

APPLETREE COTTAGE



IAN & SUE SYKES

Map Reference Mill End

The Sykes family has owned Appletree Cottage for nineteen years now. As we reach the millennium - Ian is the Rector of the Parishes of Peter Tavy, Mary Tavy, Brenton and Lydford in West Devon; Sue, a Primary School teacher, does some work in local



schools and privately, and works as a voluntary Youth Officer for the RSPB; Tim, a very keen birder and conservationist, is working for the National Trust; and Dom, a Maths. graduate, is

making a move to a new home and new job in Essex. The cottage is our home, but we cannot live there! However it, is much loved, not only by us but by all the holiday makers who make it, their base throughout the year. Some of these return year after year and of their number the Phillips, Connie and Albie, are surely better known in some circles than we are ourselves!

We believe the cottage to have been tacked onto the side of the then smaller Cray Cottage next door somewhere between 1800 and 1850. We are told that it was "clinker built", that is to say that, a local builder and opportunist spotted the site as a likely one, and off loaded building materials there; later returning to claim the right of ownership. At that time it would have been common practice to use materials from one derelict building to construct another. Certainly the internal beams seem much older than the cottage itself - being rock hard, saltwater seasoned oak, and bearing every appearance of being recycled ship's timbers. In particular, one twelve foot beam is forked at one end where a rudder could have been, and there is a narrow cabin door with a plank nailed down one side to widen it, to house size. The banister is a branch from a tree and on the landing the smart, black and white stair head definitely began life as a bed head! When the post war corrugated tin was removed, the original thatch was revealed - and it's still there under the modern layer.

In 1982 the otters were long gone from the watercress beds, but there were still water voles in plenty. Lapwings bred in the water meadow, kingfishers nested in the river bank and cuckoos were everywhere. Our fondest memories are of the long, hot summers we

spent in what was then a little visited corner of the village; a children's paradise after the dangers and noise of life beside the Oxford ring road. We used to watch out for the nightly visits of the silent winged barn owls and once, after a nocturnal drive to likely places to hear nightingales, we returned at mid-night to find one singing its heart out in the lane. We have always had good neighbours! In the days when there was no barrier between the two cottages little boys could visit Mrs. Marsh next door for quiet chats and always came away from that kind lady with some "fritter money". Mill End always has, for us, that feeling of being separate from the real village. Its peacefulness and the wildlife that abounds there have made a lasting impression on the lives at all of us.

ASGARD



IAN & JAN MULLIS

Map Reference Mill End

Ian, Jan, Laura and Holly Mullis live at "Asgard" Ian is an Independent Financial Adviser, with his own business in Christchurch. Jan works for Jackson's a firm of Solicitors in Fordingbridge. Laura and Holly both go to the Burgate School and both



went to Western Downland. We have three pets - "Dylan" is our dog and the two cats are called "Susie" and "Tilley" . Susie often follows Ian and Dylan on their local walks!! Jan's hobby is gardening and Ian likes to go

fishing and plays golf. Laura plays the piano and Holly likes sport.

"Asgard" was built in 1775 and was originally a farm labourer's cottage. It was extended in the 1980s and thatched. In June 1998, the cottage was extended again and Ian (and a friend) actually did most of the work involved. "Asgard" still qualifies as a "small" dwelling under New Forest's "criteria". The cottage is to be extended in 2000 to extend an existing bedroom. The extension built in 1998/99 was built on the front of the cottage and added a study and third bedroom. The roof was thatched to match the existing.

Damerham is a lovely village and our one hope for the village in the Millennium, is that it won't change too much. We also hope that Western Downland will continue to educate the children of the village.

CHURCH VIEW



PHYLLIS LUSH

Map Reference Mill End

Family have lived in the village since the early part of the century, renting one farm, then buying one, both farms have now been split up; farming has been through good and bad times.

Church View was built during the mid 20s. Not much history to it; when built it had a copper - open fire in the kitchen, and a big larder, which was altered around the 60s, when the larder was made into a bathroom with a flush loo, and copper - open fire was taken out



to make a better kitchen.

Damerham has always been a friendly village, during the end of the 20s early 30s, all the children were taken on annual outing (see

photo) by charabanc open coaches to the seaside, which was quite exciting, as was the Flower show, with travelling show fair with lovely steam engines and roundabouts, which was held in the Recreation Ground before and just after the war.

Other memorable events included Jubilees of 1935 and 1977, coronations of 1937 and 1953, with Show Queen and good fancy dress parades, with tea for all in the village hall and



Photo Village Outing 1920's Front row 3rd from right with bucket

sports finishing with bonfires, dancing and later years, fireworks; one time the locals also produced a good band.

Bad times were when bombs dropped around the village and we had an ammunition explosion and five soldiers were killed - the reminder is in the village churchyard, also a crashed bomber and an air glider.

The village people always pulled together through bad and good as was very noticeable throughout all times.

CRAY COTTAGE



ALAN & ANITA POWELL

Map Reference Mill End

Alan, Anita and their children Stuart and Sophie together with Buster the black lab and Frisky the lop eared Angora rabbit, have lived at Cray Cottage since November 1995.

We moved from Warsash in Hampshire having previously lived in Southampton. Alan was born in the Wirral, Cheshire. Anita in Winchester and Stuart and Sophie were both born in Southampton.



Alan is a director of a firm of architects and designers based in Southampton which employs twenty five people. The practice was started by Alan in 1985 initially working on his

own from home. Anita is now a housewife and Stuart aged 14 and Sophie aged 12 are both at the Burgate School in Fordingbridge.

Stuart is mad about sport and plays football for the Rockbourne under 15's team. His other great passions are skiing and rollercoaster rides! Sophie loves horse riding, swimming and shopping. Anita's interests include gardening, walking and cookery. While Alan's interests are; aviation, sailing, skiing, horse riding and local history.

Cray Cottage is a thatched, three bedroom property built around 1740. We know very little of its early history but have assumed that it was built originally to house a mill worker and his family who may have worked at one of several mills which we understand once stood in Mill End.

Whilst the property has been extended and modified over the years to provide comfortable accommodation, some of the original features remain including cob wall construction, inglenook fire place and low exposed beamed ceilings in the sitting and dining rooms.

Unusually, the cottage is located in one corner of the plot with our garden extending to the front and side.

Of its recent history, we understand that Mr and Mrs Marsh purchased the cottage from Mrs Fox in 1956. In 1987 the property was bought by Mr Kingman who extended the cottage and carried out much of the modernisation works. He subsequently sold the property to us in 1995.

We are very happy at Cray Cottage and all things being equal, intend to spend the rest of our lives here.

It is not only our cottage that is so special to us but also the community spirit, the good friends we have made, our lovely neighbours, the wonderfully quiet Mill End, the wildlife, the water meadows and the sound of the Allen River as it passes through our part of the village.

Our reasons for moving to Damerham were very specific. We love this part of Hampshire and had spent many years looking and waiting for the right time and opportunity to move here. We wanted our children to be brought up in a village environment with traditional values and had identified the Burgate School as being a school of excellent educational standards. We also wanted to find a degree of tranquillity and quality of life that would help provide a balance with business life in Southampton.

Living in Damerham the last four years has exceeded our wildest expectations. Everyone has made us very welcome, and although we have been here but a very short time, we have been made to feel part of this very special community.

It is apparent that many changes to village life have taken place in recent years. These days change seems to be part of everyday life and no doubt the rate of change will only accelerate in the future. The ability to adapt to these changes, whilst retaining the fabric of village life, will be the greatest challenge to our community in the years to come.

EBENEZAR COTTAGE



RICK & JO CHILD

Map Reference Mill End

Rick and Jo and children, Eleanor (14), Rebecca (11). Rick is a T.V. cameraman and Jo a buyer for Beales. We have lived in the village for 15 years - originally looking for a New Forest cottage but Ebenezar was exactly what we wanted - in a cul-de-sac - and Damerham has not been spoiled. We have two



cats, a dog and a horse called Meghann.

We moved from the Brighton area (although Rick is from Hythe originally) and Ebenezar is our third property. It was built in 1860 for

farm tenants - we believe up to eight members of the Tiller family lived here. We have extended the home to three bedrooms and have built a garage - a conservatory is planned for the future.

Although the New Forest District Council have strict planning laws and most of Damerham is a conservation area, it has paid off. Damerham has retained a lot of its charm and character, still allows sympathetic development and does not look like Alderholt! However whether this village will exist in its present state in 50 years time or be a part of the new metropolis of New Sarum only time will tell.

HILL FARM



ROBERT & LINDSEY COBB

Map Reference Mill End

Robert was born in Poole and Lindsey was born in Coventry. He is a company director, self-employed and Lindsey is a part time self-employed administrator. Other



occupants are 4 horses, two dogs, one cat, fish and geese. Their main hobbies are country pursuits, including riding and shooting.

We moved to Damerham in 1996 as property was available in a village location and in a conservation area. Two years later we moved to Hill Farm which dates back to 17th century. It has about 38 acres including water meadows which are currently being restored under a Countryside Stewardship scheme.

Damerham seems to be retaining the character of village life and will hopefully remain that way for years to come.

MILLBROOK COTTAGE



PETER & FRIEDA HIPPISEY-COX

Map Reference Mill End

I am a retired London lawyer and my wife is also retired insofar as any wife is allowed to retire. We have two daughters, born in 1960 and 1964. The younger is married and we now have two granddaughters who also come here and stay.

We bought the cottage in 1973 - it was then a building condemned for human habitation. We had it put in good order, with a small extension, by Richard Shering of Fordingbridge. We spent our first holiday in 1974 and we have enjoyed holidays and weekends ever since. We continue to live in London as well.

Mill End is set near beautiful water-meadows and its charm and peacefulness are greatly loved, We have seen many changes in the occupation of houses in Mill End over the last twenty-five years.

MILL END COTTAGE



RENNIE & ELIZABETH MARSHALL

Map Reference Mill End

Dr. Rennie Marshall is a retired army medical officer. We moved to Damerham, July 1998.

We understand there was a 17th century thatched cottage on this site which was



destroyed by fire 20 years ago. Mill End Cottage was rebuilt in approximately 1980. A more complete history of the cottage is known by established villagers.

THE OLD CORN MILL



JAMES & LAURA BARRON

Map Reference Mill End

James Francis Barron Born 1960
Laura Karen Felicity Barron (nee Dain)
Born 1964

Children: Benedict James Barron Born 1988
Louis Charles Andre Barron Born 1991
Francesca Demelsa Rose Barron Born 1993

The Barron lineage is from County Wexford in

Kennedy Scott, with a well-established Scots line. Laura's lineage on her paternal side is from Cheshire, England and Irish/French on her maternal side. We arrived in Damerham purely by chance, and are very pleased by our good fortune. However, as the family runs a manufacturing business in London, it is difficult to find enough time to escape to Damerham's peace and tranquillity.

The Corn Mill was indirectly mentioned in the last Domesday Book, however it is sure to have changed dramatically since that time. During it's most recent working life, in the 19th century, the house consisted of a cottage on the east side, and the mill workings on the west, with the river continuing its existing path under a small wooden footbridge, through the property, and forming a mill pond at the back.

mill pond. There were also two additional cottages on the property, and a large barn, which must have made Mill End a much busier place than it is today. At some time after the mill ceased to function, the Cootes (of West Park) decided to build a swimming pool above the mill. The leet was filled in, and the water diverted over the sluice into a freshly dug pool, with a spill weir to retain the water. This today is still used as a swimming pool, and is often referred to as the Mill Pond and Bathing Pool.

The Jerrard family (of Crossways Farm) were once residents there, however after they moved on, and after many years of dereliction and neglect, the property was bought by Robert and Sylvia Beckett in 1970, and completely refurbished by the local builders Sherings. The mill workings were gutted, and the property was largely rebuilt. The garden was landscaped and the till and original mill pond were filled in.

In 1996 we purchased the property, and added a barn type extension to the east side of the house, which was built by local builder Malcolm Parker. The house has a garden with one of the loveliest aspects of the Allen river, running through the grounds. Moreover, the river at the house is very well fed from the springs in the meadow, and unlike the river at the High Street, runs all year round, regardless of the weather.

There is also fishing down from Church bridge, with a plentiful supply of small brown trout, and some notable exceptions; namely a 4lb trout caught by Benedict in the spring of 1999, and a few sea trout to be seen in the spring. There is an abundance of bird life to be



Ireland, with James' maternal side being

The road forded round the south side of the

viewed - from the shy kingfisher, greedy herons, and rare egrets, to willow and pied wagtails. We have a lovely pair of ring necked doves, and nesting in the house, spotted flycatcher, blue tit and wren. There are of course a variety of chaffinches, and an interesting bird called the nuthatch. We have heard a cuckoo, and are frequently visited by pied and greater spotted woodpeckers. This year we have had a pair of breeding moorhens, and a pheasant regularly struts his stuff round the garden, along with the odd deer.

We have enjoyed participating in a few of the events that occur through the year in the village. The village fete is always fun, with a lot to see and advice in the horticultural tent. The kids always enjoy the side shows, and this year particularly the puppet show. You can also be guaranteed to come home with an interesting plant or two. We always enjoy the 'open garden' scheme, and it is wonderful to see Michael Jerrard's garden, which always looks wonderful, and we are very fortunate to have him looking after our garden. We have had many a jolly meal/time in the Compasses Pub.

SOUTH VIEW



CYRIL HOOPER

Map Reference Mill End

Father - Horace Hooper
Mother - Ethel Hooper nee Manston

Father came from Knoll Farm, Damerham. Mother came from Green Bank Cottage, Damerham. Myself, Cyril James Hooper, Brother Trevor George Hooper both born in Damerham at Mill End. Father thresher and



farm worker and Mother housewife.

Bungalow at Mill End, built about 1971 to replace condemned sub standard cottage. Built on area called "Lanems" originally Church tithe land. Tithe redeemed by my father after the War, land purchased by Henry Jerrard of

Knoll Farm and distributed to his descendants with four horses.

I was born in 1928 when Damerham was a close knit community, the Annual Flower Show being the main event. When at school during the War there was an explosion at the nearby ammunition dump and I remember sitting in school and the windows shattering.

During the War much time was spent helping the farmers with the harvests at which time we receive two week's late holiday at the beginning of September and catching rabbits for which we would get two shillings. After the War the soldiers came home and the Cricket Club revived and life returned to normal.

SPRINGFIELD



RICHARD AND JEAN JOHNSON

Map Reference Mill End

We are Richard and Jean Johnson; we have two sons Stephen and Robin. Stephen is married to Joanne. Richard and Stephen run the established family business in the motor industry. Robin is a journalist on a regional newspaper. We have lived in Damerham for approx. 5 years. Our hobbies include horseriding, walking, and sea-fishing. We chose to live in Damerham for its beautiful locality and its convenience for Coast and Forest.

Bess and Penny our two black Labradors complete our family.

The house itself was built on the site of a chalk cottage approximately 20 years ago.

Damerham typifies a traditional English village with its quaint thatched cottages, Norman Church and village hall. The village is surrounded by beautiful countryside making it an idyllic and peaceful place for living.



THE HAVEN



DAVID & ANGELA GULLIVER

Map Reference Mill End

There are four people in our household, myself and wife and our two children, Emma and Darren. Emma is presently engaged and Darren still lives at home. We moved here from Fordingbridge where we had lived for the past 15 years, in 1996. Myself born and bred in Fordingbridge, my wife Breamore. Our parents still live locally.

When we moved here back in 1996 our bungalow was in such a poor state that we had to knock it down and start again - leaving one wall standing. The bungalow had been a former Methodist Chapel dating back to the 1800's and had an extension on the end to convert it into a bungalow in the early 1900's. We cleaned and re-used 5000 - 6000 of the original bricks on the re-build of the property,



and all the original slates.

THE OLD VICARAGE



CAROL BAKER

Map Reference Mill End

Previous Resident

Carol Baker aged 51. Matthew Baker aged 22. Annabel Baker aged 18. Her husband Nicholas Baker died in the house aged 58 a week before the 1997 General Election. He had been MP for North Dorset from 1979



until April 1997 and was knighted in the New Year's Honours List, January 1997. Matthew

is at Trinity College, Cambridge, studying Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Norse, leaving June 1999. Annabel is taking her 'A' levels at Sherborne School, leaving June 1999. Carol Baker involves herself in the local church and is committed to making Jesus known in the neighbourhood. She has been on the PCC of St. George's for 5 years and now worships at the Lion of Judah Church in Cranborne. The family bought the house in July 1993 from Mr. & Mrs. Sutton-Vane, who moved on to Sturminster Newton. Certain building work was undertaken although it was the Sutton-Vane's who purchased the land from the Diocese and inserted the connecting door from the dining room into the kitchen. Two years after her husband's death, Carol Baker has

decided to move. Having rented the East Wing at High Hall, which was once the Dowager

House to Kingston Lacy in Wimborne, for 18 years, this was the first home in the country that the Baker's had owned. It transpired that Nicholas Baker had multiple sclerosis and subsequently resigned as Immigration Minister under John Major. Six weeks after deciding not to stand as MP for North Dorset it was discovered that he had cancer. He died 9 months later. Teazel, the yellow Labrador, arrived in January 1995 aged 7. He had been bred at Ranston by Mrs. Gibson-Fleming. When his owner died, he came to live at Damerham.

The house is Grade II listed building and is thought to date from the early 18th century with 19th century alterations and additions. It was sold by the Diocese around 1972 and the new owners installed an Aga and planted trees on the south side of the garden. Later The Rectory was built in the adjacent paddock. The Baker family have loved living in the



house. It has a special atmosphere that lends itself to hospitality. The welcoming hall leads into a drawing room, study and dining room, overlooked by a large oak staircase. The layout is extremely practical but the house is in need of further repair. It has been sadly neglected over the years. The west facing larder and pantry have been turned into a study.

The village is a working village and therefore boasts a good cross section of inhabitants. As part of the Western Downland Benefice of Rockbourne, Martin, Whitsbury, the Rector of the Benefice lives in Damerham. The Horticultural Society and the Compasses Pub have a major influence on the social life of the village and the new village hall is something we can all be proud of. Having a successful village school draws many families to Damerham and the sister school at Rockbourne. As the Church of England

becomes more marginalised, other churches will be born, hence the Baptist and Methodist Chapels born over 100 years ago in the village. Access to cars has meant the demise of the village shop. The expansion of Sandleheath Post Office is having an effect on Damerham Village Shop.

THE RECTORY



MICHAEL & VALERIE RIDLEY

Map Reference Mill End

ector of Western Downland which includes Damerham. 9 years residence in Damerham. Hobbies are cricket, golf, walking, reading, gardening and caravanning. We moved here in 1990 to be nearer our family. We have 2 cats, 'Daisy' and 'Bodge'.

The Rectory was built 1984/5 of red brick with 4 bedrooms.

A village set in beautiful surroundings with an unique 11th/12th century church which is Grade I listed.