

MEMORIES OF AVALON



SHAUNDRA WATERS

Remember the 'Daly' family?..... Jim, Connie and Shaundra lived in the first house in West Park Lane, next door to Mr & Mrs Charlie Drewitt. The pair of cottages are now one house - Russet Cottage, but when Connie moved in, on the day the Second World War ended, she called it 'Avalon'. By the time I arrived West Park Lane had more houses on the right hand side and the neighbours of my childhood were the Scotts, Coombs, Crockers, Jerrards, Pennys, Philpotts and Phillimores - we all went to school together.



"The Dalys at Avalon"

When I got to my early teens, the Youth Club began and Connie was persuaded to take over as Treasurer when the vacancy arose. She also

used to help out at sessions supporting Little George (George Orr) and trying to keep him calm! I went on to be the Secretary, collecting the subs each session (not always an easy task - mentioning no names!).



Jim & Connie Daly with first Grandchild

At this time 'Avalon' became 'open house' to my friends and they must have been good times, because we still laugh about them now. When the new houses were built on the left hand side of the road, in the early 70's, we moved to No. 39 and it was immediately christened 'Avalon'. Connie worked in Mr Palmer's shop at South End and, eventually, the shop at the bottom of West Park Lane. I married Brian Waters, who I first met at Youth Club, and moved out of the village. Connie and Jim continued to live at 'Avalon' - sharing their love of gardening and keeping an eye on any elderly neighbours, until 1987, when Connie's health forced them to move to Fordingbridge, where Jim still lives. But, without a doubt, we would both agree that Damerham will always be 'Home'.

VILLAGE STORES 1956-1969



ESTER RIDOUT

I am delighted to be asked to write a column for the Damerham Domesday Book. For 'twas in 1927, my parents (Mr and Mrs Gray), my two sisters and I arrived at Hyde Farm.



I well remember to this day looking across the field and wondering where the Farm House was. But after arriving we spent so many Happy Years there. My two sisters, Joan, Audrey and I spent most of the time at Damerham School under the Leadership of Miss Baines and Miss Tiller. They were Wonderful Years as I look back, but at the time perhaps we thought different. The same year Ron Ridout and his parents and with his brother, Ken came to live at Stapleton Farm. We went to school and Sunday School together and soon became firm friends. In 1944, we married and in time went to Pewsey to learn the Grocery Trade. While there, Brenda, our first daughter was born. In 1948 we moved back to Hyde Farm, where my Parents built Hyde View for us and we lived there having Margaret, Ruth and John.

In 1956 the General Stores at East End came up for sale and we bought it. We spent 12 wonderful years there. Ron had a shop in The Van and travelled all the Villages around. We were so lucky to have Mr and Mrs Nicklen with us as we were so busy.



The children all grew up and went to Damerham School until 11 and then bussed to Fordingbridge. Looking back we spent 40 such happy years in Damerham and whenever I come back and drive through, the memories flow back.



My grateful thanks to all the folk of Damerham at that time, for friendship, love and understanding to Ron and I.