

## 3 HIGH STREET



MARY COLBORNE

Map Reference D3

Joan Phillimore and I moved into Damerham from London in 1947. We were both dressmakers before the war but having spent four years in the land army during the war we felt with our love for the country and



the fact that we had a trade we thought we could make a go of it. We found a little cottage in the High Street, so with £15 and a sewing machine to our name, we soon got known and

had customers not only in Damerham but Martin and Fordingbridge. We joined the Baptist Church and were soon made to feel at home. When Joan married George Phillimore in 1952 it was a bit lonely working on my own all day, so I applied to be a Post Office Telephonist at Salisbury and left after 8 years to marry Charlie Colbourne. Some months later a vacancy arose to be Postwoman in the village, as the previous Postwoman Barbara Hooper, left to have a baby.

Joss Tiller, the senior Postmaster asked me if I would like to apply for the job. It only amounted to 3 1/2 hours a day, so after a little thought, I applied, got the job and stayed on for 15 years retiring at 60, my husband having died the year before.

Since then I have been active at the Baptist Church, tried to do a bit of gardening, socialising and generally keeping busy is the key to a happy retirement. I couldn't have lived & retired in a nicer place than Damerham.

This house is one of a block of four semi-detached houses built on the plot of two houses that were demolished. These previously had been the houses of my husband's father and mother & family and of Mr Andy Edwards and his family.

Things were more leisurely when we came to Damerham in 1947 not many cars, no piped water until 1948, toilet up the garden, most trades people came to the door, the baker called three times a week, Herbie Nicklen used to come round once a week to collect orders and deliver groceries, the butcher came on Friday, and the man with paraffin and anything in that line on a Monday. Happy days!

## 4 HIGH STREET



DEREK & CATRINA HALL

Map Reference D4

Derek Hall, retired. Lived in village 36 years, motor car and cycle racing. Reason for living in the village - I married a local person. Our pets are dogs.

Katrina Hall. Home carer, have lived in the village all my life. My hobbies are dog showing, line dancing, and painting. I was born in the village.

The house we live in was built in 1968/69. No history. When we first married, we lived at No. 3 West Park Drive. I moved from Rockbourne. Katrina was born when her parents were living at Royal Cottage, South End, then the whole family moved to West Park Lane. Her mother and brother still live there. The house we live in is perfect for our needs.

Our view on village life is that 90% of it has gone. Nothing left for the younger generation to do, such as youth club, discos, games or sport. No shops as such, also property prices are out of reach of the younger generation including my son and daughter, who now live in Fordingbridge and Alderholt. And now we have lost our bus service.

## ASHBOURNE HOUSE



EDDIE & ROBIN ROBINS

Map Reference D4

We are Eddie and Robin Robbins, and Robin's 92 year old Mum, Doris Slann. We're all retired, and are all widely differing personalities, with varied interests. Doris is a demon knitter. Eddie enjoys making things in wood, especially if there's a problem to be solved. Robin's a gardening fanatic and allotment bore, with a special interest in natural history - particularly in entomology. We all love the countryside round here - and life couldn't be more different to our old one in central London.



Ashbourne House was built in the 1950's, and was then called Sunnydene. Since then, it's been altered quite a lot, with an extension added. We didn't really want a modern house, but if we had to have one, this is it! We thoroughly enjoy our home, and as we open the

curtains every day, we rejoice in our luck! We understand that the house was built on the garden of "Holmleigh", so the two brothers would live next door to each other. That's why our plot is so narrow. The house wasn't even on the market when we offered for it!

We've lived in Damerham only since 1997. We'd often thought of retiring to the New Forest, an area which we have long loved, & where Robin's family tree begins. She is descended from the charcoal burner who took the body of William Rufus to Winchester. When our daughter & her husband moved to Fordingbridge, we started house hunting in the district. Strange, but from thinking that St. George's church looked interesting to explore, it seemed that all our roads came back to Damerham.

The village people - "real villagers" and "incomers" alike, have been very kind, & have made us feel really welcome, including us in all the "happenings" round here. We know & regret that we cannot ever be part of Damerham's rich past, but we feel privileged to hope that we can be involved in its future. We feel as if our move here was "meant".

Thank you very much, dear Damerham!

## CRIFFEL



NELSON BUSH

Map Reference D5

Nelson Bush was born in 1912. His father came from Martin and his mother from Rockbourne when they were married about the turn of the century and they lived at Mill End until he was 12 when the family moved to The Limes in High Street (next door to Criffel). Nelson lived there until he was married in



1937 when he and his wife moved to Fordingbridge for a couple of years until the war when they went to Trowbridge where Nelson worked in the Spitfire factory. After the war they returned to Damerham and lived with Nelson's mother (his father was killed during the war in a road accident). Nelson started in

business as a builder following his father. He did this for 15 years and then finished his working life at Rollalong, retiring in 1965. Nelson's wife who was well-known as an active member of the village community died in 1962, a year before Criffel was completed. Their daughter, Irene, was born in 1939 and trained as a nurse.

He owned 22 motorbikes over the years, the first a Raleigh from Mr Rogers at the shop which cost £15 (he remembered going to Bognor on it to join the village coach trip) and the last a Honda 50. He also had about 12 cars. Nelson Bush built the bungalow himself, starting in early 1960's and finishing in 1965, using bricks from Bustard Farm at East Martin. He moved in in 1963. He added an extension in about 1980.

The children never wore shoes in summer and would all troop out of school to watch an aeroplane go over. The roads were not made up and tarmac came about 1927. The Limes had only an earth closet until the Blanks moved in. Nearly all the houses were owned by the big estate at West Park and almost everyone worked in the village. His mother used to go to Salisbury about once a month on the horse-drawn wagon. The driver would pick up shopping lists on the way and then leave the goods on the return journey. Nelson did not go to Salisbury until the buses came (not sure when this was but probably about 1927).

Note added by Paul Toynton

Nelson Bush lived at Mill End until he was 11. Then in The Limes until he was married, when he moved to Fordingbridge. During the war he worked in Trowbridge. After then he moved

back to The Limes for a couple of years and then to a house in West Park Lane followed by a bungalow there.

He built Criffel in 1964, using materials from various places - the bricks from the demolished part of Bustard Farmhouse in East Martin. He added an extension in about 1985.

## CROSSWAYS HOUSE



TIM AND LUCINDA BOLTON CARTER

Map Reference E5

Tim and Lucinda Bolton Carter moved to the village in 1995. Originally from Leicestershire and Kent, they had been living and working in London. Tim is a director of a firm of stockbrokers and runs an office in Winchester, 40 minutes drive away. They have two daughters at the village school, Georgina (7) and Lotte (5). Their third daughter, Poppy, has just been born at Odstock and they have a German au-pair living with them and a cocker spaniel.

Crossways House was probably built in the late 1860's and extended at the turn of the century. An additional extension has been built in 1999 (by Malcolm Parker of Damerham). Originally built for the Eyre Coote's Estate Agent it has had several owners. Nancy Burke, of Willow Cottage, lived here with her father, Colonel

Burke and family. Another Army Colonel had lived there before them, with three daughters, as we have now. More recently it was the home of Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, land agent from Salisbury, a bachelor. The current garden is one quarter of its original size, the remainder having been built on. The cottage on the east was used as a garage by previous occupants, and the end cottage to the north was also owned by the previous owner.

