

32 WEST PARK LANE



SARAH MAY GRAY

Map Reference E3

Sarah Gray can remember how Damerham was 71 years ago when she got married



and came to live at "Hill Top" South End. No Electric or water services then, the water was drawn from the well at the end of the garden, but when it went dry in the summer one had to fetch it from the "Spring" at Common Lane. She also remembers West Park Lane before any houses were built, it was then called Love Lane. One other thing she recalls is having a

tooth removed and had to go on the train from Fordingbridge to Salisbury. The treatment was free but she had to pay "one shilling" for the gas.

33 WEST PARK LANE



BASIL & VIRGINIA CARTER

Map Reference E3

Basil and Virginia Carter, with son Alan, came to live at East End Cottage, Damerham in 1963. It was then a tied cottage



built of chalk and flint with no heating or indoor facilities and it was there in 1967 that our second son Ian was born. All this time we were on the council housing list and finally on

the 21/02/72 on the completion of 33 West Park Lane we were given the key of the door.

The adjacent bungalows were still being built, so as yet no green, or pathway to the door. That year we had our goodly share of rain, snow and frost and so all our worldly goods had to be carried from the road through a quagmire of mud and water. Once inside we turned the water mains on to fountains of water from the radiators and of course someone had to pull the chain in the bathroom which flooded the kitchen ceiling, someone had forgotten to connect the pipes. The miners were on strike at the time so one had to be economical with the coal and pile on extra woollies to keep warm. In spite of this we loved 33 and just knew it was the best house in the village. The catkins on the river bank at the bottom of the garden heralded spring and there, where the old hatch had washed out a pool, the heron would come each morning for his breakfast of trout and the kingfisher would bring it's young to swing on my clothes line. It was in this river that Alan caught his first fish, it was a beauty. I could not bear to see it gasping for breath and rushed off to put it back in the river, poor Alan still hasn't forgiven me. In the summer there were dragon flies of beautiful gossamer blue, nettles would be stripped by horrible black caterpillars, by the autumn the garden was full of Red Admiral and Peacock butterflies. You could hear the coots and moorhens chucking away and a mallard laid its egg in our garden, it was fun to quietly sit and watch the water voles. The boys used to get excited when the otter hounds met at the bridge, now in the spring we meet to chase plastic ducks down the stream. In the

corner of the recreation ground were swings (many happy moments spent there) then down to the shallow part of the stream to look for shrimps and other creepy crawlies, having paddled across to the other side it was a walk beside the stream to church bridge. Trying to name the many flowers that grew there, most of which are not seen today such as orchids. I cleaned the church for some twenty nine years and the view from the hill was fascinating, the meadows changing with the seasons, sometimes white with cuckoo flowers, pink with campion then yellow with king cups or iris and of course white with snow. The winter of 1967 when Ian was a baby, the snow was too deep to take a pram out, so wrapped in a blanket and a hot water bottle away we went, I laid him in the font while I got on with the cleaning. Can he now claim to be the only person to have slept there I wonder. When older he and many of the other village children would take jam jars to collect frog spawn at the little bridge by the school, the jars would sit on the window sills at the school until the tadpoles hatched then they were returned to the stream. On Mayday the boys and girls would dance around the maypole, then a repeat performance at the Fordingbridge Show.

I can also remember the year the boys won the junior football tournament . School holidays were spent camping or dirt tracking on bikes in the little woods behind Crossways or tickling trout in the river. Parents got together to run a very good youth club in the village hall and November 5th (Bonfire night) was anticipated with great excitement when Mr. Jerrard allowed us to use his field for the bonfire and fireworks, there were no barbecues but Mums

and Dads kept the food supply going by cooking goodies at home then running along the road with them before they cooled down, it was all good fun. By the time Alan and Ian had grown into young men the old village cottages had been modified and were sold at inflated prices and council houses were only let to people with children. Young married couples had to get mortgages and move to new estates such as were built at Alderholt. And now in the nineties when my grandsons have come to stay and we take our bag of bread to feed the ducks there seems little else to do but play Pooh sticks as the river life is almost dead. And now in 1999 I dream that in the new century God the father and Mother nature be allowed to repair the damage that has been done and that my great grandchildren will enjoy the life at number 33 beside the river Allen.

34 WEST PARK LANE



DELPHINE & DANIEL LIGHT

Map Reference E3



35 WEST PARK LANE



MOLLY & DEREK WADSWORTH

Map Reference E3

Both retired. Derek from a lifetime in commercial horticulture; restoring gardens, large and small, and lecturing. Molly from bringing up a family, working on a specialist nursery, part-time, and as a professional flower arranger, mainly in London.



This house was built in the 1970s on land belonging to the Radnor Estate. This is the 8th house we have lived in and suits us very well. It's easy to maintain, big enough for two, and we've installed central heating. It's a big improvement on some of the "tied cottages" we've lived in, including the Bothy at Longford Castle. We have a small garden, and Derek now has an allotment in the village.

As new residents, who arrived here, purely by chance, we like living in this village. It is rural without being remote. There are plenty of activities for everyone except the teenagers. They need somewhere to meet where they can make a mess and a noise without disturbing other residents. The younger children need a proper play area.

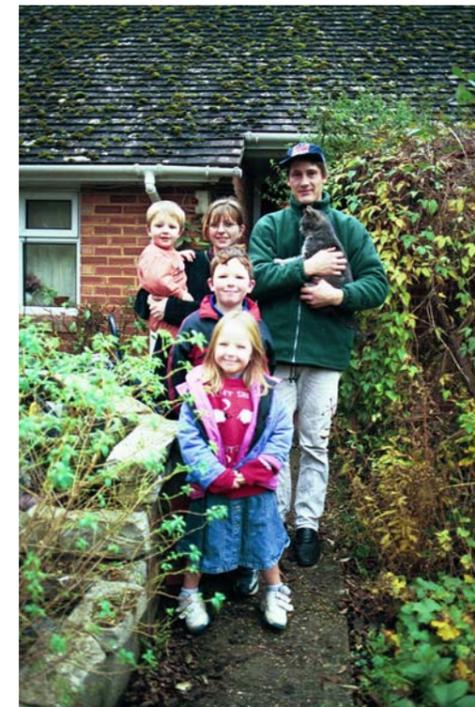
36 WEST PARK LANE



TERENCE & JULIE HOOPER

Map Reference E3

Terence Hooper, Julie Hooper, Nathan Randle, Jacquelynn Randle and Fox Hooper. Terry is a ground-worker for C.J. Lees who are based in Damerham. Julie is a homecare co-ordinator for the Dorset Trust.



Nathan currently goes to Western Downland C of E school at Rockbourne site. Jacquelynn goes to the Damerham site of the same school as she is 6. Fox is only 2 at present. Terry has

lived in the village for his whole life (31 years so far). Julie for 10 years after moving down from Kent with her family. We both enjoy gardening and walking. We have 3 adult cats and 1 kitten and keep Koi carp.

We live in a two bedroom bungalow, we believe it dates from the 1960s. We're not totally sure. We've lived here for 5 years. The bungalow is nice and has lovely gardens but we need a larger property; the bungalow is tiny.

In general village life is changing daily. When Mum was alive, Barbara Hooper, her house was a hive of activity - constantly full of wellwishers and people visiting generally. She was a well known and well liked person and had many friends popping in and out of the house. That sort of homely atmosphere between neighbours and friends seems to be diminishing as people move out of the village and new people move in.

37 WEST PARK LANE.

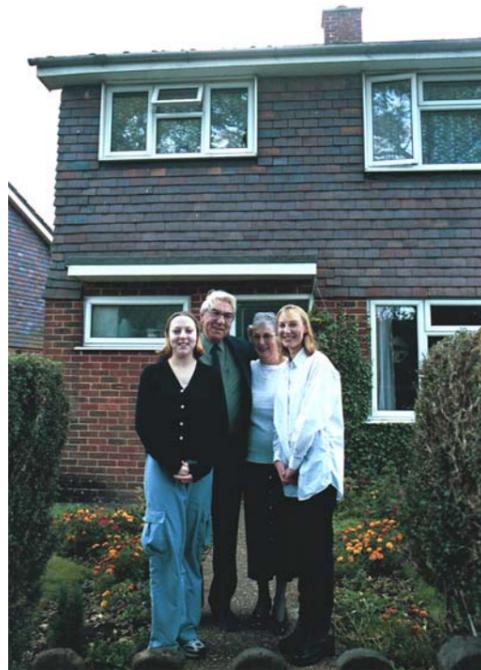


HELEN & NORMAN QUINNELL

Map Reference E3

Mr. and Mrs. Quinnell and daughters Julie Quinnell, Lisa Quinnell. Mr. Quinnell works for local council. Julie Quinnell works for Colour Care International.

Modern semi-detached house owned by New Forest Council.



40 WEST PARK LANE



ANTHONY & DELLA HENSTRIDGE

Map Reference E2

Mr Anthony Henstridge .Driving. My hobbies are Gardening.

Mrs Della Henstridge. Driving. My hobbies are sewing, cooking

Mr Anthony Mark Henstridge. Front Loader. My hobbies are going to Disco's and Driving.



Mr Martin Henstridge. Still at School, going to Sparsholt College in September. I like football.

Miss Megan Henstridge who is 1 year old.

We've lived in the village for 4 1/2 years. We have a rabbit and two birds.

As far as we know the house was built in the fifties. We have lived in many houses. The house is OK but needs work doing to it.

42 WEST PARK LANE



MOLLY & JACK BAVERSTOCK

Map Reference E2

Came to Damerham in 1931. Grandfather was the local bobby early 1900's. Police House at Martin moved to

Damerham on retirement. I came back in 1945 after serving in RAF, married Molly and lived at South End before moving to present house (2 bedroom council house) in West Park Lane in 1960.



At one time 4 shops, 2 bakeries and a Post Office, the Compasses closed on Sundays. Pre 1939 2 Blacksmith shops and several other crafts wheelwright, undertaker, carpenters & builders etc

And at Sharky the Cobbler a Sole & Heel was 1/6

On one occasion Cyril Hooper and I were lucky enough to see two salmon spawning in the shallows of the River Allen below Jimmy Lush's farm, near Back Lane Bridge. We watched fascinated as the hen salmon dug a hole in the gravel with her tail, laid her eggs and the male salmon fertilised them.

Billy Ings