that the 'houses in East View were the best in the Selby District!'

It is also said that the streets in the village were renumbered after the people delivering voting forms found it very difficult to find the houses.

In the 1950's and 1960's 8 babies were born to the residents, all delivered at Fulford maternity home, with the exception of Jane Brown who was born at home at No 4, and Malcolm Eastwood born in Westcroft nursing home near Malton. There were then no more babies born to the residents of 1 to 8 East View for another 40 years, until a new arrival at No 3 in 2013 !

Peggy remembers that the council houses were separated from the village by a number of allotments and a farmers field. The land was later sold for the building of The Glade. It was only after the development of The Glade that the houses on Skipwith Road 'came in to' the village.

Peggy also recalls that the gardens of 1 to 4 had 'rubbish land' as the local beck had been widened and deepened. It was very heavy clay soil which had been spread behind the houses and the land had latterly been used for farming, and was no longer allotments. The path from the Club to Skipwith Road came out on Skipwith Road between No's 4 and 5. The gardens of houses 5 to 8 was much better land as it had been used for allotments.

### **No1 East View (Now 39 Skipwith Road)**

#### **Rudd Family.**

The Rudd's were the first family to move in. Irvine, Frances and Sylvia lived in the house until 1985 before moving to Fulford. Irvine was ex-army before working for Rowntree's chocolate factory. Frances was a local girl.

Daughter Sylvia was married in Escrick Church.

#### **Bramley family**

Jeff and Wynne Bramley moved to Escrick in 1985 and rented the property from Selby Council. They moved after retiring as tenant farmers from Yeoman's Farm, Cliffe near Selby, a 83 acre mixed farm which Jeff had moved to in 1946. The house was bought from the Council during the 1990's using the 'Right to Buy' scheme which offered generous discounts on the true market value.

For Jeff it was a return to the area. Born in to a farming family at Woodhall near Hemingbrough, he had lived in Deighton with his mother and sister Mary at Deighton Garth during most of the Second World War. The original property at Deighton Garth has since been demolished and a new property built on the site, given the same name. During these years Jeff worked for his bother Phil who was a tenant at Menagerie Farm in Escrick. As farming was a reserved occupation, he was not called up for the war effort, instead he became a member of the 'Deighton and Cockey Hill Home guard'. The last line of defence should Britain be invaded. Wynne was also from a farming family, moving to Cliffe from Holderness in East Yorkshire. As well as working on the farm and bringing up 3 children, she also helped at the local Post Office. She

was a Cliffe Parish Councillor as well as governor at both Cliffe Primary School and Barlby Secondary Schools.

After retiring Wynne worked as a carer at the Dower House care home, then at Church cottage and then Lyngarth care home, latterly as cook, her main passion. Over the years she has done baking for various church and charity events. Few people are able to leave the house without a selection of cakes! Jeff kept busy in his garden as well as helping others with gardening jobs which he did until just after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jeff died in 2006 at the age of 85.

Over the years improvements has been made to the property. A garage built to the rear of the house, double glazing, oil fired central heating and a new kitchen added.

### **No 2 East View (Now 37 Skipwith Road)**

**Tomlinson** Family (Jeffrey and Phyllis Tomlinson and daughter Valerie) moved in to No 2 in 1951.

Jeff was one of 8 children. He was born and lived at Mount Farm, Escrick. Jeff married Phyllis Bass in Escrick Church on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1937. They started their married life renting a house near the Black Bull.

Jeff worked in Escrick Co-op until he joined the army, where he served in both Italy and Africa. Jeff's regular job was as a rating officer for Selby Derwent District Council. During the war Phyllis continued his collections on a bicycle. Phyllis was also an ARP Warden. In 1945 she went to live with her parents Frank and Margaret Bass in the Estate Office house, because her house was being used for refugees.

Jeff came back from the war and Valerie Joan was born in November 1946. All the family lived at the Estate Office House. Frank Bass was the agent of the Estate (having taken over from Claude Thompson) and lived there for many years until his retirement.

Jeff, Phyllis and Valerie moved to East View in 1951. Val was in the Church choir for a few years and later married Ian Milnes of Stockton-on-Forest on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1968 in Escrick Church.

1983 Ian and Val moved back to No 2 to care for Val's ailing parents.

The house continues to be in the Tomlinson/Milnes family and they are the only family to have lived in the property.

### **No 3 East View (Now 35 Skipwith Road)**

#### **Hale Family**

Victor (Vic), ex- army, and Marion were the first to live in the house with their daughter Patricia.

Vic was born near Huddersfield but his family moved to Naburn and then Escrick when he was just 2 years old. The family moved in to one of 3 cottages near Escrick station. Vic went to Archbishop Holgates School. Both before and after the war Vic worked for NEEB Electricity Board, ending his career as an inspector. Vic was an Escrick Parish Councillor, member of the Church choir and keen sportsman. For many years Vic played for Escrick Cricket team as opening batsman and in both Fulford and Riccall Football teams.

Marion (nee Cheeseman) came from Wheldrake. She was a silver maid at Escrick Hall with her sister Betty and later worked in Escrick Co-op, again with her sister.

Vic and Marion were married at Wheldrake Church. They initially lived in Poplar Row (Main Street) Escrick, next door but one to the Black Bull. A house which had just one bedroom, no bathroom, an outside toilet and initially only cold water obtained from the outside iron pump which is now a relic on Main Street.

When Vic and Marion's daughter, Patricia Marian (Pat) was 16 they moved to 3 East View on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1950, Vic's birthday. Pat was delighted to have her own bedroom, a bathroom with a proper toilet, hot water, a kitchen and a living room.

Many people will remember that Vic had a 'mini' car which was his pride and joy. He could often be seen out in it with his wife in the back and little dog, Robbie, on the front seat.

Pat left No 3 to marry Bill Reader in 1957, marrying in Escrick Church. Pat still lives in the village.

### **Reader Family.**

Pat's son John moved in to the house in 2003 following the death of Vic. He continues to live there with his children Beth and Joe.

### **No 4 East View (Now 33 Skipwith Road)**



Left: Front garden of 4 East View looking on to Skipwith Road, early 1950's. Derek Brown tending the garden.



Right: Front garden of 4 East View looking on to Skipwith Road, 2021

### **Brown family.**

Derek and Peggy moved in to the house in January 1951. They lived in the house with their 2 daughters Ann and Jane. Derek who was ex-army worked at the GPO Telephones which is now British Telecom –Development. Derek played football for the Escrick team for many years and maintained an interest even after he could no longer play. Escrick won the cup one Year! Peggy remembers Saturday being a very busy day!

Peggy was kept very busy. She worked full time for 'Burt Rooms' land drainage business until the business closed. A business that employed 12 men.

Amongst other things Peggy was also clerk to the Parish Council, Secretary of the WI and clerk to the Trustess of the Almshouses.

Peggy remembers the local children playing around the Elm tree which was later felled to make way for the bungalow, Belmont, next to No 8

The house was bought in October 1981 and Peggy still lives in the property.

### **No 5 East View (Now 31 Skipwith Road)**

#### **Orchard family**

The first people to move in were Sylvia and George Orchard and their son Dennis. George was ex-RAF and one of the first airmen to arrive at the RAF camp, having first stayed at the Black Bull. George later worked at the Brickyards. Sylvia was born and bred in the area and worked at Naburn hospital laundry. Both George and Sylvia were great supporters of The Club and were involved in the 1970's with organising the Club coach trips.

As a child Dennis used to play with Douglas Kerrison (his next door neighbour) until Douglas' tragic death.

**The Gibson family bought the property in July 2013.** They moved in March 2014 after renovating the house which included adding central heating and re-wiring. The second extension to the house was built in 2017/18.

Kathleen moved to Escrick in 2000 living first on Main Street where Joseph and Hannah were born. Both children were christened by Rev Richard Kirkman at Escrick church. Kathleen started work at the village primary school in 2015, firstly on a temporary basis but then permanent, full time. She became office manager when the new headteacher, Miss Miller, started in 2016.

Kathleen and Mal married in 2018 at Escrick Church and held their wedding reception in the village hall.

## **No 6 East View (Now 29 Skipwith Road)**

### **A three bed semi-detached house.**

3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, two rooms downstairs. Outside stores x 2, coalhouse and outside toilet.

### **Kerrison family**

Colin and Dorothy Kerrison were the first to live in the house with their children Douglas and Lesley, Lesley being born around 1950 and Douglas two years earlier. Sadly Douglas, aged 7, was killed in a tragic accident, having ridden his bicycle out of the lane by the church and into the path of a car.

Lesley began school at Escrick Primary, but later attended a school in York.

Mr Kerrison worked at the Brickyards and Mrs Kerrison worked in the kitchen at the laundry.

### **Bradley Family**





In 1960 Mary, Geoff and Glenda Bradley moved into 6 East View together with Mary's sister, Annie Newsome. Glenda was just two years old. They moved to Escrick from North Duffield.

Prior to this Geoff had worked at the Co-op in Escrick on leaving school and before joining up for National Service. He cycled from his home in Thorganby at that time to Escrick daily to work in the Co-op on Main Street.

When they moved to Escrick in 1960 Geoff then worked at Lewis's forge at Crockey Hill as a blacksmith and agricultural engineer and then moved on to work at Simpsons in Wheldrake as an agricultural engineer (having studied at York college and served his apprenticeship at Lewis's). He cycled to both jobs at Crockey Hill and Wheldrake, come hail, rain or shine and continued to do so until he finished work in or around 1992.



Geoff Bradley outside No 6 and shovelling snow.

Mary and Annie both worked at Queen Margaret's at the Dower House and Glenda clearly has fond memories of being allowed to go with them whilst they worked. Debra also remembers going down to the Dower House, walking through the grassed area which is now Dower Chase, where there was a resident donkey!

Mary also worked as a cleaner at the Police Station in Escrick (now the flats in Skipwith Road), the police constable for the village at that time being Maurice Dandy. Mary then worked for several different families in the village cleaning



and helping the mothers when they had just had babies.



**Left:** New Year baby.



**Right:** Debra on her Christening day with her God Mother, Sylvia Rudd.

Debra was born in 1967. The Glade was in the process of being built at that time and her christening photographs show the work in development. Glenda has fond memories of playing in the field behind East View before the Glade was built, where she used to go across it to play with the children who lived in the Police Houses on Carr Lane (which were occupied by the village police constables in those days), Pat Wynn and Michael Dandy.



**Left:** Glenda in back garden before The Glade was built. **Right:** Glenda and Debra in same back garden 1967. The Glade was being built.

Glenda and Debra both attended the village school (Debra being one of the first children to move into “the new school” building).



Two little nurses 9 years apart outside no 6

Glenda moved from East View when she married in 1977, Debra moving out in 1994.

Sadly, Annie passed away in 2003, Geoff in 2014, and Mary the following year in 2015.

The house continues to be owned by Selby District Council.

## **No 7 East View (Now 27 Skipwith Road)**

### **Eastwood Family**

The Eastwood family were the first family to live in the house, having previously lived with grandparents and uncles at Bridge Farm. They moved in late 1950 or early 1951.

Dorothy (nee Skilbeck and known as Babs) and Rowland Eastwood, met when Rowland was based at the RAF camp near the Hollicarrs. At the time I (Caroline) was the only child, followed by Malcolm Ralph in 1953, Jean in 1955 and Dorothy (now known as Dot) in 1957.

Rowland left the RAF after his National Service and became a driver for a fruit and vegetable company, later beginning his career as a potato merchant with a business in Selby; a few years later he joined a company in Doncaster, which led to the family moving away to a village in Nottinghamshire in late September or early October 1958. Caroline remembers being left in the care

of her grandparents whilst her parents dealt with the move and she went into the Park to collect conkers.

The Apple, Pear and Plum trees were planted at the bottom of the garden after the Skilbeck family moved out.

### **Scoreby family –**

Dennis and Barbara Scoreby moved in to the house in 1958 where they lived with their children Paul, David and Mandy.

Dennis, one of 9 children, was born and bred in Dunnington where he had worked on a farm and lived in a tied cottage with his wife Barbara. When the farmer's son was to move in to the cottage, Denis and Barbara moved to Escrick. Barbara too was from a large family, one of 10 children, from York.

Dennis worked at the Brickyards and for Hares builders, spending some time working on the building of Dower Chase. Barbara was a housewife and for some years worked at the Dower House for Queen Margaret's School, helping at meal times. She worked with Mrs Sellars, who with her husband lived in the cottage on Skipwith Road, which is now on the left of the entrance in to Dower Chase.

Dennis, Paul and David were keen footballers and were members of the Escrick Football team. Dennis was also a regular member of the Escrick cricket team.

Dennis for many years was a 'Bush beater' for Escrick Park Estate and helped out with hoeing for local farmers. Dennis never had a car but went everywhere on his bicycle.

Paul, after school and during holidays, helped Mr Bayston at Tiledshed Farm on the Wheldrake road. It was here that he developed his interest in farming, leading to agricultural college and his farming career.

Mandy remembers that their Mums never called, or referred to each other, by their Christian names.... But always Mrs Watson and Mrs Scoreby!

Mandy married Gerry at Escrick Church in 1994.

The house was bought under the 'Right to Buy' scheme around 1997 and remains in the Scoreby family'.

### **No 8 East View (Now 25 Skipwith Road)**

#### **Taskers family.**

Cliff and Lil Tasker, together with their children, Michael and Jennifer lived in the house until 1959. Michael worked with his father at Bramleys' farm.

Mrs Tasker was the local farrier's daughter and became a hairdresser, but also, at some point, the family acquired a shooting brake and she operated it as a taxi to ferry schoolchildren between their homes and school. Mr Tasker was involved with the Church, the Club and Parish council. At Church Cliff taught Sunday school and read the lesson. Cliff went to the Club every Sunday lunch time and would then walk home across the allotments, sometimes a little late for his lunch! While on the Parish Council Cliff was instrumental in getting water toilets installed at the primary school.

The Taskers left Escrick, to become stewards at Heworth Golf Club. Michael became a police officer and was promoted at least to the rank of sergeant during the course of his career.



The back of 8 East View, late 1950's, with No 7 to the right of the hedge.

#### **Watson family. Ron, Eva and Caroline Watson**

Ron (originally from Wheldrake) and Eva (originally from Thorganby) moved to the council house in May 1959, after spending the first years of married life living at Wheldrake with Ron's parents. At the time Ron worked as a farm labourer for Eric Brown and Eva worked as a seamstress in York.

Caroline was born in 1963. Her pram was put in the back garden so she could watch the building work taking place on the then allotments. It was the start of the building of The Glade.

Aged around 8, Caroline remembers roller-skating up the flagged pavement in front of East View with Mandy. It was a bit bumpy and un-even! Mr Brown (Derek) used to lean over the gate after Tea to encourage them.

The house was bought from the council using the 'Right to Buy' scheme, in 1989 for £20,623. It was valued at the time at £50,300 but there was a 59% discount as the family had been tenants for over 29 years.

Ron did though have a dilemma before buying, using the 'Right to Buy scheme'. He was very much in favour of Council houses and he acknowledged that if there had not been Council houses in the 1950's, he would not have been able to afford a house. It did though make good financial sense to take advantage of the scheme as they planned that it would be their 'forever home', which it was.

In the late 1960's Eva started work as a cleaner for Queen Margaret's school, initially at the Lodge (now the Parsonage Hotel), then moving to the main school after the Lodge closed. It was a job she thoroughly enjoyed until her retirement. In addition, for a number of years Eva cleaned the magistrate court, which was attached to the Police station (now converted in to flats and named Derwent Court). She also very much enjoyed helping with the props for the village pantomimes and with many things at Escrick Church.

In the early 1960's, due to back problems, Ron stopped working on the farm and became a van driver in the fruit and vegetable trade. He still though continued seasonal farm work, hoeing sugar beat on evenings and weekends for Mr Bateson at Tiledshed Farm. In retirement Ron enjoyed being a member of the Escrick indoor bowls team and helping to cut the grass in the Church.

Eva died in 2001 and Ron moved to the Alms Houses in 2011. After quite major building work, daughter Caroline moved back in to the house with her husband Roger.



Mandy Scoreby, Caroline Watson, Glenda and Debra Bradley in the back garden of No 8, around 1969.

### **Roger and Caroline Wandless.**

Roger and Caroline were married at Escrick Church in 2008. They moved back to Caroline's family home in 2011 where they later carried out building works which included an extension and converting the loft.





Late 1950's view from side of 8 East View looking towards the Church. Houses on right of photo are 9 to 12 East View. Houses on left are the 1948 cottages. A large tree had been felled in the sheep field to make way for Mrs Brown's bungalow, Belmont, to be built. Unfortunately it didn't go to plan and landed on Ron Watson's garage!



**Left:** The tree before felling. 8 East View in the background, and the Police houses in the background to the right.

**Right:** The remains of the garage. In the background, open field/allotments where The Glade was later built.