

MILANE



PEGGY STEVENS

I have lived in Ibberton for 37 years and am very happy in my little bungalow. I have no transport, so a friend takes me shopping every three weeks or so, when I have a good stock-up.

Medical prescriptions can be collected at the Shop-cum-Post Office at Okeford Fitzpaine, which is very handy, and I also avail myself of the services of a hairdresser who visits customers in their homes.

I employ someone to keep the garden tidy, so, all in all, I manage very well considering I am 80 years old this year.

I enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the village and I never want to leave Ibberton. I am very content here.

OLD POST COTTAGE



PRISCILLA HOUSTOUN

I bought Old Post Cottage in 1969, five years before retirement, and used to drive down, every other Friday after work, for the weekend. I remember starting to sing as soon as I left Salisbury and, once I arrived at Ibberton, would leap out of the car and wander around outside to see what had come out over the past fortnight. Only then would I go indoors and settle myself down for the weekend. On the Monday morning I used to get up at 5am and leave at 6am for home at Windlesham in order to change into my working clothes and be at my desk by 9am. During the fortnight between visits, friends, relatives and members of my staff would come down for short visits and holidays. Then in 1974, I retired and have lived in Old Post Cottage happily ever since.

I cannot remember the name of the couple I bought the house from, but I do recall that they were always in their bedroom slippers and seemingly never went out! I also remember that about a year after I retired, they suddenly rang me up to ask if they could buy Old Post Cottage back!! You can guess the answer they got. I think they made their living by buying, doing up and selling houses.

I love Ibberton because it is friendly and caring, but not intrusive. Everyone knows who everyone is but no-one is nosy or interfering, yet there is not a door in the village on which I would not knock if I need help, and I know I would always get it. I live very happily here, tottering up the road as far as my legs allow, reading (the Mobile Library visits every fortnight), writing to my old walking mates and, in the evenings, watching (or falling asleep over) the 'Box'.

I sometimes take a taxi to go shopping as I no longer like to drive, and friends and neighbours will always fetch me anything I need. With these friends all about, a splendid ridge of country to look upon and families of all ages living around, what better place to live happily in than Ibberton?

THE CROWN INN



JOHN AND LINDA WILD HAROLD AND EMILY GUARD

The original building dates back to the 16th century and although it has been enlarged over the years, it still retains the original flagstone floor, bread oven, and inglenook fireplace. At one time the inn was called The New Inn.

John and Linda have been co-owners and licensees of the Crown since 1986. Six months later Linda's parents, Harold and Emily, and her Aunt Daphne, who has since died, moved down as well. Prior to this John and Linda managed Public Houses in the London area for Watneys, Grand Met and Ind-Coope.

John served with the Brigade of Guards in Africa, the Middle East, and Germany. He also took part in Trooping of the Colour in England. Linda was a typesetter working for Design Studios and Advertising prior to joining John in the Licensed Trade.

Harold and Emily are officially retired, but also help John and Linda run the Pub. They both enjoy a game of darts, and Harold is so good he is very difficult to get off the board!

John and Linda have developed the food side of the trade, and the Inn's menus usually include homemade soup, curry, and vegetarian food as well as meat dishes. They buy lamb from local farmer, Stan Harris, and purchase beef locally when it is available.

In summertime, visitors can enjoy sitting in the garden with its views of the church and Bulbarrow.

The Cricket Club hold their meetings in the Crown and many of their social events. There are two Quiz Teams, both in the first division, and a Crib Team.

John has an Alsatian dog called Ben and Daphne's dog Brandy now relies on Emily for his walks.

John drives a Fourtrack Vehicle, which is used to go to the Cash and Carry and Tesco's in Blandford. Harold and Emily often catch the Thursday bus to Blandford to do their shopping.

John used to play cricket, but now enjoys playing golf and Linda likes reading and needlework and was a former member of the Hampton Court Needlewomen's Guild. However, spare time is at a premium as running a public house takes up most of their time.

They hosted a Millennium fund raising Table Top Sale in the Pub gardens earlier in the year. Linda usually helps Patsy Harris when she has her Coffee Morning and has also been known to rescue the Cricket Club by supplying sandwiches for teas.

Harold and Emily support most Village events.

ROSE COTTAGE



ALAN AND JANET PEARSON

Alan and Janet moved into Rose Cottage with the youngest of their two sons in October 1996, having previously lived in Lytchett Matravers and Bournemouth.

Janet is a Police Officer and they originally came to Dorset in March 1989, when Janet transferred from the Northumbria Force.

Alan then worked for Dorset Police in a civilian capacity but has recently retired on health grounds. Both sons are now living away from home. Ian, the youngest is in Wimborne near to his place of work, and Graeme lives and works in Derbyshire. The only other occupant of the cottage cannot be forgotten, he is Tyson a 3 year old Black Labrador. He was so named because when collected as a pup he appeared rather 'weighty' for his age - he was black, a heavyweight and an animal, therefore (Mike) Tyson. Unfortunately at around the time he came home to Ibberton his namesake had bitten pieces off his opponent Evander Holyfield and people felt that they should cover their ears when near to the dog.

Rose Cottage started life as a Drovers rest place and was originally two cottages, each with one room downstairs (possibly for animals) with a ladder leading up through a trap door to sleeping quarters for the humans, and one of the trap doors is still in existence in the lounge.

The earliest records that they can find referring to the cottage being used as a normal dwelling state that it was leased by the Pitt-Rivers family to a Mr. Witheridge for an initial payment of £60 and an annual fee of 7/-, payable in two instalments in March and September of each year. This was in the year of 1816, and is referred to as Plot 27 and in those days had an orchard attached. In 1845 a tithe of £1.4s.5d. was levied.

As mentioned earlier, Janet is a Police Sergeant working in nearby Sturminster Newton and Sherborne, but at the time of writing, has only 27 months to work before retirement. She travels to work using the family car, which also is their means of transport for shopping trips etc.

Janet has become involved with quite a few activities in the village and is currently on the cleaning rota for the Village Hall and assists with the making and serving of teas during the Home fixtures of the village cricket team. She has also become involved in plans to start a Gardening Club, and I am sure will become a part of other activities when she retires.

Both Alan and Janet are keen Cross Stitchers, Alan probably more so than Jan (which is what she is normally called). She is also the DIY fanatic in the family but her greatest love (after Alan, of course) is her garden, and she wishes she still had that orchard! She also helps out friends and neighbours with their plots.

After Cross Stitch, Alan's pastimes are golf, computing, and he is also a member of one of the quiz teams at the Crown Inn which is next door to Rose Cottage.

Living in a village like Ibberton had been a dream for both of them when they lived in the North.

THE CROSS



IAN AND DEBBIE ALDOUS

Ian and Debbie moved to their home in Ibberton in 1991, the third couple to own this little bungalow since it was built in 1962. The site was originally occupied by a terrace of four cottages, but when they became dilapidated in the late nineteen fifties, the land was cleared and one small dwelling erected in the middle of a very long plot.

The garden is mostly grass, with a few fruit trees, and alongside a horse chestnut tree on the rear boundary grows a splendid walnut tree, which was planted by one of the residents of the original terrace and gives an enormous number of walnuts every autumn. Ian and Debbie have recently transplanted horse chestnut and walnut tree saplings to the front of the property, grown from nuts buried by squirrels.

The garden attracts woodpeckers, treecreepers, nuthatches, firecrests, wrens, robins, blackbirds, thrushes, bluetits, pheasants, owls and bats.

Ian and Debbie are both retired and enjoy the peace and solitude of the village.

Debbie is currently Clerk to the Parish Council, a member of the Village Hall Committee, and enjoys arranging flowers in the church.

Debbie runs an old MG and Ian has a BMW motorbike to satisfy his wanderlust. Four Siamese cats also share the couple's home.

CROSS COTTAGE



ANDREW AND JILL FRANKISS SUSANNAH, JOSEPHINE, ALEXANDER AND CHARLOTTE

Jill and Andrew Frankiss moved into Cross Cottage in June 1987 with four young children - Susannah 10, Josephine 9, Alexander 6, and Charlotte 3, and an old tortoiseshell cat called Cracker who was a ripe old 17.

Jill is Head of English at Clayesmore Prep School in Iwerne Minster and Andrew works with the Royal Mail in the SP (Salisbury) district in varying capacities. Susie is currently working for P&O in Poole having graduated in French and German from Durham University. Jo is in Australia travelling and will be the first in the family to see the millennium in; she gained a degree in Geography from Cambridge University. Alex is now at Southampton University reading Social Sciences and Charlotte is studying for her GCSEs at Canford School; they both have a strong interest in drama.

Most of our time in Ibberton with a growing family has necessarily been spent in the pursuit of education. Besides academic achievements, all the children are musical and sporty. Charlotte and Alex have been champion orienteers. We have kept chickens, mainly bantams, and ducks, and rabbits, and a sweet stray tabby cat has joined us recently. She has a lovely nature and is a good mouser so will be kept on! Charlotte has raised many a chick from our broody hens to ensure continuity of stock and eggs!

The children remember setting up the matchstick game for several years at the annual fete and taking part in Christmas Carol Services in various roles and joining in the fun at the village BBQs and Christmas parties. In later years, some food service experience has been gained by them locally. Charlotte now works at The Crown Inn Ibberton at the weekends as a waitress following in Alex's footsteps as a waiter. Susie and Jo did a similar stint at Baker's Folly restaurant and Susie was at Belchalwell Golf Club for a period also.

But probably the most significant and long-lasting contribution the children have made to the village is religiously watering the sapling by the village notice board during the drought of 1989 which is now a flourishing tree. This tree had been planted to celebrate the centenary of Dorset County Council 1889-1989.

Cross Cottage was built in the mid-18th Century and is of solid brick and stone construction under a thatched roof and has been extended and altered over the years. It was given Grade 2 listed building status in 1984. It has had a varied nomenclature and use over the years. In the early days it was called Cross Tree Cottage as it harboured a particular tree and we are told that it was possibly originally two farm cottages joined into one. It was Ordnance Map Number 111 and Estate Number 102. At one time its front room served as the village post office. Also a Thomas Cross rented it from the Pitt-Rivers estate and his name was adopted eponymously for the cottage rather than its position in the village as is generally thought. The garden is approximately a quarter of an acre and has several apple trees, a plum tree, two horse chestnuts and a flowering cherry amongst flower beds. The cottage has been pictured in Dorset Life and other local magazines.

**CROSS FARM
'SILVERLANDS'**



BOBBY AND BETTY COURAGE

The original farmhouse was in the Old Bakery Shop, one of the thatched cottages that were sited at the Cross. When Bob's father came back from the 1914/18 war the family moved into a converted army hut in Mead, the field opposite Silverlands meadow where their farmhouse, built in the late 1940's, now stands. Bobby was born in Mead, and his Grandfather Williams, the village cobbler, lived in Shoemaker's Cottage. His full name is Robert Mullett Courage, Mullett being the name of his Ibberton ancestors, and he was the last person christened by the Reverend Plowman.

Bob and Bet run sheep and beef sucklers on 32.7 hectares (approximately 84 acres). Bobby was a confirmed bachelor until he was reunited with Betty (his former sweetheart) some fourteen years ago. They married on the 25th March 2000 and share the house with their two collies, Tyke (who is about to produce a litter of puppies) and Glyn, who Bet says, has done more footpath walking than many a dog!

One of the Millennium footpaths passes the Washing Pool. Lower Cross's Meadow was a water meadow, that still has the original stone wall that housed the board that controlled the flow of water into the channels, the idea being to keep the temperature up and bring on early grass. Bob recalls being told that Robert and Willy Andrews of Church Farm used to use the Washing Pool and Pete Caryer used to dip a few sheep on occasions.

Bob went to the village school which was in one room divided by blackboards. It had two teachers, Mrs. Holland (Mavis's mother), and Miss Joyce from Church Farm. The play field was gravel, and many a pupil probably still bear the scars of a 'gravel knee'! The field was a dust bowl in summer and deep mud in winter; the school doctor carried out annual inspections, the nurse visited to 'examine heads' and the dentist also made an annual visit. The toilet was a bucket and there was a bell attached to the side of the building that was rung at lunchtime to recall the pupils back from their games on the hill to attend lessons. The children played 'fox and hounds', marbles, 'in and out the windows' as well as skipping, and the boys sometimes used to nip off to smoke 'old man's beard', a practice that Bob demonstrated recently, showing how you light up the end of the stem and draw smoke through the perforations! When the hunt met locally the school allowed all the children to go down to the Meet.

Bob used to milk the cows in an open field in Leigh using a cowstall before he acquired a portable milking bail.

General transport was by horse and cart, but Bob remembers that in the 1930's there used to be a 'motorbike' run up past the church, where bikes frequently got bogged down and stuck in the mud. Bob and Bet now have a very smart Freelander Landrover that Bet drives into Sturminster where they do most of their shopping, however Bob says it doesn't compare to the motorbike that he owned in the 1950's!

Bob is a Parish Councillor, a member of the Village Hall Committee, and on the Church Parochial Council. He says that Ibberton Church Bells used to say, "I must not fall down in Water Pound - hang Monk's dog".

Bob and Bet both enjoy darts and were members of one of the Crown's Dart Teams, but as there is now no longer a team there they play at the Wonston Club at Hazelbury. However both miss playing locally.

They both love living in Ibberton and enjoy the wonderful views and the support of people in the community.

SHOEMAKER'S COTTAGE



CHARLES, JANE, CLAUDIA AND ALEX ABELL

Shoemaker's Cottage is situated on the outskirts of the village on the road to Woolland. It is reached down a bridleway called Blacklands Lane which eventually rejoins the road at Marsh Farm. However, this lane is known locally as Watery Lane, a name that needs no explanation!

The cottage is cob and thatch and understood to be between 250-300 years old. The main garden of flower beds and lawns surrounds the cottage with a further strip that runs alongside the cricket field and it is in the enviable position of being surrounded by fields and all kinds of animals. The cottage was indeed the Shoemaker's, and it is understood he plied his trade on the premises from a cobbler's shop. An abundance of tiny horseshoe-shaped pieces of metal have been dug up in the garden over the years which proved to be the toe and heel caps of boots and shoes repaired for the inhabitants of Ibberton and beyond.

Charles and Jane Abell and their children, Claudia, then 7 and Alex 4, moved to Ibberton in 1984 from the North West for Charles to take up a job with Westland Helicopters, although they both hail from the West country. Shoemaker's Cottage took some finding; the family spent nine months in a rented cottage in Holwell before they found this small cottage in such idyllic surroundings with spectacular views of the surrounding hills. In 1988 they extended Shoemaker's blending the old with the new and providing more space for their growing family and a toilet that was inside and upstairs!

Charles is an Aerodynamicist - an aircraft engineer. Since 1997 he has been on contract to a Brazilian aircraft company, returning home just twice a year with holidays for the family in between!

Jane is the secretary at Hazelbury Bryan Primary School where there are 90 children between the ages of 4+ and 11 years from Ibberton and the surrounding villages. Both Claudia and Alex attended Hazelbury Bryan School and Jane has always been struck by the caring atmosphere that exists within the school. The school bus starts its journey in Cutlers Close collecting children along the way through Woolland, Fifehead St. Quintin, Fifehead Neville, Kingston, Wonston and finally to school.

Claudia works in London after gaining a degree at Sheffield Hallam University and Alex is in his first year at Liverpool John Moores University reading Software Engineering.

Hamish their boisterous two year old black Labrador and Blackberry, the long suffering, sixteen year old, one-eyed cat, completes the family!

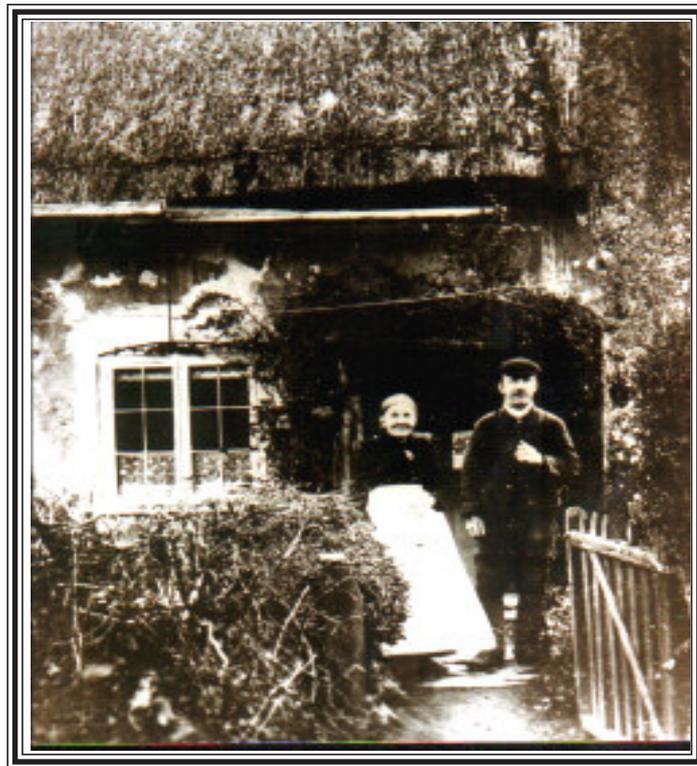
With the family in other parts Jane drives a small car with room in the back for the dog! Family shopping is done mostly in Blandford where the larger supermarkets are situated, or in nearby Sturminster Newton. Poole and Yeovil can be reached within the hour by car where the family goes to the cinema or theatre. Jane swims regularly at Blandford Leisure Centre, but the long awaited sports hall next to Sturminster Newton High School still faces funding problems.

Jane is Churchwarden of St. Eustace Church where she often takes the children's services as well as the Christmas Nativity and Carol Service. She considers the life of the church to be a very important part of the village. At the start of the new millennium the Benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes is without a priest, but it is hoped the vacancy will be filled before too long as the links forged with the other parishes are invaluable.

Jane also serves as a Parish Councillor and is on the Village Hall Committee which is seeking a lottery grant to completely refurbish this one hundred year old hall which was built initially as a temporary place of worship when the church was in a near derelict state. Being part of the Millennium Committee has brought the whole village together for all kinds of social events and has given everyone a real sense of community.

Jane enjoys walking the dog and gardening, and when Charles is in England he just enjoys being at Shoemaker's! Both Claudia and Alex found themselves far away from friends and their social life in their teenage years but now they both say that having moved away to Northern universities they really appreciate coming home to the peace and tranquillity of Ibberton.

OLD JOHN'S



“OLD JOHN”

John Sturmev With His Mother Martha Cave In The Year 1900

VREDA KEMSLEY

This cottage is about 300 years old, and derived its name from a previous tenant, 'Old John' a labourer who worked at Manor House Farm early in the twentieth century and died in the 1950's. A wooden handled knife was found in the brickwork of the inglenook fireplace when renovation work was being carried out. Dorchester museum dated the knife as early eighteenth century, and I have read that years ago, labourers often hid knives in the walls of their cottages to avert the evil eye; a practice that continued well into the nineteenth century.

I am a retired Headteacher, and came to Dorset with my husband in 1979, moving to Ibberton in 1984. I am now a widow and live with my old cat Penny and a wire haired dachshund called Crumble.

I enjoy driving my old Metro car but feel that before long I may be forced to give up driving. Ibberton, like other outlying villages, has a poor bus service, though voluntary drivers do their best.

I help distribute the monthly Parish Magazine which is a small service I can give as one of the few very old residents in the village.

I enjoy walking my dog, reading and listening to music, but my greatest pleasure is living amongst kind younger people and watching the village children grow up around me.

THE OLD RECTORY



CHRISTOPHER AND CLARE, EDWARD, KATY AND ELEANOR McCANN

The Old Rectory was for many years called Grey Gables. It was originally the Rector's house and it was built in the Gothic style of the time in the 1840's, replacing an earlier rectory which was burnt down; you can find evidence of the foundations of this house in the orchard. Clare found it strange that the Rectory should be so far away from the church. In the 1920's the Rectory acquired a cast iron bath and it took four men to carry it up the stairs to the bathroom where it remains today.

Kay Old's parents, Mr and Mrs. Ivor King, bought the house in 1962 and renamed it Grey Gables. In the time they lived there they created a most beautiful garden. Christopher and Clare bought the house at the end of 1989 from Edwina Emery, a renowned silversmith and sculptor of horses who had purchased the house only a few years earlier from Brian Moore. Brian had four children of his own as well as foster children, so it was full of children but it had become quite run down during those years and the beautiful garden was sadly neglected.

Mrs. Emery did a lot of work painting it and renewing some of the plumbing and electrical work. She also renamed the house The Old Rectory. At that time the house had about 4 acres of land, which included a magnificent tithe barn that she converted, along with 2 acres of land that is now owned by Jenny and Graham Parsons. Shortly after Chris and Clare settled in they had to renew the drains and while doing this had the concrete in front of the house removed and created a garden with a gravel pathway. They also repaired a small barn which was in a truly sorry state.

Over the years the family have decorated, rendered the outside of the house and added a conservatory. In 1999 they swam in their very own swimming pool which was built in a part of the orchard. Trevor Fry, who with his wife Shirley arrived in the village at the same time, did all the building work.

The McCanns make up a family of five, plus a dog. Christopher and Clare and the three children, Edward, Katy and Eleanor, and the border terrier, Sophie. Christopher works in the financial world and Clare was involved for ten years with the NSPCC. Edward, aged 22 is at Edinburgh University studying architecture and thoroughly enjoying it. Twenty year old Katy is at Sussex University studying Social Anthropology. Both were educated for some years at Port Regis School near Shaftesbury. Edward also went to Radley, a school near Oxford, and Katy attended St. Mary's in Shaftesbury, a girls' Catholic school where she was confirmed at 15 years. Eleanor is eleven and a half years old and is at present at Port Regis, and will probably continue on to St. Mary's. Sophie was born on the 8th June 1998 and came to us in August from a kennels in Farringdon. She is obsessed with her ball and wishes everyone to play with her all the time. She is great friends with Sweep, Jenny and Graham Parsons' spaniel. One of Katy's best friends is Natasha Carsley from the Old School House. They met aged 9 at the Rockley Point Sailing School, and have enjoyed many activities together since, including a week's holiday on a barge on the Norfolk Broads, when they had both completed their A Levels, as well as travelling for a month in India during their gap year. Eleanor is great friends with Eliza from Ibberton Hill House. They spend a great deal of time together and enjoy riding at Bushes Farm Riding Stables where they meet Donna Fry from Rydalmere. Edward has friends all over the County and when he is not staying with them they are with us. One of the joys of a big house is that we can pack in all the children's friends, and also enjoy having our own friends to stay.

The family have enjoyed driving a Land Rover Discovery for many years and are currently on their third one. A few years ago they bought a secondhand VW Polo for Edward and Katy to learn to drive, and this was also to be Clare's car, although she hardly gets a chance to drive it during the University vacations. They now have a second Polo as Edward 'wrote off' the first one returning from a holiday gardening job he had at Thornhill House in Stalbridge.

Clare does the major shop at Safeway in Blandford Forum, but when in a hurry she has been seen at Tesco. She prefers to go to Sturminster Newton where there is a very good greengrocer, baker, and general store with a butcher attached called Loaders. There is also a lovely old fashioned sweet shop which Eleanor loves, and Clare goes to Helen Laney's for cards, and special gifts. Helen Laney also has an Art Gallery selling magnificent paintings done by local artists. Once a week Clare tries to go to Iwerne Minster where there is the marvellous butcher, Simon Harvell. He also sells delicious cheeses and whilst there she pops into the village post office which also sells very good food.

Christopher has a day boat, a Drascombe Coaster, which during the summer he keeps in Poole Harbour, where he is a member of a local yacht club. In the winter months it is either kept in the drive under cover or in a friend's barn. He sails very often with a friend who lives in Gillingham, if he is not with the family. He also enjoys gardening and in the winter months likes a skiing holiday. Clare enjoys cooking and especially likes to make use of the fruit from the orchard. She also threatens to paint again. Edward loves to paint and sculpt, sail (he races with a friend in Poole in the holidays), ski, and has been very keen on playing the drums, but I fear the noise emitted from his bedroom has been heard by the entire village. Katy also enjoys painting, as does Eleanor. Both girls are very interested in clothes and when Katy was at St. Mary's she very often went up to Bath to shop. Both also enjoy skiing, sailing and cycling with their father, and Eleanor loves riding. All members of the family enjoy long walks, especially with the dog.

MANOR FARM COTTAGE



NIGEL, ROS, MATTHEW AND ABI CARVER

The cottage is situated at a low point in the village, in Washingpool Lane, the south-facing windows give views of the church during daylight hours and the radio masts on top of Bulbarrow, at night.

The Dorset Record Office have the map of 'The Manor of Ibberton belonging to Lord Rivers' of 1781 which shows a cottage, then called Lower Hay, on the same site. There is also an indenture of 1742 between George Pitt and Daniel White for the rent of the land and cottage. The present house was built in about 1785 and formed part of the Pitt Rivers Estate until the 1950's, when it passed into private ownership as part of Manor Farm. 101, the number in the old rent book, can still be seen over the door.

The house has changed much over the years, losing the bakehouse, back door, thatch and roof timbers and gaining an extra room. Many original features remain however. Among them are the bread oven door with a relief of a pineapple in the inglenook fireplace; the fireplace also has a curved bressumer beam. There are two other original fireplace surrounds, some doors with H-hinges and chamfered beams in what was the parlour.

All the members of the family are musicians and are engaged in education in some way. Nigel divides his time between teaching, performing and examining. Ros has returned to teaching after taking a break for further study. Matthew (22) and Abi (19) have lived in Dorset since birth and are now spending some time away from home. Matthew is studying psychology in Manchester and Abi is experiencing the world of work prior to travelling in South America during her gap year between school and university.

We enjoy getting together as often as possible to enjoy life in this most pleasant of villages.

THE OLD FARMHOUSE



PENNY, PHILIP, SARAH AND CATHERINE MOTT

The Old Farmhouse is in the middle of the village, halfway between the Village Hall and the Pub, on the corner of Washingpool Lane leading to the Cricket Pitch. It was the farmhouse for Manor Farm, which was a working farm until the late 1980's. The house was, like most of the village, owned by the Pitt-Rivers estate and appears on estate maps of the mid-seventeenth century. Architecturally it is a mishmash, because a disastrous fire after the war destroyed much of the old structure, and most of the front wall and one side wall had to be rebuilt. It then received a tiled roof in place of the original thatch. The additions at the back were added in 1995.

Penny and Philip Mott first came to Ibberton in 1977, living in Church Farm Cottage for 11 years. Their daughters, Sarah and Catherine, were born during this time. In 1989 the family moved away for 6 years, returning to The Old Farmhouse in 1995. The family is completed by Pringle, a border terrier, and two donkeys, Spice and Pepper, who live in a field in Stibles Lane at the edge of the village.

Philip is a lawyer, working partly in London and partly in the West Country. Penny is occupied with the family, the animals, the garden and about 2,000 trees. Sarah is in a gap year before going to read music at King's College, London, and Catherine is in the sixth form at school.

The family generally relies on cars to get about, but the girls have sometimes used buses. Shopping is done locally, with fresh local produce being obtained where possible.

Both Penny and Philip are members of the Parochial Church Council. Philip has played the occasional game of cricket in the past, but his greatest claim to cricketing fame is as coach to the first Ibberton Ladies team, many years ago, in which Penny played. Both enjoy other village activities.

The whole family enjoys the countryside, walking, sailing, tennis, swimming, music, and reading.

BELFLYNS



ANDY, SUSIE AND NICK OLD

Built in the early 1980's on farmland belonging to Manor House Farm, Belflyns is now a smallholding. The house was originally constructed for Andy, the eldest son of Derek and Kay Old, and Nick his 13 year old son was born there. Susie, Andy's second wife, came to live there when they married in 1993.

Andy is a partner in the family business in charge of all the tractor work. However, due to the current poor state of farming, he has taken on outside contract work. Susie came with a flock of Dorset Poll Sheep that are now owned by the farm, and two horses which opened up a whole new experience for Andy! They currently run a small racing/livery/stud yard and have just completed a successful season. Dorset born and bred, Susie has trained horses all her life, and when she first met Andy she was working for the late Dame Elisabeth Frink and Count Alexander Csaky, training under National Hunt Rules.

Racing now plays a big part in their lives. They both share the work, and together invested in a horse 'Here Comes Henry' unbeaten in all his point-to-point outings who celebrated the millennium year by winning the Wessex Area Young Horse Award, and amassed enough points to make him runner up nationally. Nick has become an enthusiastic fan, hardly missing a race meeting. Andy also enjoys racing and has even been known to ride out! They are all looking forward to the return from stud of Lonicera (Molly) with her first foal.

Susie also runs a Private Taxi Service, mainly used by the Independent Schools, so she is now pretty familiar with the route to Heathrow Airport and back, and is a dab hand at juggling jobs to fit in a last minute taxi call out.

In conjunction with the farm, Andy runs a small friendly Game Shoot (mainly pheasants); Derek does the beating, Susie, and her renowned black Labrador 'Jones' pick up the birds, and she and Kay do the catering.

They enjoy most country pursuits, and Susie likes nothing better than a day out hunting with the Portman Hunt. They both play skittles for the Hunt Team where Sue is the team secretary. Andy also plays for another team in the Sturminster League.

Andy is a keen cricketer, and was a founder member of the reinstated Club which has its ground on their farmland adjoining the house. He took over the ground maintenance from his father and was for many years the Club Captain, arranging the fixtures for the Club ever since its re-establishment at Marsh Farm.

Susie is a keen gardener and in the summer they all enjoy eating alfresco, when time permits, under the pergola which is swathed with clematis and roses.

Nick spends most weekends with Andy and Sue, and likes working on the farm where, like his Dad, he is a dab hand at driving the tractor and helping out generally.

In early winter and late autumn lambing takes place so there is never a dull moment! Andy presented Susie with a couple of sows as a Christmas present, and for many years litters of piglets were also part of the farm community. Two liver and white Springer Spaniels, Liberty the Lurcher who often accompanies Sue when she hacks out, and the unforgettable Jones the Labrador who enjoys nothing better than popping over to the cricket club during the tea break - all make up the family!

They are self sufficient in farm produce but Susie shops in Tescos when needs must. Loss of the 100 year old Cattle Market put an end to the regular Monday visits to Sturminster where Andy also used to help out with the animals.

France is a favourite place for holidays, where they enjoy white water rafting, and have been known to parascend from the Alps.

In the short time Susie has lived in the village she has seen many changes, particularly so far as village socialising is concerned. This used to revolve around the cricket club and the pub, both of which have been the scene of some lively evenings. Changes in the population have meant that only a couple of villagers are members of the current cricket team, and drink drive laws, as well as family commitments have resulted in teams no longer socialising as they used to in the 'old days'!

WREKIN HOUSE



PETER AND JANE WILKINSON

In 1994 Peter and Jane Wilkinson moved to Ibberton from Hertfordshire, via London, renting 'The Old Barn' for sixteen months from Mark and Sara Bayliss while their new house was being built.

Wrekin House stands on the site of Manor Farm and is modelled on a period house, formerly in Blandford, built in the Queen Anne style with a Victorian extension. Peter and Jane liked the Queen Anne style but decided against the second kitchen conceived in Victorian times.

They own thirty three acres of land including several acres of woodland added, with the help of a Woodland Grant, by the previous owner. Peter landscaped the farmyard and two acres of ground surrounding the house into beds filled with many varieties of shrubs and plants, all linked by brick paths some raised on stone found in the old yard. New woodlands planted along the perimeters mark the boundary with 'Rydalmere' on the one side and run down to the stream on the other, whilst to the rear they enjoy uninterrupted views across the fields.

There are two ponds, one heavily stocked with coy carp and other varieties of fish that prove irresistible to both herons and kingfishers; there is also a small pond to the left of the driveway in the old yard. A stable block and menage have been added for the equine members of the family.

Peter is a retired Chartered Accountant who worked mainly in the Construction Industry and Jane is a Solicitor operating from home, whose clients often come through her equestrian connections.

Two cats share their house, a Bengal/Burmese called Winston and Sherry, a pure Burmese, both well known visitors around the village. The family is completed by three horses; Gypsy, a mare who has been with Jane for eleven years, Grand, three years and Thomas a comparative newcomer arrived two years ago.

Jane's recreation is taken up with the horses, she enjoys a day's hunting and rides regularly in point-to-points.

Peter's time is divided between gardening and a large model railway layout he has constructed in the attic.

Shopping is not one of Jane's favourite pastimes and tends to be done 'anywhere and everywhere' however, after swimming at Clayesmore Sports Centre, she often pops into the village stores and butcher's shop.

They have a 4 x Track vehicle for towing the horse trailer and also own a Jaguar.

On his arrival in the village, Peter took over the role of Treasurer to the Cricket Club which he still holds, and Jane has always been willing to help out by providing the occasional plate of sandwiches for the 'dreaded' teas.

BARN HOUSE



GRAHAM AND JENNY PARSONS

Barn House was originally a barn belonging to The Old Rectory. The Barn was converted to a house about fifteen years ago, however there is very little remaining of the original building apart from two outside walls.

The garden goes from lawn, borders and shrubs at the lower levels to an area of grass with fruit trees and a vegetable garden. The range of plants that can be grown is limited due to the cold air, and water coming off the hill, as well as frequent visits from deer, badgers, squirrels and moles.

Graham was born in Dorset, living near Wimborne for many years and Jenny has lived in the county for over 30 years prior to moving to Ibberton in 1993. Their four children and two grandchildren are at present living in London, but one is planning to move abroad with her husband.

Graham used to work for a company based in Bournemouth and used to make frequent visits to the Cheese Factory which was operating in Okeford Fitzpaine at that time. He now manages a few properties, both commercial and residential. Jenny is very creative, and does flower arrangements for weddings, private parties and clubs.

Jenny has been a member of the Parochial Church Council for a number of years and last year Graham was elected to the Parish Council. They both help with various other village activities such as the fete and cricket teas.

Both Graham and Jenny enjoy walking their dog in the local countryside, sailing in and around Poole Harbour, playing golf, and gardening. They also enjoy visits to concerts, the cinema, and theatre.

RYDALMERE HOUSE



TREVOR, SHIRLEY AND DONNA FRY

Rydalmer House was constructed in 1963 from London Brick. The house is in a south facing position with panoramic views. Although originally a small two bedroomed bungalow, in the last ten years three extensions have been added and the roof space has been converted to make the property into a large family home. During 1999 work began on extensively landscaping the front garden to make a formal rose garden, and hopefully work will be completed in the year 2000!

In 1989 Shirley, Trevor and their daughter Donna-Marie moved to Ibberton from Okeford Fitzpaine. Donna went to the local primary school at Hazelbury Bryan, and is currently in the tenth year studying for her GCSE's at Sturminster Newton High School. Donna is a very keen horse rider and tends to dream about winning Badminton Horse Trials, rather too much! She also enjoys drama and plays the keyboard. She's a member of Sturminster Newton Youth Centre and tries to go as much as possible. Donna is also a passionate Manchester United supporter and plays for a ladies football team herself.

Trevor is the local builder, and he has carried out many different projects within the village. He is also a keen gardener. He enjoys Scuba Diving, and is a keen football watcher, and ex-player.

They have two pets, a Red Setter called Hector and a cat called Topsy. Donna has a favourite horse called Stoney at the stables where she works - Trevor and Shirley hear so much about her that she's almost a member of the family!

As a family they all enjoy travelling, usually accompanied by Donna's best friend Sam. They always look forward to holidays abroad.

Shirley's car is a Volvo S40 and Trevor has a rather battered Peugeot 504 pick-up for his business. They cannot imagine living in Ibberton without a vehicle - especially with a teenager in the house with a busy social life to maintain!

BEING A TEENAGER IN IBBERTON

I've lived in Ibberton since I was four. Before that I lived in Okeford Fitzpaine but I can't really remember that much.

Ibberton is a lovely place. I love the countryside and because I'm a horsey person there are lots of places to ride.

Ibberton is a very close and friendly community and everyone knows everyone and I think that's really cool!

Sometimes I wished I lived in Sturminster because most of my friends live there and sometimes I feel a bit cut off but I have very lovely and considerate parents who take me everywhere.

One of my close friends, Caron Abbott, lives just up the road from me. She also has a horse of her own and sometimes we go riding together.

I hope to go to University and take a degree in Social Work. I'd like to go to Uni in a city and stay in a big city like London or Manchester for a couple of years, but I don't think I'd leave Dorset for good, and I'll never forget Ibberton because of the many happy memories here.

Donna Fry

99 IBBERTON



MAVIS HOLLAND

99 Ibberton is an old cob cottage with a traditional cottage garden that has been my home ever since I arrived in the village with my mother when she was appointed head of the local school.

My mother had to go back to teaching after the 1914/18 war. She was offered all three headships she applied for, but this one had a cottage acquired by the school managers, to rent to the headmistress.

World War Two tied us here because she withdrew the notice she had tendered, on request, knowing it would be impossible to get another teacher here in wartime.

During the war the school had to move to Woolland which had a smaller room and no real playground - it was crowded with pupils - to say the least!

When she finally managed to retire, the school was closed.

1 THE ORCHARD



FRED AND BARBARA VATER

Fred and Barbara have been the only tenants of the house, moving in shortly after it was built, and have lived there all their married life.

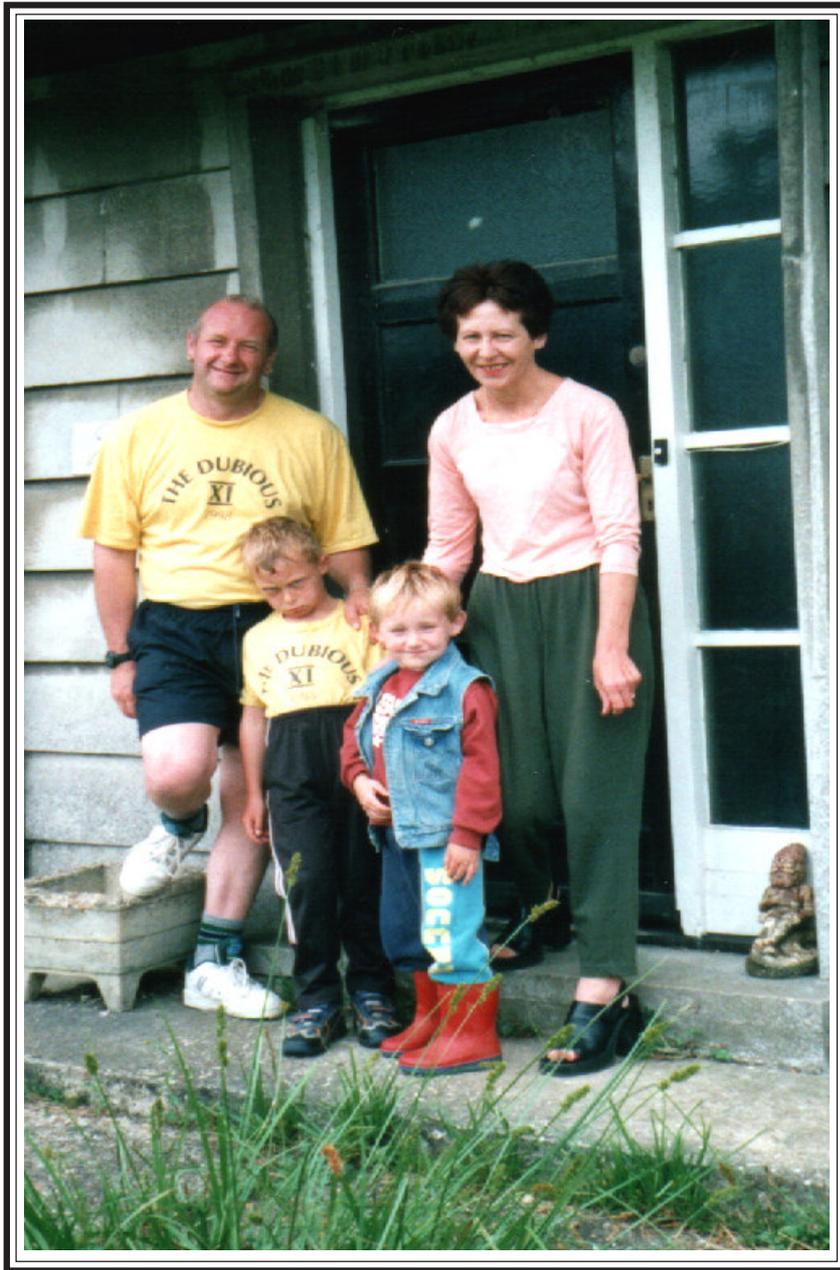
Soon after Fred returned home after serving seven years in the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry Royal Artillery doing war service, they were married. They met when Barbara was in the Women's Land Army working at Manor House Farm, and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in September 1997.

Fred and Barbara brought up three children who now live elsewhere. In the past they have both served in the Special Constabulary and were also involved in the Royal British Legion.

Now that they are retired and without transport of their own, they rely on local buses, twice a week for shopping. Dorset Country Cars offer a good service for visits to the surgery, etc.

They both enjoy living in Ibberton because they feel Dorset is the most beautiful county in England and environmentally friendly.

2 ORCHARD



MALCOLM, SUSAN, THOMAS AND SAMUEL DUDLEY

Malcolm and Susan Dudley live at 2 The Orchard with children Thomas and Samuel, pet dogs George and Billy, plus gerbils Super Sam and Super Buz. Malc and Sue moved into the Airey design ex-council house with their six month old son, Thomas. At that time Malcolm was a self employed builder working under the business name of 'Dudley Home Service' and Sue a full time mother. They moved from a mobile home near Shaftesbury into their second home and first house on the 31st January 1992. Shortly afterwards they acquired a six month old Labrador called George.

Samuel was born on the 7th July 1995. They own two vehicles, the business van a Nissan Vanette and a Volvo 340 for Susan to learn to drive. The only public transport in the village are two weekly buses to Blandford on Saturday and Thursday which Susan uses to do the weekly shopping.

Thomas thoroughly enjoys attending Hazelbury Bryan School which he started in September 1997 aged four and is picked up by the school bus which stops outside the house.

In June 1997, they adopted Billy, a lively black mongrel from Dorset Animal Rescue.

Malcolm finished the Dudley Home Service business in September 1998 to begin training as an Addictions councillor based in Plymouth during the week and travelling home at weekends while Susan kept the home fires burning!

Susan eventually passed her driving test just in time to take their second son Sam to school.

When Tom and Sam were asked if they liked living in Ibberton they both said, "It is fun." Malcolm loves it and doesn't want to live anywhere else. He enjoys playing cricket, trained as a cricket coach, and runs the youth section of the local club.

3 THE ORCHARD

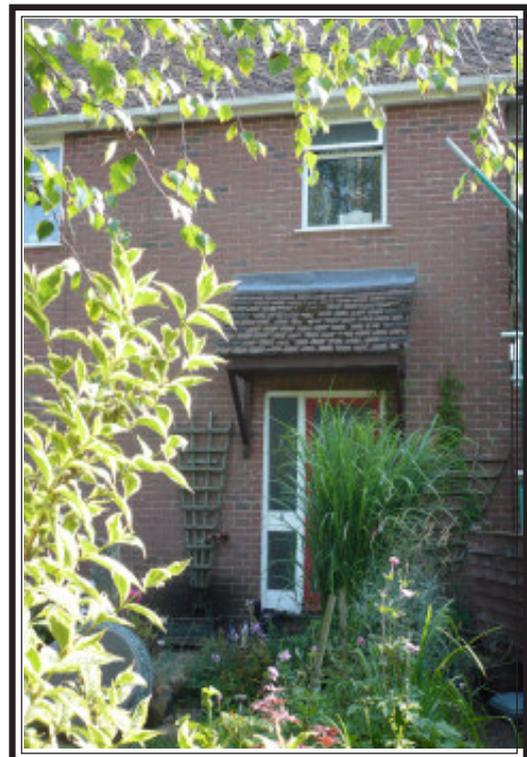
Phil and Sue Ayres lived in Ibberton with their five children from May 1999 and remained until 2001 when they moved to Hazelbury Bryan.

The house in which they lived was one of four semi-detached Cornish pre-fabricated houses built in the nineteen forties with an estimated lifespan of twenty years. Two of the four houses have been reclad in brick in recent years by North Dorset District Council because they had been found to be suffering from concrete cancer and the steel reinforcements were rusting.



Before - 2 The Orchard

After - 3 The Orchard



4 THE ORCHARD



MARY HOWELLS

I have lived in Ibberton all my life, spending my childhood at Church Farm and attending the village school. I find it a very peaceful village with lovely views all around.

I ran the Post Office in my home for forty years, until my husband's death in 1995 when I gave it up. I enjoyed meeting customers who, in the main, were always ready for a chat.

The house was built just after the Second World War on a site of an orchard, one of many in the village in those days, and my husband and I, who were the first and only tenants, bought the house from the Council.

Now retired, I have a Sheltie Shetland collie called Max for company, and many kind friends to take him for walks.

I have no transport of my own, and am unable to use the few buses that serve the village, so my two daughters (who live elsewhere) bring my shopping.

Leisure time is taken up with reading books selected from the Library Van that visits the village once a fortnight. I also enjoy drawing with pencil and charcoal.

HOLMWOOD

JOHN AND OLGA KIRTLEY

Built just before the war and originally called 'Little Hills' the bungalow stands near the top of a knoll by Leigh Lane, facing south and catching the sun from early morning to sunset. It started life as a 'square' four roomed house (each room measures 12' x 12') but, in 60 years, has grown into a three bedroomed house with sun lounge and patio. It is particularly cosy since the installation of calor gas central heating in 1982, and this is complemented by cavity wall insulation and full double glazing.

The garden occupies approximately a quarter of an acre, and is mainly lawn with small vegetable and flower beds. There is also a greenhouse measuring 12' x 8' and a fruit cage. A particular feature is a 9' high palm tree planted by John and Olga eighteen years ago.

John and Olga Kirtley moved into Holmwood in July 1982 after inspecting some fifty or so properties in Dorset and Devon. This proved the ideal retirement home, being sunny, manageable, peaceful, affordable, and without immediate neighbours.

John has retired after an entire working life on the technical side with a major petroleum group. Olga and he married in 1953 and shared the delight of living and working in South Africa, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, and finally, London.

They count themselves lucky to have their three children and five grandchildren living no more than an hour's drive away.

In between family activities and, of course, gardening, John and Olga are keen ramblers. The travel bug still bites and they visit South Africa for two to three months every few years. They also enjoy motoring on the continent as often as they can.

The Economics of Living in Ibberton in 1999

The following are the basic overheads that John and Olga incur excluding running expenses such as food, car, petrol and servicing, personal insurances, and holidays.

ITEM	ANNUAL COSTS	COMMENTS
	£'s	
Council Tax	784	
House Insurance	190	
Car- Road Fund Tax	150	Car essential due to narrow roads a small car, Fiat Punto selected and is ideal.
Insurance	206	
Depreciation	2000	
Water	106	
Calor Gas	426	
Electricity	216	
Telephones [House phone & mobile]	<u>252</u>	Rentals only
Total	<u>4330</u>	

Initially, John and Olga joined the Crown crib and dart teams respectively, but these activities have been superseded by short mat indoor bowling at a nearby Village Hall. John was for some years an umpire with the Ibberton Cricket team, until his varicose veins gave trouble, but he still supports the club as a Vice President.

Two years ago, John and Olga found themselves Parish Right of Way Liason Officers, looking after the 39 footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. Fortunately, they are now supported by six volunteers who have adopted some of the paths. A special Millennium project of which John is proud is the development of a network of public footpaths in the village where he raised funds to have all the old stiles replaced by a total of fourteen kissing and pedestrian gates, all but one paid for by local residents.

John also acts as Independent Examiner for the accounts of Ibberton Church and the Village Hall.

John and Olga chose Holmwood not only because the bungalow offered the best view in Ibberton, but because of the friendly atmosphere in the village. It was still a 'working' village, not a retirement village (they had already tried that!) nor was the place populated almost entirely by weekenders and died, therefore, out of season. There were farming activities, and village activities such as the Fete, and soon after their arrival the Cricket Club was re-formed. Their children became parents, and they assumed the roles of grandad and granny.

The Crown Inn was the friendliest of pubs where good company and draught Bass in good condition could be found. There was even a sub Post Office right opposite them. Inevitably things change, more than half the properties in Ibberton have changed hands twice, and many once, since John and Olga arrived in the village. Fortunately, enough of the newer arrivals and 'part-timers' have supported the original core of active villagers so as to maintain a true village atmosphere.

May it remain that way, and may the Millennium activities help to foster this feeling.



**In June 2000, John and Olga sold the bungalow and left the village to live near Dorchester*

HOLMWOOD



JULIAN FITTER

I moved into Holmwood on June 1st 2000, so I must qualify as one of the most recent arrivals to contribute to the Millennium Book. The previous owners John and Olga Kirtley have already contributed, so I will try not to be repetitious.

I have lived in the Blackmore Vale for the last 20 years, moving here in 1980 after 18 months in Cambridgeshire. Prior to that I spent 15 years in the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador, a truly wonderful place and a real privilege to have been fortunate enough to live there.

I have three children. John the eldest lives in California and does wonderful things with computers, 32 year old Daniel lives in Galapagos and works as a guide and photographer, and Jeanette the youngest, lives at Sturminster Newton, is married to a local man and works just down the road at Webbs!

When I came back from Galapagos, where I had run a yacht charter business, I set up a company to develop tourism in the Falkland Islands, that, however, was before the 'conflict' and no one really knew where they were. So I started working as a salesman for Hambro Life, now Allied Dunbar. After a short while there I joined a firm of Independent Financial Advisers in London, but after a couple of years I decided to set up in business on my own. That was 16 years ago and I have been based in Shaftesbury since 1990. The business is now owned by Savoy Asset Management Plc.

While being a financial adviser is how I earn my living, my real interest is in the environment, and in particular conservation and the need to include people in the conservation of their own environment. I was instrumental in setting up the Galapagos Conservation Trust and was involved from the outset with the Falklands Conservation, two organisations that seek to protect small oceanic archipelagos. I am still involved with both and expect to be more so once I can manage to retire from the boring bit, business!

As a recent arrival I have not had a chance to become involved in the village but I was immediately attracted to it when I came to look at Holmwood. It is quiet and off the beaten track, but at the same time it is a community. I look forward to being able to contribute to the village and to the community.

My leisure pursuits are generally related to the outdoors. I run to keep reasonably fit, play cricket, walk and work in the garden. I enjoy DIY around the house and travel, especially to sunnier climes. I have just finished a book on the Galapagos Islands, my first but I hope not my last.