

## **Ronnie Metcalfe, formerly of Harkers, then Greenses and finally Calvert Houses**

### **Q: What are your earliest memories of the farm buildings at Harkers?**

‘Well, they were all occupied then of course...and they kept cows in t’bottom end...I think they could tie seven up; four larger ones and mebbe three smaller ones at t’other side. And there was a big hay mew and so far up the wall, was a blue line and that was for if a tenant left in November, it would be in the days of loose hay, he had to leave hay up to that blue line, with the place, and any hay above the blue line would be his, but any hay below the blue line he had to leave with the place. The new tenant would get that automatically, it would be in his deal.’

‘Laurie Peacock used to live at Scar House, used to tell this story about Banty... he fetched these few sheep down one day cos he was going to do summat wi’them, put ‘em into Banty cow’uss. Opens door and shoves them in and there was some shouting from up at far end. There was a tramp in, asleep...t’owd tramp was having a sleep, trampled wi’ sheep [laughter].’

‘Crook Seal used to get its fair share of tramps...aye, it were a pub originally, supposed to be, but when we were just kids I can remember ‘Topper’ John Alderson, the barn’s owner, coming for me father one day. He had his wool in Crook Seal and somebody had been breaking in. He had it locked, wool was valuable then! Somebody was in process of breaking in and he wanted it shifting right sharp before night, and me father went away and they shifted it...fetched it back to Hill Top I suppose, but they were to pinch his wool. Nobody would pinch his blummin’ wool today would they [well you’d mebbe thank them for pinching it today?] aye [laughter].’

(Adapted from the 28th September 2016 interview transcriptions from the Every Barn Tells a Story project by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority)