

NUTSHELL COTTAGE



BARBARA & RICHARD LEWIS

Map Reference D4

Since moving to Damerham from Romsey in 1991, Barbara and Richard Lewis have spent several years working and living overseas, in Singapore, the United States and Australia, returning finally in 1998. Nutshell and its animals were cared for by their daughters, Rachel and Charlotte.

Currently Nutshell is occupied by Barbara and Richard, Tess the Labrador and Molly the black and white cat. In the summer they are joined by five families of house martins, a brood of starlings and numerous pond dwellers.

Both Nutshelites are keen gardeners and have made extensive additions to the established Bramley apple tree, which dominated the rear garden. More changes are planned.

They found Nutshell by accident; Barbara spotting the sale board as they drove from a property view in Martin to a pub lunch in the Compasses. They discovered much later that they had bought the property from the daughter of Richard's childhood dentist. Nutshell is a brick and slate cottage, which dates from 1866. Its varied history includes periods as a pair of two-up two-down cottages to the village

grocers. The name "Horsburgh - Grocers" painted on the front of the cottage still attracts the attention of passers-by.



It's traditional design of sturdy walls and small windows ensures that it is pleasantly cool on the hottest day and snug and cosy in the coldest weather. There's space enough to accommodate visitors, including grandson Harvey and his toys, but it still retains the original small cottage feel.

As newcomers to the village, Richard and Barbara are still learning about Damerham and would welcome any information about Nutshell, particularly about its period as a shop. The owner who restored the cottage in the early 70's gave them photocopies of pictures of the property but they would welcome the opportunity to buy any photographs of Nutshell taken before 1970.

While the village retains its friendly, uncrowded atmosphere, who would want to live anywhere else?

PARKHOUSE COTTAGE



TONY & ELLIE GREEN

Map Reference D4

Tony & Ellie Green moved to Damerham in Dec 77 from Portland. In March 1979 Simon was born followed in March 1980 by twin daughters Sophie and Lucy. A very chaotic household !!!!



When we purchased the house it had only 2 bedrooms and 1 sitting room, to save our sanity we extended to 3 bedrooms but more

importantly 2 sitting rooms so adults and children have some escape from each other. The house was formerly known as Giles Cottage apparently named by a man called Edgar Giles who was supposed to have won money on the football pools. Unfortunately the same luck did not pass to us.

We all love living in Damerham, in fact Simon, Sophie and Lucy were horrified when we once suggested moving, thinking they would like easier access to Salisbury. The three children went to the village playschool followed by Western Downland School where they were all very happy and still maintain very strong friendships from those earliest days.

Damerham is a very lively village and we all like to be in the thick of everything that is going on.

PARSONS MEADOW



SHIRLEY LARSEN

Map Reference D6

I moved to Parsons Meadow in 1986 when my husband died. I currently share the house with 2 cats and 4 dogs (2 Cavalier King Charles spaniels, an Italian Spinone and a Labrador puppy).

Past residents include 2 tortoises, lovebirds and parakeets.

Before I moved to Damerham I lived in Hale for over 23 years where my husband and I gradually converted and extended 2 farm cottages into a family home.

Parsons Meadow was built in 1977 by a local builder, together with 2 other houses in the grounds of the adjacent Crossways. The house, which I understand was built on the old tennis court, has since been extended to include a second living room and a conservatory.

I bought the house from the first owners, the Harrisons, together with the drive, which provides access to the other 2 houses.

There is a strong sense of community spirit in the village and activities for young and old alike.

PENNY BLACK



FOREST & ROSIE PAGET

Map Reference D4

There are four in the Paget family. Forest married to Rosie and two children (so far). Jack-Daniel, born January 1997 and Henry, born May 1999. Forest, from near Keynsham, studied engineering and later business. His work took him all over the World. Rosie, originally from Maidstone, studied business and teaching English. The Paget's moved to Damerham in August 1999 because Forest had work with a friend in Martin and the village seemed a better place to rear a family. Previously they lived in Ascot and in Bath.

This house "Penny Black" was built around 1960. The space at the front of the house is used as a car park for the Methodist Church opposite. To the rear is a beautifully stocked garden with flowers, shrubs and fruit trees leading to the river. We have lived in many houses and hope our children will love the garden and the river in this one. Before, we always had a vegetable plot and plan to have one here.

In Damerham, one feels that the community life is strong and vibrant unlike so many of our cities and villages. The visible signs; a shop,

pub, school, active village hall and egg and vegetable suppliers, illustrate that underneath people are keen to build and maintain the relationships that are the basic building blocks of the community. It is so different to the other places we have lived in. We hope, as the millennium ends that we will be reminded of the events 2,000 years ago that is affecting lives today. Christ's words that formed and shaped our Christian society are accessible for everyone to read.

PENNY BLACK



ALAN & BARBARA TOMPSETT

Map Reference D4

Previous Residents

We moved here from Yorkshire in 1994 to be nearer to our Southern roots and family. We have 2 grown-up sons, now living in the Midlands!

Our hobbies are gardening, theatre-going, crosswords and bird watching. We walk our dog Tess every day around Damerham on one

of the many footpaths joining the various parts of the village. It is a dormer bungalow formerly the shop and village Post Office converted to a house in 1980's. It was built in the mid 1950's on the site of an old thatched cottage which was completely levelled. The garden stretches to the Allen River and includes several old fruit trees and old hedges.

We came to Damerham because it was big enough to have a community life of its own, and are involved actively in the District Horticultural Society and its long tradition of Spring and Summer Shows, as well as the ancient church, WI and Flower Club. It is nice that so many of the old people here lived here for years - many all their lives. They are full of stories of the past.

