

RIVER'S EDGE



TIM & LIBBY ILLIDGE

Map Reference E4

Tim, Libby, Ben, Lara and Rebecca Illidge moved to Damerham in late August 1999 from Southampton where we had lived for 10 happy years. We had wanted to move to the countryside for some time and were struck by the beauty of Damerham and the surrounding country as well as the warmth of the local people.



We met in London whilst training at Guys Hospital. Tim works for the Cancer Research Campaign as a Senior Clinical research Fellow and Consultant in cancer medicine. Libby

works as a part time surgical nurse and enjoys managing the home and caring for three lively children aged 8, 6 and 2.

Since arriving in Damerham we have been very struck by this peaceful and sociable village and have enjoyed meeting you all over Christmas and New Year.

RIVER'S EDGE



BILL & RUTH SANDIFORD

Map Reference E4

Previous occupiers

Bill and Ruth Sandiford moved to Damerham in 1988 along with their two children, Richard and Rachel. The children attended Western Downland schools, and then Burgate School and 6th Form College. Richard is now at Bath studying Aero Engineering and Rachel is about to complete "A" levels with the aim of studying Psychology, perhaps at Birmingham. Bill worked with the Civil Aviation Authority, at Bournemouth Airport until he retired (early) in 1999. Ruth worked as a Speech and Language Therapist until 1997, and then transferred to Allenbrook Nursing Home as a Nursing Assistant for a complete change. The family is moving to The Gatehouse of Fleet in Galloway, Scotland in August 1999, and will very much miss the village and its people.

River's Edge was built in 1984 by a local builder, Mr Newman, who lived in the house

with his family until he sold it to the Sandiford's in 1988. Bill and Ruth extended the house in 1990 to make room for the growing family and all their various hobbies, pets and other interests. The house backs-on to the River Allen, and is often visited by the village ducks and trout.

Bill and Ruth spend a lot of time walking, often with the family dog, Victor, (a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel). They cycle a good deal, sometimes up to 40 miles a day, and once to Salisbury Cathedral taking the Downland paths. Bill has managed to capture a few rural scenes in watercolour paintings.

Although they have lived in the village for only 11 years they've seen a few significant changes, including the construction of the new Village Hall and the new Housing Association dwellings in West Park Lane. The most poignant memories will be of those who they knew well, and who subsequently passed way; some elderly and some quite young.

RUSSET COTTAGE



CAROL AND GEOFF TAYLOR

Map Reference F4

We moved into Russet Cottage in May 1999, having previously lived in Southampton for 50 years. We have three children. Tracy 26, Kerry 24 and Christopher who will be 20 in the year 2000 - oh, and a black cat named Bobby. Geoff enjoys playing golf and badminton and walking and I am learning to play piano, and enjoyed painting (art, not walls) gardening, walking and needlework.



Adele and Richard Holmes and family and Christine and Richard Jacobs lived in our home, which is a conversion of two Victorian cottages, No 10 and 12 West Park Lane, prior to us. We have been busy with some alterations to the house and garden since moving in and have had some interesting moments - a bat taking flying lessons indoors while we were out (sorry about the burglar alarm everyone!) and water has played a prominent part, 2 floods in the kitchen, a shower which obeyed the command ON but not OFF and a 3 ft grass snake taking a leisurely swimming lesson in the garden pond.

Pond dipping took on a new meaning when I overbalanced while clearing the pond and toppled headfirst into the water. People I previously thought of as friends now laugh hysterically whenever I mention water!!!

Our garden has many fruit trees and a very special little oak tree which was grown from an acorn planted by Richard and Adele Holmes's daughter Fiona 17 years ago. Judging from the broken crockery and the number of bones and horseshoes in the vegetable plot, this house was built on the site of a pottery factory, or was a resting place for dead donkeys - what do you think?

SYCAMORE COTTAGE



ELIZABETH LOCK

Map Reference D1

I have only lived in Damerham for a very short time - just over a year. I moved here from Devon, where we had lived for about 40 years. My husband died and I found the house and garden too large to cope with myself. Both my sons were married and settled - one in Rockbourne, the other in Richmond. We decided I would be sensible to make a big move and be closer to them. This cottage came on the market and having sold our house in Devon, I packed up and arrived here in January 1998.

I believe built about 10 years ago. It is next door to its 'mirror image'. Ideal for an old lady on her own, with her dog! I did a few alterations when I moved in - mainly having an arch cut between the kitchen and the dining room to make one good room and I am very pleased with the result. It is warm and comfortable and I have lovely views - river on one side and 70 acre field on the other. Lots of wild life to interest me.

I have a nice little garden which I enjoy very much and have planted a mixed border which I look after myself. Being over 80 I need a bit of help with the mowing and hedge trimming!

It is really no longer 'Sycamore' Cottage as the large tree in the front was blow down across the road in the summer of 1998. I was glad to see it go!



The Council supplied a boiler for wash day on Mondays. The gardens along the road were festooned with whiter than white sheets etc, hanging out to hopefully dry. No bonfires were allowed on Sundays or Mondays.

Dorothy Jerrard
