

L.O. KING



It is & well known fact that World War 2 brought many changes to the lives of most people. Our family were bombed during the Blitz, and we found ourselves living in Fordingbridge. My sister Dorothy had married Gerald Jerrard, whose family are well known in Damerham. At that time they were living in the Mill House at Mill End. I visited them from time to time, and so came familiar with the village.

In 1949 I married Christine Murphy from Brickhill, her family was also related to well known Damerham families. Uncle Mont & Aunt Winn from the Compasses Inn. Uncle Bill & Nora from Stapleton Farm. Christine and I settled in our little cottage at Mill End. No electricity or mains water in those days. Water came from Tommy Bedford's cress beds and was heated by a Primus burner placed under a tea urn.

To us Damerham is very much the same as it must have been many ages ago. From the dim past Damerham has seen everything that has happened to it. Damerham has not changed, but the people have. There's still a Pub, a Garage, a Shop, a Builder, a Gardener, Odd Job Man. A lovely village hall stands proud, the previous hall was almost & hundred years old.

Living in our cottage, on early summer mornings, at about 5 am, cheerful whistling on the air, Tommy Bedford and young Macky

(Bill) Witt, cutting watercress, thick bunches fresh as the morning, sent on their way to feed the people for another day. What about Dan Palmer's bread, those lardy cakes big round as your head. Alas no more for us to see those lovely bread and cakes laid out for tea.

Damerham remains the same, it has seen generations of families some with a claim to fame. Tabitha Coffin from Manor Farm, had her own Ducking stool, but not a lot of charm. Watch out for the White Donkey coming down Back Lane disappearing in a sawpit never to be seen again. The Ghostly Coach and Horses Galloping around the pond on old Market Nights. Must have given a few quite a fright. The Damerham Great Fire of 1864, the cry for contributions and help for the poor. £591 pounds collected, what a relief, all signed and sealed by & Mr Nuth, Manager of Wilts & Dorset Bank at Fordingbridge.

From the distant past through to today Damerham has not changed, people from long ago would see many familiar sights and not be strangers. Damerham has not changed. People have.