

MENSTON 2025 HERITAGE GROUP

Eric Busby, John Busby and the Goosewell Gallery

Eric Busby was a director of the former Busby's department store in Bradford and a Menston resident. The store was taken over in 1958 and on retirement he founded the Lane Gallery in Bradford with the aim of showing the work of, and encouraging, young professional artists (such as David Hockney) in showing their work.

In 1967 he extended this work nearer home and built a new gallery adjacent to his home, Well House, called the Goosewell Gallery with the same intentions. Well House is the oldest cottage in Menston and Eric Busby renovated and restored the building. He was also the saviour of White Wells, the old hydropathic baths on the edge of Ilkley Moor.

In the first four years, nearly 2000 works by professional artists were shown here, including those by his son **John Busby**. John was a painter of nature - birds in particular. He went to art school in Leeds, then to Edinburgh College of Art where he eventually taught for over thirty years.

He became nationally recognised in the portrayal of wildlife, a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists and examined students in this genre at The Royal College of Art as well as at other institutions.

For a few years early on, whilst deciding which direction to take he used Farfield Friends Meeting House in Addingham as a studio where the photo below was taken.

