

RUSSELL'S COTTAGE



MALCOLM & JANET PARKER

Map Reference South End

Malcolm, Janet, Jack and Charlie Parker.

We moved to Damerham from Sandheath in 1991. We have always wanted to live here, as we have close ties with the village. Malcolm used to play football for Damerham and in his younger days attended the local youth club. My great grandmother,



Mrs Ada Browning, lived for many years in a bungalow opposite the pub and my grandfather, Mr Fred Hacker before owning the local shop at nearby Martin, started his

working days helping to bake bread at "Rogers Store" here in the village.

Our house is believed to be about 250-300 years old, and was originally thatched, but now has a slate roof. The main structure of the house has changed very little over the years. The new brick extension has replaced a wooden tin roofed outbuilding. Until about 50 years ago, there was another thatched cottage in close proximity to ours, situated in what is now our driveway.

Malcolm is a builder and works in and around the village. Our two boys Jack and Charlie attended Western Downland School and I work part-time at a Central Practice in Salisbury. Our whole family takes part in badminton in the village hall every week and we enjoy making cider and wine from the fruits of our garden.

*1. We love Russell's Cottage,
The place where we dwell,
There's only two bedrooms,
But we manage quite well.
2. Our boys are so happy,
They love living here,
Though sometimes they wish,
That more children lived near.
3. The garden's so pretty,
With flowers and bees,
We like making cider,
From our apple trees.
4. We hope we can live here,
Until we grow old,
And we hope Russell's Cottage
Never has to be sold.
By Janet Parker*

SOUTHEND COTTAGE



ELSIE, DOROTHY & NELLIE TILLER

Map Reference South End

Many, many years ago there were lots of the Tiller Family living in Damerham. Now there is just one family left who live at Southend Cottage, Elsie, Dorothy and Nellie.

We have lived in the same village for nearly all our lives except for a few months when we were very young when we went to Canada. Our father was offered a job in Canada but, as

we came back. We stayed in Fordingbridge until we could come back to our own house in Damerham.

Elsie, Dorothy and Nellie became schoolteachers and finished up teaching at Martin and Damerham Village Schools. We have never been abroad except for a few odd days in the Isle of Wight. We all had a very happy life and could tell many tales of school life. Being church schools we often went to a service at church and the children were allowed to read the lessons. One boy read "The Story of the Good Samaritan" and instead of reading a "Levite" passed by he said " and a leveret passed by".

When we had school dinners the teachers had their own meals and looked after the class. During one meal one boy told his teachers that he was going to have something very good for

tea - a rabbit pie - and another boy jumped up and said, "Oh, we are going to have a ferret". Two boys went into the teacher at playtime - when asked "Why were they crying?" One boy said, "Well, he hit I, so I hit he".

*In those days we had no electricity,
motor cars, buses, refuse
collection, mains waters and no
school meals.*



he was taken ill, the doctor advised him to return to England, while he had the money, so

SOUTH END FARM



SANDY & DORIS ALLSOPP

Map Reference South End

Sandy Allsopp was brought up in the New Forest. He went to University in Reading



to study Zoology. After one year in Australia working in Pest Control he came back to England to work as an Agronomist. In 1992 Sandy invented a lighter-than-air kite for birdscaring and started his own company "Allsopp Helikites Ltd." when he was living in the Cotswolds. Doris Allsopp is Austrian and came to England in 1991 working as a Management consultant. Doris and Sandy met in 1992 and decided to move to the New Forest area in 1994. Doris gave up her career as Consultant in 1998 to join Sandy's company. Sandy and Doris got married in September 1997 in Austria. On July 30th 1999 they got a baby daughter, Theresa Juliette.

We moved to South End Farm in November 1994, The house was originally built by Mr. and Mrs. Lush. The 2 acres of land were then mainly used as a vegetable garden. In autumn 1997 a stable was added for our horse "Libretto". In summer 1999 we built an extension to the house and a double garage.

SPRINGSIDE



PAUL & MARIAN SHARPE

Map Reference South End

We have three children, Leysa, Gary and Elaine; all were born at Odstock Hospital. Paul was born at Fordingbridge



Cottage Hospital and lived in Whitsbury with his parents, Frank Sharpe, who was Jockey to King George V in 1932 and his mother, Nellie, who was a nurse. Marian was born in Malaya. Her father Andrew Abernethy was a planter and a P.O.W. in Singapore for 5 years. Her mum Kathleen is from Aberdeen but would never return to Scotland after living in the

South. We have always had animals - dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, stick insects!

We have made many friends in Damerham; we actually met in the Old Hall and we have never thought of moving. Anyway, Paul is still "doing things" to the house and garden. There is not one inch of this place that we have not plastered, painted, dug up or altered in some way. In fact, we anticipate continuing this for the next 22 years! We enjoy the many dances, etc., that are held in the hall and the other village get-togethers, which always seem to leave people with mega hangovers the next day. Last, but not least, we have the best next door neighbours on both sides.

THE COTTAGE



BOB & JEAN ROSSINGTON

Map Reference South End

My husband's name is Robert Frank Rossington, born 1928. He was a chartered Engineer. My name is Jean Mary Rossington (nee Rayment), born 1930. I was a secretary. We have 3 married daughters: Lynne, Gail and Sally, and 7 grandchildren, Holly (9) and Hannah (4) Fishwick; Stephen (11), Jonathon (9) and Robbie (4) Revill; Alexander (5) and Rebecca (3) Martin. Robert has one brother - his family live in the U.S.A.. I have one sister - she and her husband live in Swindon, Wiltshire. Both our parents have died.

We moved here from Bracknell, Berkshire in 1996, when Robert finally retired. We had previously spent many holidays in The New Forest, staying with Robert's parents near Ringwood. We decided then that we would move to this area sometime in the future, as we could enjoy not only the beautiful countryside around us, but also the coast

The building was a tied cottage of the Manor Farm Estate. It was a single storey dwelling, 300 years old. In the mid 19th century, a second storey was added (as evidenced by some original roof beams still in position). A

large wood store is also shown on old maps on the south side. The attic was opened up as living accommodation probably post second world war and a dormer window added. In 1988 the building was modernised and extended at the rear. Prior to this there was a



Royal Mail letterbox in the front wall.

1919 The Lush Family
1966 George & David Dampney
1984 Julian & Sally Smith
1988 Susan Hopkins
1996 Robert & Jean Rossington

WOLLATON LODGE



DAVID & GILLIAN BENFIELD

Map Reference South End

David was the headmaster of Burgate School for fourteen years until he took early retirement to care for his invalid wife who died. Gillian is a doctor in the Community child Health Dept. of Salisbury District Hospital at Odstock. She has been the School Doctor at the village school and Burgate since 1979. David moved here in 1967 with his first wife, Daphne. Son Ian is at Nottingham University and daughter Jane at South Wilts. Girls' Grammar School. Gillian moved here in February 1995 after their marriage. Her hobbies include cooking, needlework, woodwork and turning, gardening, music, photography, travel and walking. David came to Damerham to be near to Burgate School and because he is a country lover. Gillian came because David asked her. They do not have any pets or livestock but always feed the garden birds and a tame pheasant or two! They are bird watchers too.

The bungalow is modern, having been built in 1967/68 by Edward Downer of Woodgreen on land previously owned by Jack and Audrey Lush. Improved and a double garage added in 1995 to replace the single garage and Damerham built "white shed" complete with

corrugated iron roof demolished. David started life in Wollaton, Nottinghamshire and moved here via the RAF, Sheffield, Birmingham, Norfolk, the Army in Germany and Lincolnshire. He has lived in the bungalow since it was built for him. Gillian started life on the other side of Hampshire in Cove, Farnborough and reached Damerham via London, Boscombe, Sydney, Australia, Portsmouth, Gosport, Alderholt and

young and old and a larger village shop to enable us all to support one another. The roads are adequate but in a poor state, with drainage a thing of the past. A must for the future is surely a proper sewage system, both on health and hygiene grounds. It is hoped that the life and activities of our three churches are maintained and developed further as positive forces for good.



Fordingbridge. We love the house and its situation but could always do with more space.

Damerham is still a very balanced village and we love it and the people who live here. We have had visitors from all over the world to visit us and share our pleasure. The presence of an excellent school encourages young people to live here, though the lack of affordable housing and decreasing work opportunities are becoming a problem. It could upset the balance in the future. Rural transport is needed for

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