

## THE LIMES



PAUL & MARY TOYNTON

Map Reference D5

**P**aul - I came here from Oxfordshire in 1978 to be warden of Martin Down National Nature Reserve. In 1993 I moved to work for the Ministry of Defence as Conservation Officer for the Salisbury Plain Training Area. Hobbies - wildlife, canoeing, gardening.

Mary - Schoolteacher - Special Needs Co-ordinator at Fordingbridge Junior School. Mary taught at Western Downland as a supply teacher over several years and also taught for 8 years at Hale Primary School. Hobbies - gardening, reading, keep-fit, walking.

Alec and Jill both went to Western Downland, Burgate and Brockenhurst College.

Alec - has studied horticulture at Pershore College. He has been walking in U.S.A. for 1 year and will be back in England in May this year.

Jill - Went to Nottingham Trent University and then did several jobs, particularly teaching in Poland for 2 years. She is now working as a Learning Support Assistant in Wimborne before going to Reading University in September to train as a Speech Therapist.

We have lived here for just over 20 years and have a cat and 3 geese. For many years we kept

sheep on the allotment behind our house and now have the geese and a vegetable area there.

The house was built by the "Tiller Girls" uncle for the Eyre Cote Estate. It was the home of Mr. Marsh the Estate carpenter and was very advanced for its time with a cavity wall and a damp proof course. Mr. Goodhall, the butler, was the next occupant and he was followed by the Bush family in 1924, when Nelson Bush was 11. Mrs. Bush stayed here until about 1964 - Nelson left in 1937, when he married and then returned after the war to live with his mother (his father was killed in a car accident during the war) for about 2 years. When Mrs. Bush left Terence Blank of the Game Conservancy and his wife and family lived



here for some years, followed by Percy Waterman. Then Mrs. Baverstock lived here when she was widowed until 1977. The house was empty for a while until we bought it in 1978. We added a kitchen, utility room and 2 bedrooms in 1979.

When we came here in 1978 "Rosie" Harper was acting head - she was at Ilfracombe Grammar with Paul. In about 1987 Hannah Baverstock reared a nestling rook which was called George. George learned to say a few words - mainly "Hello George" and became quite a nuisance, visiting the school playground for food and landing on the children's heads. He pulled the rope off the school bell and then disappeared after about a year. There were vague reports of him "last seen at Bouldsbury with a girlfriend". Before Woodmans Yard was built the children used to play on the grass there and there were glow-worms.

Wildlife comment- There have been a few big changes. Buzzards, which were very rare 20 years ago, are now quite numerous - we saw 12 over our garden one morning last year. Water voles which were seen quite regularly at Mill End have disappeared - a national trend and redshank have gone from Knoll Farm meadows. A variety of once common moths are no longer recorded in our garden and even maybugs seem to have declined sharply.

## THE OLD SMITHY



CHRISTOPHER & DIANA GREEN

Map Reference C3

**C**hristopher Green 42, Diana Green 39 and Daniel Green 7, moved to Damerham in 1993 from Chiswick in London. Christopher is

a chartered surveyor and valuer working in the New Forest, South Coast and Southampton area. Diana is a housewife and mother and Daniel attends the Western Downland village school. We are all keen outdoor people and spend our weekends gardening, wind surfing, walking or climbing.

The Old Smithy, together with the adjoining half timbered house Meridan Cottage were an Ale House and Smithy believed to date from around 1715. The house was thatched until the 1960's when Mitchell's Builders converted it and next door from three to two cottages. A small cloakroom was added in 1996. The cottage is within the village conservation area and is Grade II listed. In 1994 three women drove backwards through the end wall of the house and their car was badly damaged. The marks can still be seen on the house where it was repaired.



Since our arrival we have witnessed the building of the new village hall, the footbridge over the river and several houses changing hands.

## THREWAYS COTTAGE



JEFFERY & ELISABETH WINSTANLEY

Map Reference B2

**J**effery Thomas Winstanley, Elisabeth Anne K. Winstanley. We have lived in the village since retiring in 1983. We have four children and four grand children who do not live locally. Our hobbies are gardening, fishing and painting. Our pets are fox terriers.

The modern house was built in 1967 on the site of an old thatched cottage. The two bedroomed house was later added to and now has four bedrooms and a porch. The wagon shed was reduced in size when the present house was built. It was in a state of near collapse in 1983. It has now been restored, re-roofed and boarded - the original interior beams remain. The old wash house with its chimney is still on the site.

Damerham is a friendly and active village. The recently built village hall is a great asset to the area. The increases in traffic through the village of both cars and lorries detracts from the peace of the country-side.



## THE RED HOUSE



JOHN & LESLEY COOK

Map Reference D6

We are fortunate to live in a village that seems to have maintained a balanced profile of inhabitants. We are sure that this is a contributory factor to its friendly atmosphere. Although we work in Salisbury, we recognise the need to conserve village life, and to this end, Lesley has played a major role in re-establishing a toddler group in the village hall, providing an opportunity for children and parents to meet regularly.

**J**ohn Cook (34) Managing Director  
Lesley Cook (33) Company Secretary  
Bertie Cook (4)  
Emily Cook (1)

We moved to the area three years ago, to start a business in Salisbury.



The house is new compared to some in the village as it was built around 1977. As far as I am aware we are the third occupants in the house.

## WHITES COTTAGE



GORDON & JANET CLAMPIT

Map Reference C4

**M**r Gordon Clampit, Janet Clampit.  
No children.  
Extension to cottage in 1991.



## WILLOW COTTAGE



NANCY BURKE

Map Reference D5

**M**y family are now all deceased. My father, Colonel Hubert Francis Burke, DSO and the rare decoration Croix de Guerre avec Palm, Royal Artillery, retired, born 1880 died 1956 when living at Crossways. My brother, Patrick Hubert Charles Burke, born



1918 (14 months older than I am) BA Oxford, Lieutenant Royal Artillery, killed aged 22 in 1941 while serving with the army in the Middle East. My mother, Edith Jane Burke nee

Denton, born 1888; moved with me to Willow Cottage (then called 2 Coote Cottages) in 1961; died May 1978. I, Nancy Geraldine Burke born 1919 still live in Willow Cottage in retirement. Our family came to Damerham in September 1938, after 4 years at Rockbourne Manor House, where we went when my father was posted to Southern Command, Wilton. We intended staying at Crossways for 18 months until my father retired but the war intervened and we continued to rent first from West Park Estate and, after it had been sold, from the Radnor Estate. We all took part in the various village activities; whist drives, garden fetes, village shows; my father was a member of the British Legion, my mother became President of the WI and, in his holidays, my brother played

in the village cricket team. Throughout my earlier "comings-and-goings" studying music in Germany, 6 war years in the Army including a period at Station X, Bletchley Park in the hub



of Ultra decoding and afterwards going to London University, Damerham was always home for leaves and holidays. Later I lived permanently here while working for many years as adoption officer for Wiltshire County Council until retirement in 1981. I then travelled quite widely in Europe, to the Canadian Rockies and several times to stay with friends in Australia. While there I enjoyed surfing and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef; singing in a large choir for a performance of the Messiah in Sydney Opera House and being taken up in a light aircraft. Later from Old Sarum Flying Club I flew solo for the first time two days past my 78th birthday and now approaching 80 I still fly light aircraft; so it is never too late to learn something new!

The house is mainly mid 19th century, two storey, long narrow width, brick building with plain tile roof and dentilled eaves; end stacks and windows under a rendered arch. Mostly original handmade bricks with mortar, apart from left recessed end added in 1948/9; also large porch at rear. Front has unusual 9-panel door under flat hood porch painted black. All other paintwork cream, in keeping with the 19th. Century period, including the long wooden paling fence (once so characteristic of the village High Street). In 1987 the house was designated a Grade II listed building as "a rare survival of untouched mid 19th. Century with some architectural features". The 1 acre garden with end bordering the Allen river has, on the northern boundary, a now rare cob wall topped with old pantiles, which is specifically mentioned in the Dept. of Environment's record of Damerham conservation area. Earlier this century the cottage was divided into two; it

was then occupied by the Scammell family who planted a rose bush in the orchard, now believed to be approximately 80 years old. Cottage was part of the West Park Estate, then called 2 Coote Cottages, continuing so after the Estate was sold and the cottage purchased by Peter Woolley of Woolley and Wallis, Salisbury. He and his family lived here until 1960 when my mother and I purchased it and moved from Crossways (our piano was brought along the street on rollers). We then changed the name to Willow Cottage, in reference to the huge willow tree that then grew in the garden beside the river. On arrival here it became necessary to be connected to the mains. Extensive interior alterations were made to the older right end which suffered from rising damp; one good sized bedroom was made from two smaller ones, stairs extended, glass doors to garden inserted. Since 1961 it has remained in its present form, and with the garden visitors have commented on its pleasant, peaceful atmosphere. We have been happy here.

Damerham has always seemed a friendly village and there remains a special bond between those whose roots are here and have lived their lives here. They have provided the continuity between the "then" and "now" In "those days" people tended to remain in the village and much of the work was provided locally. West Park and its lands employed about 48 and, talking of them it seems it was mainly a happy time, hard work but enlivened with fun. Sir Eyre Coote was a good landlord, caring well for both the village - much of which belonged to the Estate - and its people. He frequently walked around the village with

his estate manager pointing out a gate to be repaired, a fence to be painted or a tree to be planted and the village was well maintained and for his workers the annual Christmas Party was an EVENT.

Entertainment was mostly provided within the village, whist drives, variety concerts, garden fetes etc. A memory of the summer Flower Show is of the parade of heavy horses with gleaming brasses and manes neatly plaited coming along the village street followed by all the children in fancy dress, everyone took part. It was fun. The way of village life has, inevitably, gradually changed. In the 1930s-40s most provisions were delivered, even by the local bus, which ran several times a day, costing 4d single and 6d return (2 1/2 p). Milk arrived with Mr. Pattle's white pony and small cart and milk was "dibbed" from the churn into one's jug. If further milk was required we would take our white enamel milk can to Manor Farm for a pint straight from the cow. Delicious.

In "those days" there was no need to lock any door - and sometimes my father would prop our front door open all night so our Springer spaniel could come in after he had finished roaming. Nowadays alas windows and doors need to be secured and some houses have burglar alarms. Another gradual change has been in the increase of traffic through the village; including a number of large heavy lorries, most cars disregarding the 30mph speed signs recently erected. This has, inevitably led to increased noise and Damerham is no longer the quiet peaceful rural village it once was. There are noticeably fewer birds now and no longer does the curlew call

over the one-time water meadows or the kingfisher flash along the river through the village. More houses were built within the village during the 1980's and 1990's and with more cars and a more mobile community there is more diversity in it.

Thankfully Damerham lies within a conservation area and those who love the village pray it may remain a village and not be engulfed by ever-increasing urbanisation. We still have a thriving school, an excellent 'new' village hall, a garage, a small Post Office & shop, a pub and a beautiful old Norman church, with its surrounding churchyard carpeted by snowdrops in early spring, standing witness of the continuity of this ancient village, mentioned in the original Domesday Book.

## WOODMANS YARD



PHILIP & ANGELA CRAMPTON

Map Reference D5

Philip and Angela Crampton moved here from Worcestershire in 1983, now both O.A.P.s, with one "resident" cat. Our son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren live and work in Worcestershire. Our daughter is abroad at work.

On this plot of land in the early part of the last century there was a farm and outbuildings-

tenanted by one James Scammell. His wife was buried in the churchyard in 1843. In all probability the farm buildings were destroyed in the Damerham fire. Eyre Coote of West Park owned the land which then became the site of his estate office and yard. The present house was built in 1983 and we moved in at Christmas that year as new arrivals to the village. This is the ninth house in which we have lived during our 40 years of marriage.

