

COURT FARM



GEORGE, CAROLINE & DAVID
BRYANT

Map Reference K6

The great grandfather of the current owners held the tenancy of the farm from the West Park estate until the estate was dispersed in 1941. He was then a tenant of Mr. Longhurst, a timber merchant, and after 1946, a tenant of Imperial Chemical Industries who had part of the farm for game research. During the late 1950s, it was decided that the farm would be sold and was subsequently purchased by George and Averil Bryant, who were by then sitting tenants, in 1960. George and Averil moved from Sandleheath with their two sons, Peter (13 years) and David (8 years) in 1960 and Peter and David continue to run the farm today. The farm is a mixed arable and livestock farm and is now home to pigs, a beef suckler herd, 1 donkey, 1 horse, 1 goat, 3 dogs and 5 cats.

The house is reputed to date from 1250 when it is believed a monastery stood on the site. It is believed that the timber beams running through the house were second-hand ships' timbers, these being exchanged at Poole when new timbers were delivered from the West Park estate. The house is reputed to be haunted by a person smoking a pipe of tobacco, the sex of

the person is unknown as he/she has never been seen, only smelt. The house has large rooms with high ceilings and it is very difficult to keep warm during the winter but is wonderfully cool during the summer.

When George Bryant was a young man, he can remember the village being a hive of activity, there being 12 dairy farms in the parish of Damerham (notably there are now none, the last being sold in 1998). There were also approximately 7 or 8 retail businesses in the village and also 2 carpenters and 2 blacksmiths. As well as the pub, much entertainment was also obtained from the billiard room in a small building behind the village hall, where some card games involving gambling took place, gambling being against the law in those days.

COURT LODGE



SYLVIA SIRMAN

Map Reference Off Map

Two children - Guy and Faye Sirman - aged 28 and 25, both working and living now in London. Two dogs and two cats.

Bought cottage in 1978 and have extended it over the years. Original cottage dates back to 1815 as lodge to West Park Estate.

COURTWOOD FARM



AUDREY & LES INGS

Map Reference Off Map

Audrey and Les Ings moved to Courtwood Farm in October 1960 from Hyde Farm with their 3 sons, Brian, Peter and Alan, who all attended Damerham school until aged 11. Audrey (nee Gray) also spent all of her school days at the same school. Now the next generation of 6 grandchildren have all spent their "infant years" at Damerham school. The 3 sons have all played in the village football and cricket teams. Les Ings was a pig farmer and dairy farmer, branching out into haulage and the 3 brothers now run this business, while Les (semi retired) keeps beef cattle. His sister, Rhoda, now lives with us since their parents died. We have one pet, "George" the terrier. Les Ings was in Damerham Home Guard for several years.

The bungalow was built in 1950 and was quite small when we bought it in 1960, with a very small kitchen and living room. As we had a family of 3 growing lads, we soon managed to extend it and over the years, have had several extensions built, so that it is now about 2 1/2 times the size of the original. Our garden was an old clay pit where clay was dug for Sandleheath Bricks. The deepest part of the

clay pit is now a duck pond, with a bridge spanning it.

My sisters and I (Audrey) used to walk from Hyde Farm to Damerham School, about 2 miles. The head teacher was Miss Barnes, who lived in the School House with her mother. The infants' teacher was Miss Nellie Tiller, who still lives in the same house with her 2 sisters, who are now all in their nineties. When we acquired bicycles, we used to cycle to Miss Tiller's on Saturday mornings for piano lessons at sixpence for 1/2 hour. We had village children's Christmas parties in the hall and would stay overnight with the Lush family at Manor Farm.

INGLEWOOD



ALAN & KAREN INGS

Map Reference Off Map

Alan, Karen, Naomi and Christopher Ings. Alan is a haulage contractor and Karen is a nursery assistant. Naomi is an assistant administrator and Christopher is still at school. Alan has lived in Damerham for 40 years, Karen for 28. Naomi is 17 and Chris is 13.

The house was built in 1966, originally as farm dwellings for pig-farm workers. When all the pigs were sold Alan and I moved in. Alan lived across the other side of the farm in a bungalow with his family. I lived in Damerham village shop with my family and I am originally from London.

I have always found the village people very friendly when I worked in the village shop. I used to know everyone. Today I only know a quarter of them. My best memory is celebrating the Silver Jubilee. The village came alive and everyone joined in the celebrations. It was a wonderful day. Naomi and Christopher both attended the village school, as did Alan.

HYDEAWAY



BRIAN & SARAH INGS

Map Reference Off Map

Four of us live in the house - my husband Brian, a part-owner of transport business; myself, a supply teacher, Sarah and our 2 daughters, Jennifer aged 10 and Rebecca aged 8.

Brian has lived in this house since he was 21 - before then in the family home. He grew up in the area, attending Damerham School then Burgate.



His family were farmers and gradually moved into transport. Both daughters are now at Rockbourne School, having gone to Damerham as infants. I run a Brownie group in Fordingbridge and have become quite

involved with Damerham village activities in the last 2-3 years.

The house was built in about 1970. One of a pair of semi-detached 3 bedroom homes. Brian's parents signed it over to us when we got married in 1984. We have extended the house, adding a large lounge, a master bedroom, study and shower room. It is a very convenient house for us being situated where work is, and the girls have all the open space around.

I often think of the hours we used to spend playing fox and hounds in the chalkpit near Court Farm, cycle speedway in the little field next to the cricket pitch, tickling trout in the river near Knoll bridge, a few pranks on bonfire night but no vandalism, the sight of a policeman and we would run a mile.

Anthony Baverstock
