

## HOME BAKERY COTTAGE



MONT PALMER

Map Reference D11

**D**.L.Palmer was married to Fanny Elizabeth who had four sons: Godfrey the eldest who became chauffeur to the Lord Mayor of London till 1940; George joined the Royal Navy and served on the Royal Yacht;



Wilfred joined the Fire Service and saw duty in the raids on Bristol and Coventry; Montague became the local Baker retiring in 1978. His wife Joyce was a Red Cross worker.

This house has four solid chalk walls, these inner walls have been cement-covered. The house was partly destroyed by fire approx 1910. The premises were then a Bakery owned by a Mr. P. Tiller. On his death it was taken over by D.L.Palmer. An invoice can be seen dated previous 1898. The oven used was wood-fired being of all fire bricks. In 1940 this was replaced by a steam tube double deck oven. The Post Office was also on these premises until 1948.

The first telephone in South End was at the Old Bakery and local people were invited to use the phone by a large sign by the road saying "You may telephone from here". Farmers constantly used this phone to call the local Vet from Fordingbridge who arrived on his motorcycle. World War I closed down the Bakery as Mr. D.Palmer was called up, being a soldier in the Royal Wilts Yeomanry, and was not restarted until the 1930's. During World War II the Bakery was used by the American Army to cook meals for the troops billeted in the village.

## JAYS COTTAGE



DAVID & ALISON CRANE

Map Reference D15

**O**ur names are David and Alison Crane. David is a management consultant and Alison no longer works. We moved to Damerham on 11 August 1998. Our hobbies are Saluki racing and lure coursing, country



dancing, badminton, gardening and trail running. We moved here because scenically it is a very beautiful area and we liked the informality of the village. We also fell in love

with the garden. We have three Saluki dogs, Kazzie, Barney and Solo, who are all rescue dogs.

Our bungalow was first built in the early seventies by the people who lived next door in Russells Cottage. The land was divided and they moved in and called the bungalow Blue Mist. It has been extended in 1974, 1988 and 1996, and although nothing special in appearance, it now makes a very comfortable, spacious and modern home. When we moved in the name of the bungalow was Krundel but we have changed this to Jays Cottage which is the name of an old family home. A major feature of the property is the garden, of about 0.6 of an acre, This has been laid out on the site of old chalk workings with steep banks and grassed areas on three different levels, planted with trees and specimen shrubs. We understand that the chalk excavated was used to build several houses in the village.

As newcomers to the village we have been made to feel very welcome. We are enormously impressed with the community spirit and social activity in the village. We feel it will be important for this community spirit and sense of village identity to be retained in the next millennium.

## GREENBANKS



BARBARA CORBET

Map Reference D8

**G**reenbanks was built about 25 years ago on the site of 2 old cottages which were demolished.



## PADDOCK WOOD



LIZ & HUGH TURNER

Map Reference D14

The Turner family, Liz, Hugh and daughter Deborah moved into the village in 1981 and have lived at Paddock Wood ever since. We came to the village by accident as we were really involved with horses at that time and wanted a property with a "few acres" that would be our own. At the time and up to the mid-nineties we, as a family, travelled all over the UK and the continent with the ponies and horses which Debbie competed on very successfully becoming National Junior Champion and representing the country in teams in both Italy and Holland. The old blue horse box was, I am sure, a very familiar sight chugging in and out of the village. Hugh became involved with the re-building of the Village Hall and has been chairman of that since shortly after the new hall was opened. He also participates in village affairs as a parish councillor. Liz is also active and is currently chairman of the Damerham Flower Group. Current pets are "Basil" a Jack Russell, very spoilt and Harry a black tom cat.

The house was originally built in 1925 by the then village builder/carpenter/wheelwright Mr. Tiller, as a wedding present for his son, Bert Tiller who lived here with his wife Hilda until the late sixties when they had a bungalow built

on their ground (known as Hilbert) where they remained for the rest of their lives. Paddock Wood, known as The Bungalow up until the eighties has approximately 3.75 acres of paddock with stabling for a number of horses/ponies and was owned/occupied by several owners until we acquired it in 1981 and carried out a much needed rebuild/modernisation 1990 creating the property as seen today. It is now a very



comfortable home with equestrian facilities which include an all-weather menage for schooling horses.

We were fortunate to learn a considerable amount of village history from Bert Tiller, our neighbour up to 1988, his stories of past village life gave us much insight into a very different age than that in which we now live, attending village school, collecting the gleanings from

fields after harvest, and having them ground (free) in the mill. At that time a working mill. The sale of the village as part of the West Park Estate in 1942. He gave me an original catalogue with sale prices marked and many other papers and photographs relating to the village over the years since entrusted to me after his death some years ago. We learned of such things as the War Memorial being run down by an American tank when located at

many social events, dances, fairs, duck races etc. all of which have contributed in regenerating a true village atmosphere so rare today and of which all of us should be both proud and protective of as we enter the next millennium. We have learned so much about the village and it's people from older residents much of which will never be written down and I believe that a very worthwhile project, perhaps by the school, would be a properly catalogued "Oral History" comprising recorded interviews with village elders - who are becoming fewer each year.

## ROYAL COTTAGE



JAMES TAYLOR

Map Reference D11

My name is James Baird Taylor. I am a Chartered Accountant I retired from practice in 1993.

My wife and I came to the village in April 1997. I enjoy walking, swimming, golf, playing bridge and I used to play a lot of tennis. When my daughters Amanda and Elaine married the house and grounds where we lived were larger than needed. Royal Cottage and environments appealed to use as we had a young Gordon Setter bitch name Parsley but when my wife died in November 1998 I found another home for the dog. I have a number of goldfish and koi.

I believe that the original part of the house is 250 years old. Originally there would have been living quarters downstairs and a sleeping room upstairs. There have been various extensions over the latter years. The original property is thatched and is constructed of compressed chalk 18 inches thick.

The name ROYAL COTTAGE came from the time when insurance companies discovered that by having their own fire engines they would reduce their costs by putting fires out sooner. As they only wanted to put out the fires at the houses insured by them they put a plaque on the house. The plaque is still there. The insurance company was the Royal Insurance Company.

I have lived in many houses ranging from Scotland, Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

I would say that the house is suited to the present way of life. The only changes we made were to install a new kitchen.

I have only been in the village two years having lived previously in West Meon 10 years and Freshford, Bath 15 years.

## ROSEMARY COTTAGE



JO & PETER COLEMAN

Map Reference D11

Jo and Peter Coleman - aged 30 and 32 respectively. Since the beginning of 1999 we've got married, changed jobs and moved house - to Damerham.



A busy but wonderful year during which fate has been kind to us and steered us towards this lovely village. We moved from stressful Surrey and from the nightmare of commuting to London every day and now Peter works in I.T. for an investment bank in Bournemouth and I'm an Account Manager for a communications agency based in Southampton. Hobbies include sailing,

cycling, riding and singing - I've just joined the Southampton Philharmonic Choir and hope to resume my passion for amateur dramatics in the near future!

We fell in love with the cottage as soon as we saw it on a warm spring day. It's a whitewashed, end of terrace with roses growing up the wall and a pretty garden complete with pond. We have fields to the front and rear and the lane is quiet. Miss Ward, the previous occupier, had cared for the cottage and we found it to be structurally sound even though it's thought to be over 150 years old. To accommodate our future plans, we've undertaken a hefty series of alterations in the last six months which include creating a new third bedroom, knocking down walls, putting in a new kitchen and bathroom and re-decorating. With hindsight, it would have been easier all round to have moved out whilst all of this was going on - but hey, we live and learn!

The sense of community in Damerham is very evident and, in these dying years of the millennium, very precious for its rarity. The challenge in the coming years will be to preserve this for future generations - if we have children, I would love them to grow up surrounded by the generosity and friendliness that we've experienced since arriving here.

Our hope is that the internet revolution will so change working patterns that there will be a greater focus on village life as more and more people work from home. We spend so long on the increasingly congested roads getting to and from work, causing us stress and wrecking our fragile environment. One day, maybe, we'll become less dependent on cars and make better use of this wasted time.

## GREENBANK FARMHOUSE



VAL & BRIAN MAIR

Map Reference D7

We are both retired although my husband keeps busy with village matters. We moved here in 1983 and have acquired geese, chickens, dogs, cats and fish - these keep me very busy. Our primary reason for moving to Damerham was to be near the fishing lakes but very soon grew to love the village and now will never leave it.



Parts of our house were built in the 17th Century. We are fortunate that the original flag floor is still with us as is the old inglenook fireplace. When we extended the house to give us a new dining room the footings had to be very deep - however the original house is on earth! It's a solid and very happy house.

Damerham is a "living village". It has a very wide spread of ages and interests and the families who were born and bred here mix well with newcomers. Everybody is helpful and supportive for the good of all. Driving into the village from Fordingbridge the first view of the church gives a feeling of "Brigadoon" - the village that only appears once in every century. Our grandchildren love the village and insist Damerham is the country.

## THE OLD COTTAGE



ALAN RACKHAM & GILLY CHANCE

Map Reference D7

Alan Rackham and Gilly Chance. Alan is a director of a flooring company - Gilly an interior designer - both have their own companies. Moved to the village in September 92 - Alan spent most of his childhood living in Salisbury. Gilly's great grandfather was a clerk to Salisbury Cathedral and her grandparents were married in the cathedral. Looked around this area to find a property as common to both of us. Alan fly fishes and shoots game. Gilly rides and has a horse. Both would like a dog sometime. Both like travelling, the arts and socialising.

It is of timber and brick construction to the rear and cob to the front. At one stage there were separate cottages - now joined together.

Thatched roof. There are two original bread ovens. We believe the building dates from approx 1550'ish but earliest records found describe it as a hovel and therefore not of historic note. Now grade II listed. There is a well to the rear and was used up until the 30s. Modernised several times to provide interior facilities.

Such a friendly village where we feel welcome. Certainly a 'hub' of activity for the parish.

