

## GLENCAIRN



DAVID TILLER

Map Reference C3



Nothing remarkable, just a small cottage modernised in the late 1960s. Around the turn of this century (1900) the original thatch roof was covered with the then modern material, corrugated steel sheets. This may seem strange now but was common practice at the time, thatch being expensive and money short. At the time of writing the cottage is let as holiday accommodation.

The Tiller family has served the local community as carpenters, wheelwrights, undertakers, decorators etc. for many generations and we still carry on our small business from our premises at Glencairn. Although we do not occupy the house at present or live in the village, we very much consider ourselves part of the village community.

## HAZELWOOD



BRIAN & ROS JONES

Map Reference C4



The house had been altered and renovated before we arrived: the front windows and roof-line are different from those in an old photograph which also shows the house

We are Brian Jones, born in London in July 1951; Rosamund Wood, born in Kent, also in July 1951; married in Dallinghoo, Suffolk, in August 1973; Clemency, born Odstock Hospital, June 1980; Frederick, born Odstock Hospital, June 1982. We moved here in July 1975 when Brian got a job with Dorset Social Services. It was our first real home after two years in student accommodation in Cardiff. We liked the house as soon as we saw it. We were staying at Sandy Balls at the time and old Mrs. Westlake gently corrected our pronunciation of Damerham (we thought it was Dame-er-ham).

covered in Ivy. When our children were born we added a kitchen and bedroom extension (1982).

The garden rises steeply at the back and as a result our septic tank provides interest and entertainment when the electric pump fails. One Christmas morning Ros arrived home from ringing the church bells to find Brian and our wonderful neighbours the Clampits unclogging the drains in a miasma of sewage.

On the first evening we moved in, Mr. John Leakey came over from the house opposite to welcome us. He looked around the empty room and asked when our furniture would be arriving, and when he heard we hadn't got any he went back home and fetched us a table and chairs, and Mrs. Leakey gave us cuttings for the garden.

We had been warned about traffic noise by the previous occupants - all those horses and tractors going by - but after Cardiff city centre it was idyllic. We liked watching the Hunt pass, or the sheep being driven up to be shorn: the whole road (including our front garden) became a river of bobbing backs.

Clem and Fred, now teenagers not quite so keen on living in a small village as their parents are, attended the village playgroup and school and then the Burgate School. At the turn of the year 2000, Clem is in her second year at Keble College, and Fred is in his A-level year at the Burgate Sixth Form Centre.

## IDE COTTAGE



IAN & SUE PARDY

Map Reference D4



This is a 3 bedroomed semi-detached house with a very long garden. We are trying to modernise our home without taking away any of it's character.

This village is a lovely village to bring children up in and the school is a very happy and well run.

Sue says: My family on my father's side all come from Damerham. My grandparents lived in Southend before retiring to West Park Lane and I still have lots of family here.

We are Ian and Sue Pardy, we have 2 children Jessica and Alexander. We have lived at this house since 1987 and Sue's great aunt owned the cottage before us. We enjoy family life and we enjoy our lovely big garden with the river at the bottom.

## MEADOW VIEW



RONALD & PEGGY REED

Map Reference D4

We are Ronald and Peggy Reed, very OAP's, who moved here in 1980 from Scotland, where work for Ronald had involved teaching chemistry in a small boarding school after a long period with Fisons in Leicestershire. House hunting at such a distance was difficult and brief, but a "For Sale" board at Meadow View brought us here, and we have had no regrets. Within 2 years our two daughters were married in St. George's Church, one to a Jersey man, and one to a Canadian, so we have no local links, but a happy setting for grandchildren's visits. Then the garden comes into its own.

The house was built in 1953 by Mr. Combes, who acquired the land when invalided out of the Army during the war. He originally ran a cycle shop in a hut here. The house was built as a bungalow, and had a room built into the roof and a conservatory added at the back, about 20 years ago. It has suited our needs very well, and in the summer the very large garden gives us a lovely sense of space and privacy.

# MERIDAN COTTAGE



PHILIPPA & CHRIS STOTT

Map Reference C4

We, Philippa, Chris and Cameron Stott, moved to Meridan Cottage in November 1998. Originally from South Wiltshire we've spent the last eight years (all our married life) living and working in London. We chose to leave London following the birth of our son Cameron. Chris now works in Ferndown where he is the General Manager of a lift company. I am currently fully employed looking after our son but hope, in due course, to recommence my career as an Occupational Therapist - hopefully in one of our local hospitals.

We both enjoy dinghy sailing, skiing and play some tennis when we get the chance. Chris is a keen fisherman, lapsed cricketer and a reformed chess addict. We both generally like to keep fit and active and are very motivated to make the most of the countryside around us - once we finish decorating this cottage! We chose to live in Damerham because of its location and because we have long had an affection for the village. We hope and think that it will be a good place to bring up a family.

As far as we have so far been able to establish our cottage dates back to the early eighteenth century. We have not as yet been able to establish how the cottage got its name. We believe that until relatively recently Meridan Cottage was two dwellings. Much to Chris's delight we understand that the northern end of the Cottage actually used to be an ale house and was at one time frequented by the artist Augustus John. Despite some reasonably substantial recent alterations Meridan Cottage has retained a charm and gained an element of practicality in to the bargain that very much suits our purposes. We do plan to carry out



quite a bit of work on and around the cottage over the next few years - mostly just cosmetic though. Improving the parking to the rear of the cottage is certainly going to have to be one of the next projects we get underway.

We first visited Damerham together back in the early 1980's. As college students in the same

history class (we both cringe at that revelation and ask posterity not to draw childhood sweet heart conclusions from it) we were fortunate to have one Gordon Baverstock as our tutor. As our final term drew to a close Gordon threw a party at his home - Rhodes Cottage - for all his students and he and his lovely family royally fed and entertained us all. It was that evening that first put Damerham on the map for us. The loss of Gordon Baverstock in a road accident just a few months after that gathering was a terrible tragedy.

Having made the decision to leave London, Damerham and the surrounding villages became our front runner as a place to live. Meridan Cottage was put on the market more or less on the day we started out our search. The rest, as they say, is history. Having now been in Damerham for approaching five months we find it to be the peaceful, charming, character-filled community we had hoped it to be. We look forward to life here and hope that the future is kind to us all.

# NORTH END HOUSE



RICHARD & ROSANNA GUROWSKI

Map Reference B3

Richard and I were very lucky in 1969 when his work for watercress growers brought us from London to Damerham. Our

elder daughter, Iona was two years old when we moved. Anya was born here in 1970. Richard knew this area well, having lived nearby during the 2nd World War. His father was killed at Dunkirk helping to evacuate the British Expeditionary Force, 1940. In London I used to restore porcelain for collectors, auction houses and private clients. This continued in Damerham, as well as horse breeding, riding, gardening, sewing, dog-training and helping with Wilton Group Riding for the disabled. Our Pug and Doberman dogs came with us, and soon acquired several cats. Richard became a beekeeper with assistance from Mr. Kenchington, the local expert.



North End House is an early Georgian farmhouse of immense character. It has some very old additions, some new, and a walled garden; the walls built by French prisoners of the Napoleonic Wars. The stables have been put to various uses. About 100 years ago, Lady Frankfurt housed her carriage and pair of driving horses. Farmer Lush kept chickens and

his cows' names are still written on the beams of the `dairy`. More recently there were pigs and we put it back to stables. Hard work breaking up concrete! We made the stable partitions from lengths of gas piping I bought when developers demolished Salisbury Workhouse, about 1974.

Dr. and Mrs. Brown lived at North End House from 1929 - 1959. They then moved to Colt Green, Damerham. As soon as we first met, Dr. Brown asked "had we seen the ghost about the house? She was very friendly!" We never have!

I read in the Gate magazine, years ago nearly opposite North End House was the largest elm tree grown in Damerham. Its roots formed steps to the top of the high bank and the children living in the High street made it one of their places to play. Sadly, elm disease in the 70s removed all familiar specimens from the village. The Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977 were a wonderful Damerham occasion, young and old joined in a memorable day. I hope very much that Damerham families who have been here for several generations will continue to live here for years to come.

## THE COTTAGE, NORTH END HOUSE



ANYA GUROWSKA

Map Reference B2

I was born and brought up in Damerham. I went to Mrs. Davenports primary school in Fordingbridge. I have now taken on my fathers painting and decorating business and work in the local area.

My cottage is an extension of the stables and was converted from the old coach houses in 1974.

Damerham has always been home to me and I am very fond of it. I have many happy memories of fetes and parties in the hall, and the Silver Jubilee; my father pulled my sister and I along in the muck cart dressed as The Owl and the Pussycat!

Reg Bailey and his son, Neville, spent a lot of time here collecting manure. I used to enjoy visiting Stan and Ken Woodvine, at Channel Hill Farm, in their dairy on the corner. My horse, Naphish, was born at North End House in 1975 and we have had years of fun together hunting and showing. He is now retired with his older brother!

Damerham is the only village in the four parishes with a running stream. The Allen

River is full of life and, recently, I have been seeing little egrets on it. I think we are very spoilt with so many lovely walks on the outskirts of the village.

## NORTHOVERS



ANDREW & SHARON MERCER

Map Reference C3

The `Mercer` household consists of Andrew, Sharon, Emma and Alana. Andrew is a partner with a local firm of solicitors, Sharon a Bank Manager, and currently on a career break, Emma is 9 and attends the Village School, and Alana has just had her first birthday. We moved to



Damerham from Salisbury on the 12.5.99, choosing our property for its location, being equidistant from both our places of work, village reputation for community spirit and general "feel good factor". In our spare time we all enjoy walking with the family dog Bertie (most handsome dog in Damerham winner). Andrew enjoys swimming, Sharon running, and Emma`s passion is horse riding. For now, Alana is quite happy to play with Pooh Bear.

We believe our house dates back to 1710,originally two thatched cottages, and at some point converted into one. It was substantially altered and extended in the early 1970s. We hope to make several changes over the next year, such as modernising the kitchen and bathrooms whilst retaining its original character. The garden is beautiful and is what initially sold the house to us. We hope to add a small vegetable plot, but otherwise maintain the plot as we found it.

Our hope is that we have found our family home in "Northovers". To us a sense of belonging is important, and with time we hope that we will be able to make our own contribution to village life. The village benefits from the diversity of its population - in age and social background, from those that work on the land to that that commute to the cities. This brings to the village a wealth of knowledge and experience. Allowing our children to gain experience from this is extremely important to their social development. Although in a sense cocooned, it should provide them with the resources they could need as they enter adulthood in the 21st Century.

## NORTHOVERS



PEGGY BAILEY AND THE LATE  
DENIS BAILEY

Map Reference C3

Previous Residents

We moved here from Warwickshire in November, 1972. At that time our youngest son lived with us. Our family consists of 2 sons, 3 daughters. We have 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Our middle son died of cancer in 1994. My husband served in the army from 1939-1945. I worked as a physiotherapist until our eldest son was born in 1964. We had been married for 56 years when my husband died in July, 1998.

These cottages were built circa 1711, as a beam with that date cut into it was found in the roof when it was modernised. Prior to us moving in, Reg and Emily Bailey lived here, and I believe Reg`s parents lived here previously. The window looking out on the High Street is known as Piety`s window because Reg`s mother used to sit there and watch the goings-on in the Village!