

The Fairbairn family came to live at Barmoor South Moor farm in May 1936 it was a Grass farm mainly green fields and moor land.

It was a beautiful day with bright sunshine. The whins on the moor were in full bloom and everything was so peaceful we also had the magnificent view of the Cheviot hills. Although I was only 11 years old going on 12 I just felt I had arrived at the most wonderful place, this I still feel whenever I go to Barmoor South Moor. There have been many changes to the road and the House now has all mod cons.

Come the Monday of the following week we had to start school at Lowick, Billy, Connie and myself. My eldest sister Bell was working and Margaret was at the grammar school.

Neen Slater who lived on the farm and was about the same age as myself escorted us to school it was a long walk to Lowick. Firstly we came to the crossroads better known as the Blue House. The people (Swan) who lived there had a small shop in the front garden. They sold a variety of goods plus cigs and sweets.

We were quite a big family as we had a younger brother Neil (2 yrs old) so we got very few pennies for sweets. Moving on past High Steads we continued our long walk to Lowick. We came to the Police House first, the policeman was Jim Atkinson, the cottage next door is still standing, it has had lots of improvements and is occupied by Brian and Brenda Carr. Then we come to the Common, it was very rough ground, not cared for by Berwick Council as it is today.

Looking across the Common one could see the Drill Hall, Scotch Church, part of the Commercial Inn and surrounding houses as seen today.

On the Common next to the main road was this large round stone building called the Penfold we usually called it the Pin Fad. Stray cattle or sheep could be housed there over night. In the 1950's it was demolished, I don't remember why this happened but later people said this should not have happened as it was part of Lowick's history.

We came along South Road to the Main Street on the right was a bakery and shop run by the Mabon family. They were noted for their brown bread morning rolls and pies along with lots of other things. At one time they had 3 or 4 vans on the road.

On the left side of the road Mrs Clare Foreman had a small sweet shop. Adjoining the bakery house was a bank this opened two mornings a week.

The Black Smith's shop came next this was always a very busy place.

The horse was the main means of work on the farms so was often being shod. A very smart house behind a high stonewall turned out to be the School House occupied by Mr and Mrs Nichol, Mr Nichol was the schools head master.

Eventually we were introduced to Mr Nichol and placed in our various classes it was a daunting experience. We had packed lunches. Tin tea bottles were placed around the open fire the tea was warm by lunchtime. This was one thing I could not stand and even today don't like tea from a flask.

Next to the school was a butchers shop owned by Jim Foreman. Then came Miss Patrick's shop, she sold groceries, cigs and sweets. Some children visited this shop at break times.

Slinton's was a well stocked shop selling lots of outdoor clothes plus wool and a variety of nie racks.

The Methodist Chapel was always well attended. The caretakers cottage was attached situated on the main street.

At the bottom of the village is a church manse this is still occupied and a very impressive building.

Now we come to what we know as the village hall. This had been a church school since before my time. A committee was formed and we raised enough money to buy the building from the church. Then we had to raise enough money to have it refurnished. This was one of the best halls at the time.

The caretakers cottage garden ran down to the Main Street.

A row of cottages brought the end of the village. These were later demolished Lambton Terrace and Kyles View were built on the ground.

Lambton Avenue was built just before the war.

Walter Piercy's granny and aunt had a small dairy. This was fine until Walter was left on his own and things got so dirty he wouldn't sell much milk.

His house was next to where Lizzie Mather lives. At that time Lizzies house was owned by the Local Nursing Association and we always had a nurse in the village.

Phillips Place was built after the war. Previously it was a collection of old buildings known as Phillips Court. the stone built house at the entrance was owned by two old gentlemen called Jack and Harry Lyall. They had been Carters and their horses were kept in the stables behind the school.

Where Alice Carr and Betty Bone live were single storey cottages later been raised to make two flats above. Then we had our second bank also open two mornings a week.

Now we come to Dryburn Road and North View. North View where the first pensioners bungalows were built and also four two bedroom houses. Back on the street the White Swan remains the same over the years.

On the left side of the street was a bakery and shop owned by the Forsyths of Allerdean Grange until it was taking over by Clare Foreman.

The garage that followed on was owned by the Robinsons which was later known as the garage shop and was owned by the Pringles Ned, Jack and Mary they lived in the house adjoining. The shop was very upmarket and had some beautiful outfits. Once a year they had a sale and although I didn't see it I believe people were waiting long before opening time.

Opposite was a sweet shop owned by Miss Armstrong she also kept kitchen crockery and china tea sets I still have one given to me by mother in law.

The building had a big fire and the shop was gone Miss Armstrong died shortly after.

Yet another shop plus bakery owned by John Mole. Then one more shop selling all sorts of things plus having a Post Office this was owned by the Miss Starks Meg and Winnie.

Back across the street was the War Memorial and a small shop owned by McCall and Paterson.

The farm cottages have not changed over the years or the farmhouse.

The Catholic Church had a house adjoining where the catholic father lived it also had a hall with a flat above. The Parish church John the Baptist has had one or two improvements and that is where Tommy and I got married over sixty years ago.

Western House, The Vicarage and the Black Bull brought an end to the village. I almost forgot the Hermitage we got a lot of nuns staying especially in the summer.

On the road to Barmoor a joiner had a workshop at Ham Hall at Barmoor corner we had the plymouth Brethren.

Barmoor Home farm was occupied by Reavleys. The Dower house was next to the farm steading and to the left of that was the gate to the church walk up to the castle.

My first visit to the castle was quite an experience as I was friendly with the chauffeurs eldest daughter the Firwells were in residence. They were a family of three Bill, Simon and Ann. They had servants that lived in they also had a gardener who kept the gardens and greenhouses in wonderful condition. It would appear they were quite well to do at the time.

I must not forget Northfield as Connie and I spent a lot of time at Tommy's cousins. Eventually Tommy the boys (Colin and Trevor) and I lived at Northfield for over 30 years. Tommy was gardener they were very happy years.

When Bev first printed this out for me I realised that was only the first few years. The war years changed lots of things, young people from the area had to leave for war work. The members of the Territorials were called up straight away and a lot of the village girls joined the forestry commission working in Kylee woods. The land army girls were working on farms and we had a lot of evacuees from the Newcastle area. The big houses like Barnoor Castle The Dower House and the Marnie were occupied by the soldiers. Nissen huts appeared in spare ground and were occupied by the army. In this area we did not have to worry about air raids but we could hear the German bombers going over to Glasgow. They had a decided drone. On the return journey they off loaded two bombs, one at Barnoor South Moor and one near Well Close. The committee organised to raise money during the war for salute the soldier wings for victory then carried on to raise money for the village hall. The old school was bought from the church. Next came raising money to have the building refurbished. It was the best hall in the North at the time dances were held every week sometimes twice a week. The football club organised a festival week. We had army cadets trained by my dad. Air cadets and youth club. A British Legion, a very large Women's Institute. Leek shows and a yearly industrial and Horticultural show. The Bowling Club and Over Sixties Club are the only things still going today. A group of ladies had a busy time helping out at various functions. Not a lot has changed over the last few years. Houses have had a face lift and many bungalows have been built. The Village hall has at last received money from the lottery and we look forward to it been refurbished. The school has had lots of improvements and a pensioners lunch is now served twice a week. We now have one shop and a mobile Post Office. This is one of the governments big mistakes. I hope you can follow this I have had some very happy days at Lowick and now happy memories.