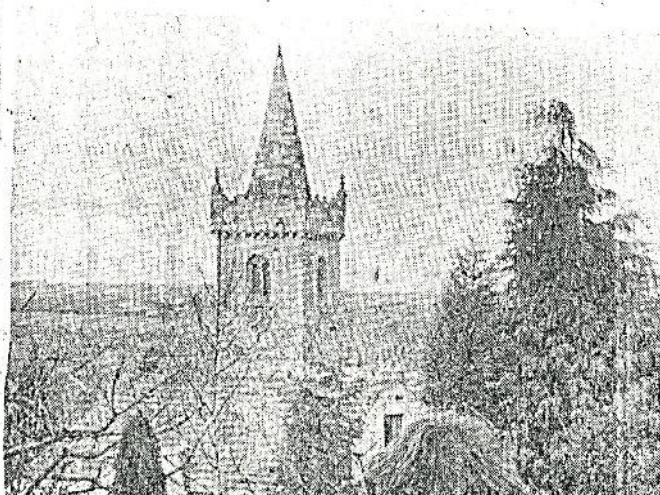


News

'It's changing for the worse



● JAN Nicholls and daughter Rachel, 3, — Living in Bramham is great. (W4226)



FOR the people who have lived in Bramham all their lives, and those who have recently come, the need to preserve a village atmosphere is paramount.

To the dismay of 60-year-old May Booth and her brother Alan, 58, who run the village Post Office, the face of Bramham is changing, and not for the better.

At the foot of Town Hill there has been a Post Office for nearly 100 years — but not for much longer.

May explained: "This Post Office has been run by our family for much of that time. Post Office work is changing. The amount of business we do doesn't warrant us staying on."

"Village life is changing and so is the character of Bramham. I'm a conservative sort of person, and I think it's changing for the worse."

She went on: "I don't like it. They are taking every bit of land and turning it into houses. Even gardens are being used for new developments."

For other residents of the village, life here is viewed very differently. For Jan Nicholls, a nurse, and her husband John, the local GP, living in this tranquil spot could not be better.

Now both in their thirties, they met while doing their training in Leeds, and eventually moved to Carlisle, Cumbria.

Jan explained: "Ten years ago we both felt we wanted to move back to Yorkshire. We came to Bramham and decided we didn't want to live anywhere else, so we stayed".

Husband, John, practises in Tadcaster and

BRAMHAM is a sleepy little village a stone's throw from the Great Road on which traffic thunders every day.

Residents of this have the pace of modern life and the benefits of living in a rural area yet they are just 15 minutes drive from the facilities a large town offers.

Reporter John Henry and photographer Ronnie Kershaw went to see what life is like in this quiet village.

Victoria House

Great choice
Great offer
Great value

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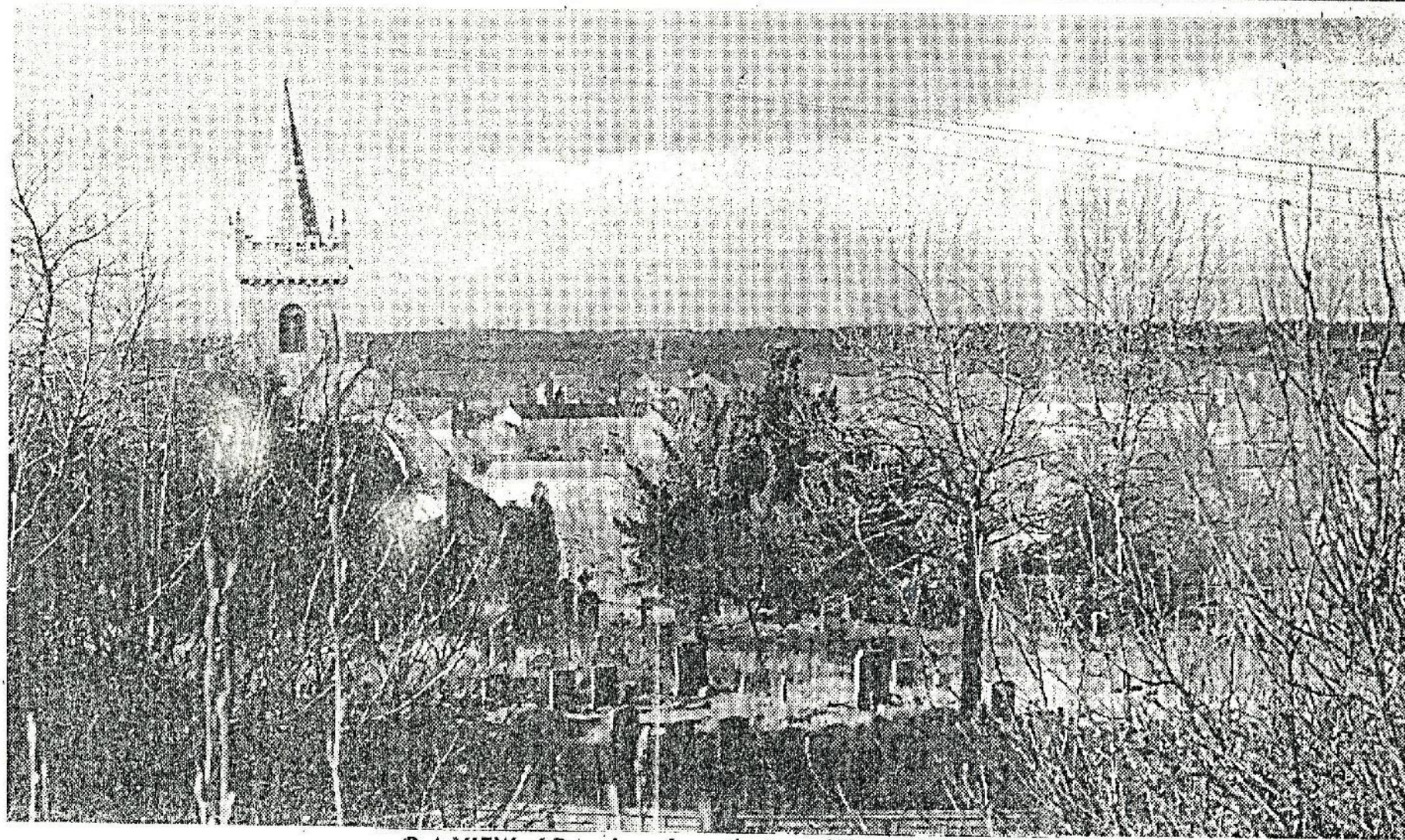
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SAVE

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● A VIEW of Bramham from the top of Town Hill. (W4226)

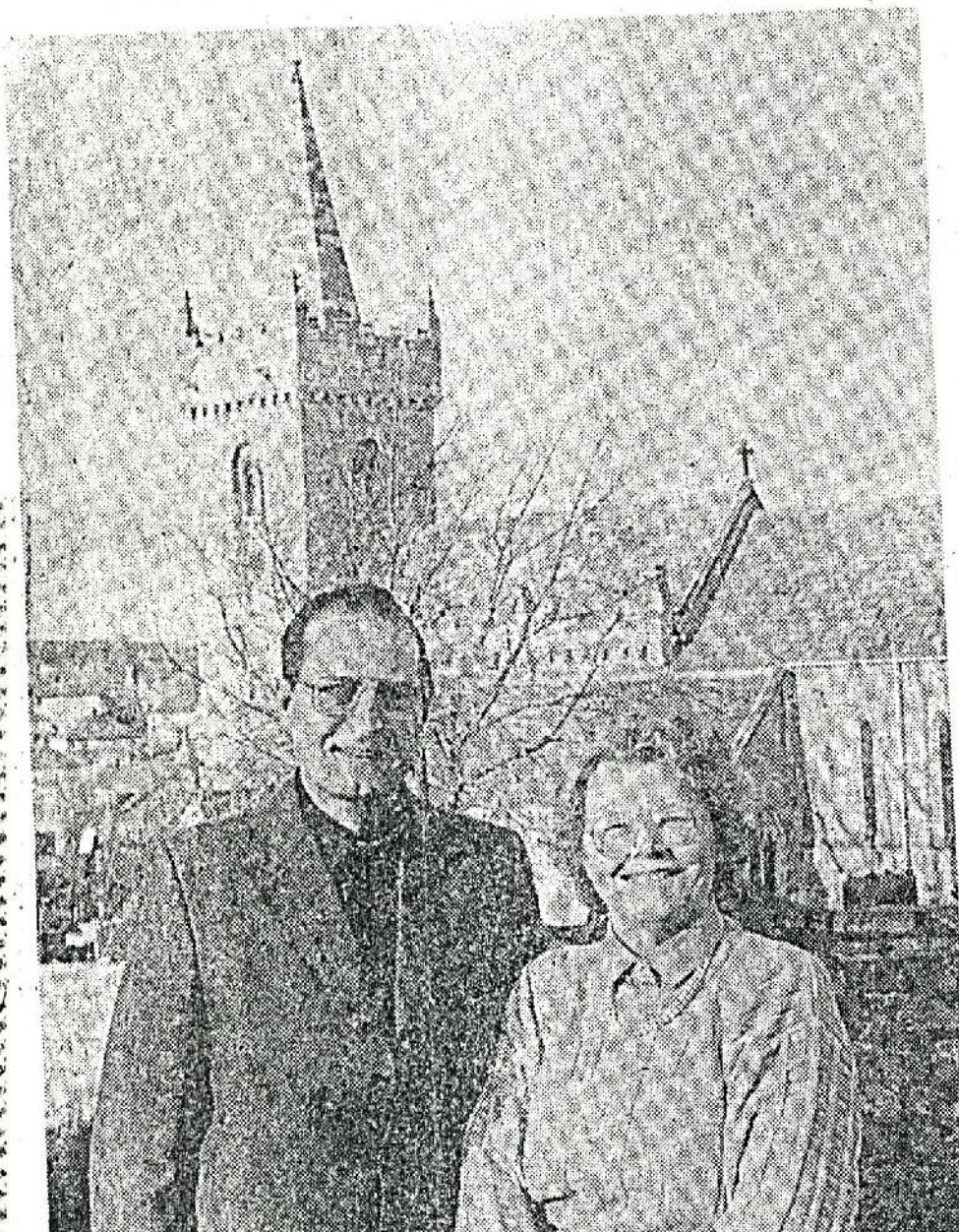
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● EVE Ellis who moved to the village six months ago. (W4226)



anywhere else, so we stayed".

Husband, John, practises in Tadcaster and has just opened a surgery in the village.

Speaking of life in the village, Mrs Nicholls continued: "We have a great social life here. A few of us get together once a week and play badminton. Afterwards we go for a drink. As one of the relative newcomers, I think it's great".

She added: "Recently a lot of new buildings have gone up. Bramham has exploded considerably."

Their three children are well catered for in the village. Eight-year-old Katie and Laura, 7, both go to Bramham Junior and Infants school. Three-year-old Rachel attends the playschool.

Just down the road Mrs Eve Ellis, 41, and her 43-year-old husband, Andrew, a chartered accountant, have been residents of Bramham for only six months.

Before coming to Bramham they lived in Alwoodley, Leeds, and Eve said: "We wanted to live in the rural atmosphere of a village. Out here we can go walking and the people are more friendly." She continued: "This is a true village community. We met more people here in six months than in 13 years in Alwoodley".

The Vicar of Bramham, the Rev Derek Shaw, has views on the shifting patterns of life-style he has seen over a quarter of a century.

He commented: "New people have moved in, but not in quantities great enough to spoil typical village life. I'm sad that some of the shops are closing. But among the people there is a tremendous amount of goodwill for the Church."

All Saints' Church has stood on the same site for more than 1,000 years and was recently designated as a building of architectural and historical interest.

Mr Shaw added: "Bramham hasn't lost the ethos of a village. There is a lot of integration between the villagers of old and the new people".

He said that although