

GLEBE HOUSE



JOHN, GERALDINE, ADAM AND KATHERINE JAMES

Glebe House is a brick-built detached house constructed around 1960 and situated on the top of a slight rise above the main village, approximately 116 metres (377 feet) above sea level. The position provides stunning views of the surrounding hills and countryside, but also considerable exposure to the prevailing weather. The house is set back from the lane at an angle, facing roughly southwest whilst the garden lies approximately east-west. The garden largely consists of grassland with a few mature trees and some rather aged fruit trees dotted about. More recently a small orchard, and along the rear boundary of the garden, a small vegetable plot and a linear wood of mixed native trees and shrubs have been planted. The garden contains a very small pond, originally dug to accommodate a gift of frogspawn from the children's nursery school but now containing considerable wildlife, including a newt. Longer-term ambitions for the garden include a much larger wildlife pond, a greenhouse, and the time to do some real gardening.

The Diocese of Salisbury constructed the house, built of Broadmayne brick, in 1960 as a replacement for the original Rectory (now the Old Rectory) in the village centre. John, Gerry and family moved in December 1991 and renamed it after the former glebe land on which it is built. The field to the south of the house, between Glebe House and Holmwood forms the remains of the glebe land, and is rented from the Diocese by the Olds of Manor House Farm. Before the house was built the land on which it now stands was given over to allotments, after which the lane Allotment Hill is named, although the name currently appears to have largely fallen into disuse. There are people who live in the village today, like Barbara Smith who kept a plot and remember the allotments.

In 1991 John, Gerry and Adam moved to Ibberton having lived in Wendover (Adam's birthplace) for four years and, prior to that, locally in Sutton Waldron for a further four years. Katie was born in 1993 in Poole hospital. When they first came to the village they had two cats, William and Penny, both of whom have since died. Today their pets are a colony of four guinea pigs, all female, and imaginatively named Daddy's, Mummy's, Adam's, and Katie's. Katie also claims to have a pet spider living in her bedroom!

Both Gerry and John are employed by Barclays Bank, based in Poole. Gerry works for Barclays Africa, where she helps develop and support the computer systems that run in Barclays African operations. John is a Management Consultant with Barclays internal consultancy which often requires working away from home. They have been with Barclays for the past 16 years, though Gerry has taken some time out on career breaks to have the two children.

Adam and Katie both attend Hazelbury Bryan County Primary School. Adam is in Class 2, Year 4 and is taught by Mr. Lossaso. Katie is in Class 1, Year 1 and is taught by Mrs. Foster. They travel to school by bus which picks them up outside Cutlers Close for the 40 minute ride to school.

Living in a small village with very limited public transport, and working away from the area, means that running two cars is an absolute necessity. They own a Rover 216 and a Fiat Punto. They also have a bicycle each, and *in extremis* can always resort to the lawn tractor!

Adam is a member of Sturminster Newton Cubs, and both he and Katie attend swimming lessons in Blandford Forum. John has been attempting to learn to play the guitar for the past three years but has come to realise that he is 30-odd years too late. Both John and Gerry play football; Gerry in a ladies five-a-side business league and John with a group of friends at Clayesmore School on Sunday evenings. Gerry also does circuit training and occasionally runs, recalling the day when she successfully completed the second London Marathon. John has run, when forced, and has a medal from the Hemel Hempstead Fireman's Fun Run to prove it. More recently he acquired an English Longbow - a long-held ambition - and a new sense of respect from the children. As a family they enjoy walking and cycling around the local countryside. Cutting all that grass is quite time-consuming too.

John and Gerry are as active in village and school life as work and family commitments allow. John has been involved with the village cricket club, both in playing and committee capacity, and has played for the village pub quiz team in the past. He organises occasional quiz nights for the club, the school Parent Teachers' Association and, this year, for the village Millennium celebrations. Both John and Gerry actively support the school PTA and Governors.

ALDERSGATE



BARRY AND LINDA DUNNING

Sited close to the road opposite Woolland View and the Methodist Chapel, Aldersgate is a small extended cottage and small holding standing in 1.25 acres of garden and agricultural land. Title Deeds do not reveal the exact age of the building but it is believed to have been built circa 1800 as a single storey, one room shepherd's hovel! Over the years an extra storey has been added to the original building plus a kitchen and bedroom extension to the side.

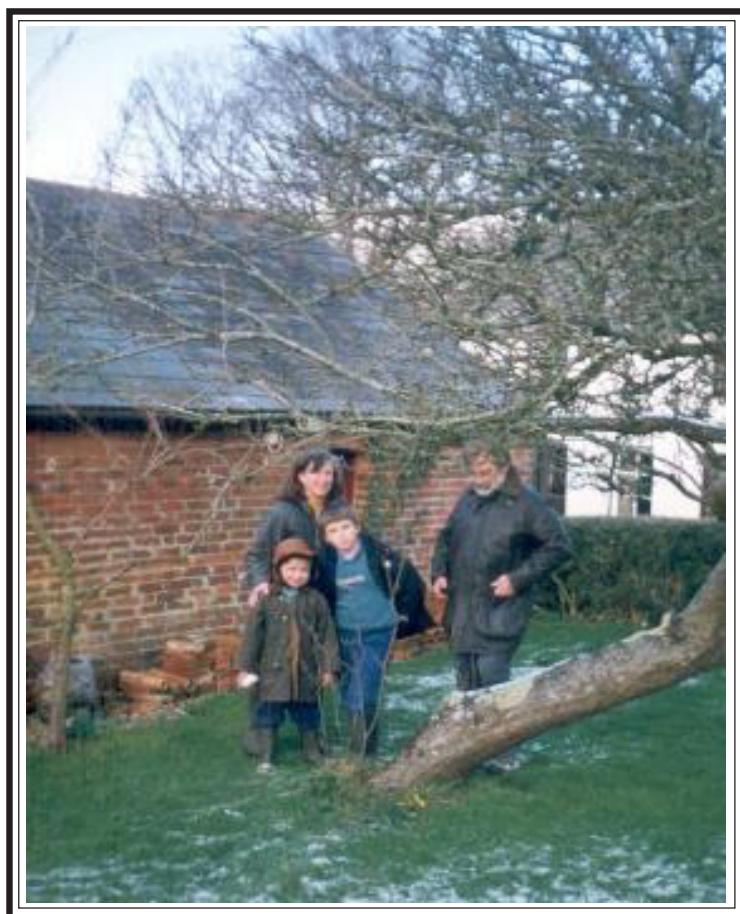
Barry and Linda moved to Ibberton from Bournemouth in October 1993. They have a daughter, Teresa, and two grandchildren, living in Bournemouth. Three cats share (or rather rule) the cottage with them.

Until August 1999 both Barry and Linda ran their own business in Blandford which sold computer supplies. Having sold the business much time is now spent cultivating their own food and rearing livestock on the small-holding. Eighty per cent of all their fruit, vegetables and meat is produced on the premises.

Linda is very keen on cross-stitch and spends most of her leisure time with needle and thread. Barry's main interest, other than growing things to eat, is the breeding of bantams.

**Up until the cottage was modernised in the late 1960's, there was a large corrugated shed where the kitchen now stands. This contained a water pump and an old fashioned copper that was once used to do the laundry. Mrs. Harry Miller, the occupant at the time, took in washing to earn a penny or two.*

WOOLLAND VIEW



MIKE, ANNETTE, DAVID AND JAMES NEWMAN

Woolland View is situated in Leigh Lane, next to the Ibberton Methodist Chapel. It has a flint and brick front elevation under a clay tile roof housing a second floor. Woolland View was once two cottages; the old doorways can be seen either side of the front door. It is difficult to date the original house from building features but the house appeared on 18th century maps. In the 19th century a large brick barn was built adjoining the house, with two loose boxes and four stalls for use as a hunting box. During the Victorian Period the house was repaired and updated. About fifty years ago a little thatched cottage that adjoined the house fell down. Some of the foundations of the floor still remain in the garden to the west of the house. There are other foundations in the garden to the south. Approximately twenty years ago a single storey extension comprising kitchen, utility, and toilet was added to take the place of a garage and scullery. In the fifteen years that Mike and Anette have owned the house they have renovated both the barn and the house, and created a second bathroom on the second floor. They have also extended the property by acquiring further land, some of which has been planted with fruit trees, and four years ago they built a bridge to join the garden to their paddock behind the Methodist Chapel.

Michael and Annette moved to Ibberton in 1986, and their two boys David and James were born in 1991 and 1994 respectively. The boys attend Shillingstone Church of England V.A. Primary School. The family also have two cats, Elijah and Pippin. Annette is a Primary School teacher who has co-ordinated Art and Technology in a Bournemouth Primary School for twelve years. Michael retired from teaching ten years ago due to a back injury and has subsequently had treatment and undergone many operations for his condition.

Annette is a member of the Parochial Church Council, secretary of the Village Hall Committee and helps with the cricket teas. David and James attend the family service once a month, and compose and read prayers. On special occasions they decorate a Church window ledge.

Michael is currently learning to drive tandems, and regularly attends Tai Chi Chuan, Baguazhang, and Xing Yi Chuan. Annette is involved in singing and dancing as well as art and craft activities. She enjoys walking on the fields and is particularly grateful for the new gated footpaths as it has made it easier for the boys to get from field to field. David and James both attend a dance group in Okeford Fitzpaine where David learns tap and jazz. Both boys go to Watch (nature and wildlife group) and Museum Club events which occur on Saturdays once a month. David is also learning to play the guitar and football. They both enjoy walking and riding their bikes around the village. The family attends Artsreach events and the boys take part in drama and music workshops.

“I like Ibberton because it is quiet, peaceful, and there is no litter. My favourite places in Ibberton are the stream at The Crown as I remember throwing my stones in there as a toddler and the church because I enjoyed ringing the bells on January 1st 2000. I’d like to climb the tower next as I’m told that the view is spectacular. I used to take my mum and brother there on a Sunday and pretend to be the Vicar.”

David Newman

“People are friendly and I know who most of them are. My favourite places in Ibberton are Ibberton Hill and the cowslip field because of the lovely views and lots of flowers and the church because people go to church who know me.”

James Newman

BERWICK HOUSE



MIKE, GILL AND CAMILLA OWENS

Berwick House, formerly Leigh Cottage, is constructed from two former farm cottages. There is evidence that the original houses were thatched. Previous owners, the Stewards, did extensive work on the house and lowered the downstairs floors. Later occupants, the Butlers, continued this and installed central heating. Mike and Gill intend to focus on improving the garden and converting the garage to an Art Studio for Mike.

There are three humans in the house and a varied assortment of animals. At the moment this consists of one cat, two fish, two gerbils, three rabbits (only!) and a pony. Mike is Head of Art at Bryanston and is Chief Examiner for Art for OCR. Gill teaches part-time at Gillingham. Camilla attends Child Okeford school and is kept busy looking after her animals.

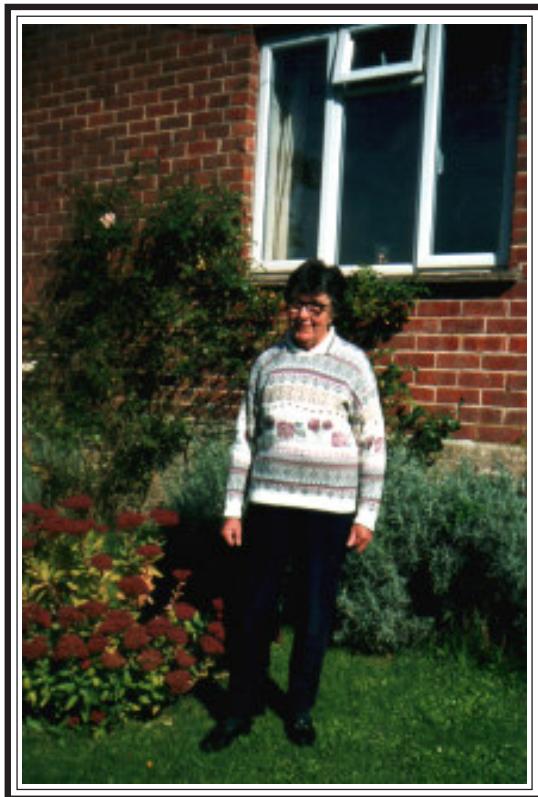
We all use the car to go to work and school, although Camilla would like to travel by pony! The family are pleased to be part of a community and have found everyone very friendly.

Leisure Time! Mike says, “What leisure time? We are usually gardening, decorating or exercising the pony in our leisure time.”

“When I go out I always like to talk to people. When we moved I was very happy because we have a big garden which is very lucky because I’ve got a pony. Everyone here is really nice. I like the next-door neighbours. I particularly like our village. I like our house because it is very big and large. It is so big I once got lost in it.”

Camilla Owens

1 CUTLERS CLOSE



BARBARA SMITH

I have lived at 1 Cutlers Close for 43 years. I am a retired widow living in a post war Housing Association house, and currently one of the few tenants in the village. When I moved to the village tenanted properties were the norm, and there were only about ten dwellings that were owner-occupied.

I no longer have a car but use the restricted bus service to Blandford for shopping, and where connections can be made go further afield which I do occasionally. I also walk and cycle locally, especially to visit the nearest Post Office and Shop at Okeford Fitzpaine, some two and a half miles away, in order to draw the old age pension and do basic shopping.

I am a member of the Village Hall Committee and the Parochial Church Council, having been the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the latter for 42 years.

I also play the organ for services at the Church. Ibberton is part of the Benefice of Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes but since the last rector retired there has been no replacement.

I enjoy walking, gardening and growing all my own vegetables in the plot in front of the house.

As a senior citizen the unhurried quality of life in the village means much to me. The peaceful countryside and beautiful surroundings make for a very pleasant environment and the friendship, help and support from villagers is second to none.

I feel safe living in the village, something that perhaps wouldn't be experienced in a town, and I think all these things far outweigh the slight disadvantages of living 'out in the sticks'.

2 CUTLERS CLOSE



HENRY AND JENNY BARTLETT AND IRIS GILBY

Situated in Leigh, 2 Cutlers Close is one of four red brick council houses built in the late 1940's. The house has a long front garden haphazardly planted with shrubs, flowers, and apple trees.

In 1981, Henry and Jenny lived at Woolland View for two years with their daughters, Jo and Zoe, and two ponies, prior to moving into their present home. The family is completed by three Jack Russell Terriers, Beany, Sausage, and Digger. Iris Gilby, Jenny's mother, was a retired teacher who moved to Sturminster Newton from Cornwall where she lived in a warden controlled bungalow until she joined the family at Ibberton in 1999, aged 94.

Living in a small community made it possible for the girls to have a freedom and independence that they would not have been able to enjoy in a larger town. Their activities mainly centred around their ponies and Apache, a skewbald of great character, who kept them firmly in place when necessary with a swift and lethal buck. Jo and Zoe both competed in Pony Club events which entailed towing a pony trailer behind a VW Beetle to events all over the South-West. Jo and her grey Welsh gelding 'My Friend' enjoyed taking part in mounted games, show jumping and hunter trials. Zoe followed in her footsteps riding a feisty little bay mare called 'Lucky' and 'Shell Bay' a horse who loved jumping but loathed schooling and pigs! In their teens they both took on local part time jobs. Sporting a mop of scarlet hair, Jo went turkey plucking, gardening and window cleaning whereas Zoe was a waitress, petrol attendant and care assistant. On leaving school, Jo had a variety of jobs, eventually moving into graphic design, but after twice facing redundancy, she headed for Amsterdam where she became Music Editor of Time Out Magazine. She followed this by managing the merchandising for well known bands and touring regularly all over Europe. Currently she is a Product Manager for Sony Records in Amsterdam.

Zoe loved her time at Hazelbury Primary School and followed her sister to Sturminster High School, but then opted to finish her studies at Shaftesbury. On leaving school, she worked for a year in solicitors and estate agents before University where she obtained an Honours degree in Social Sciences and Economics. Immediately after her degree the travel bug hit her and she moved to Vienna as an *au pair*, where she remained for a couple of years, returning to work briefly in Southampton, before taking a post in Amsterdam with a world wide company of English Language Colleges.

The parents provided the usual taxi service until Jo acquired a Vespa scooter which added a few parental grey hairs. Zoe remained dependent on them for her social life, mostly around Shaftesbury, until she bought her first car and drove herself back and forth to Southampton.

Henry deals in antiques, regularly attending Flea Markets, as well as working as a Courier. Thirty years ago Henry was a member of a folk group called The Famous Jug Band, playing the jug and double bass! The current revival of interest in 1970's music resulted in the re-issue of a record on compact disc that put him in touch with the other group members and they are working on new songs. The band got together this summer and recorded a CD in the Village Hall using an ex BBC Sound Technician with a mobile studio, based at Hazelbury (small world). Henry should no doubt be considered '*the oldest swinger in the village*'. Jenny was the Marketing Manager for a local company, recently gaining a National Vocational Qualification Level 4 in Management and celebrated her sixtieth birthday this year.

Jenny's mother, Iris, used to be an active fund-raiser for the RNLI in Cornwall as well as working in the local Cancer Shop there. A keen gardener, until a fall some years ago forced her to give up, she now enjoys watching television and listening to the radio in her bed-sitting room.

The couple own two rather old vehicles, a Volkswagen Polo and a Volvo Estate Car. There is a limited bus service from the village on Thursday and Saturday, and without their own transport it would have been impossible for any of the family to have got to work.

Jenny likes the atmosphere of the farmer's markets, and they both prefer to buy produce from local sources when possible. They have a fruit and vegetable box delivered from Goldhill Farm, Child Okeford and also purchase fresh fish from the local fishman each week.

Jenny is secretary of the Ibberton Cricket Club and Henry was one of the founder members of the Crown Inn's dart team that re-formed the Club some 14 years ago. He has long since stopped playing, and limits his sporting prowess to playing for a quiz team at the pub.

Being somewhat arthritic and no longer able to ride horses, negotiate stiles or hop over fences, Jenny appreciates the millennium gates that have opened up the opportunity to walk through the local fields. Rambling around the lanes and in the fields with the dogs is enjoyable in all weathers but particularly when the meadows and lanes are abundant with flowers and wild life.

They both enjoy the occasional trip to the theatre or cinema and are involved with the local quiz team. Henry likes listening to music and often pops along to local Jazz and Blues events. Dining with friends, playing the odd game of cards, visiting the Crown for the occasional jar, and socializing generally, fills their leisure time.

3 CUTLERS CLOSE



SANDRA AND COLIN PURTILL

I moved to 3 Cutlers Close on June 5th 1986. It's a spacious three bedroom semi with a large front garden, mostly lawn.

I have four children and six grandchildren. My daughters Sharon, Marie and Julie have all got partners and children and live in Blandford, Okeford Fitzpaine and Shillingstone. My son Colin lives and works in Gillingham, only managing to come home every other weekend.

I'm a part-time cleaner in and around the village and due to a very scant bus service I rely on my car for getting about.

I play cribbage and skittles for local teams and for relaxation I like pottering about in the greenhouse, reading mystery novels and listening to a wide range of music.

4 CUTLERS CLOSE ‘FIDDLESTICKS’



ANDY, SALLY, ANTONY AND HARRY CRESCI

Andy and Sally live at ‘Fiddlesticks’ with their two boys Antony aged thirteen years, and Harry aged ten, since moving down from Glasgow in 1987. ‘Fiddlesticks’ is the last house on the end of Cutlers Close at Leigh Cross. It is a late 1940’s red brick semi-detached house, and Andy and Sally own land opposite where they have a duck pond and some chicken pens. They have quite a few cockerels who wander about the lane investigating the hedges and ditches with their broods.

Andy and Sally are both musicians; Sally is a freelance Viola player and a member of the ‘Bourne Quartet’. She is also a Professor of Violin and Viola at the Royal Marines School of Music in Portsmouth. Andy plays the tuba in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and is also Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the R.M.S.M. in Portsmouth.

The family own two cars and rely one hundred per cent on them as their lives involve travelling many thousands of miles at unusual times of the day and night. Each day the two boys make use of the buses provided by the county to travel to and from their schools at Hazelbury and Sturminster Newton. The family usually shop in Blandford and Sturminster Newton.

When the boys were younger Sally ran a playgroup in the Village Hall, and now both the boys play for the Village Youth Cricket Teams which often involves Sally and Andy in helping to ferry the teams to matches. The boys are keen on all sports and are both active at Wimborne Rugby Club. Antony also plays for Okeford United Football Club under14’s team, so Andy and Sally spend most of their freetime on some cold touchline watching the boys. Andy enjoys a little shooting when time permits and is involved with the village shoot.

MARSH FARM



STANLEY AND PATSY HARRIS AND YOUNGEST DAUGHTER BELINDA

Marsh Farm is an old greystone farmhouse similar to that of most smaller farmhouses in the area with four rooms up, four down and two attic rooms in the apex. The roof, although originally stone tiled, is now slate, but the few remaining stone tiles are incorporated as coping in the Purbeck Stone wall that now encircles the roadside entrance to the house, as well as the roof of the front porch, both added by Patsy's father, Arthur Foot, in 1961. He also carried out some internal alterations, and the old Cheese Room was converted into the kitchen. Arthur, and his wife Ruby, had moved from neighbouring Mount Pleasant Farm on his retirement in 1961, having purchased Marsh Farm which at that time had only 36 acres. Prior to that Arthur's sister and her husband had farmed there since approximately 1920.

The farm buildings remain almost unspoiled; the cobb farmyard wall being a feature with only a covered stockyard and haybarn being added to the existing buildings. The old pigsties to the north of the house have been replaced by a stable block. The acreage is now approximately 70 acres. The pond and yew trees are centuries old and untouched. The outside Privy still stands - although now unused! In 1980, the Old Dairy and part of the cowstall were converted into a flat for Evelyn Harris, Stan's mother. This accommodation is at present occupied by a young couple who do part-time work on the farm.

In 1968 Stan, Patsy and eldest daughter, Charlotte, moved into Marsh Farm after the Foots built 'Littlemarsh' bungalow for their retirement. Daughters Katherine and Belinda were subsequently born at Marsh Farm. In the fullness of time, Charlotte and Katherine carried on the family tradition by marrying Blackmore Vale Farmers.

Anyone who travels the lane that runs through the farm with the pond on one side and the house on the other will see that Stan and Patsy share their life with a wide variety of livestock. These include Lakeland Terriers, Nettle (the working collie), foxhound puppies in the summer, horses, sheep, the ancient breed of Longhorn cows, and a motley collection of free range poultry, geese, several breeds of duck, all shapes, sizes and colours of bantams, hens and cockbirds galore. The poultry, which the Harris' call 'traffic calming' divide their time between yard, pond, and the muckheap that holds a predominant position by the side of (or almost on) the road, and are a 'must' for sightseers on a Sunday.

Belinda, although technically still living at home is at present frequently not around. Having graduated and travelled, she is currently in a job away from home, but will undoubtedly return to Dorset once she has made her fortune!

Stan and Patsy are both from farming stock that goes back to forever on both sides of their families. Patsy's ancestors would have all come from within ten miles of Ibberton and her father's mother taught at Ibberton Village School. Stan and Patsy have a small herd of suckler cows and as Stan deals in sheep there are always plenty about. By today's standards he is considered an old fashioned farmer, using hardly any spray or fertiliser, and very little machinery beyond a wheelbarrow. He would much prefer to go back to his beloved carthorses. Patsy has always loved horses and been very involved breaking and schooling until this year when old age is creeping on. She was also Chief Instructor of the local Pony Club for nearly 30 years, and still does some teaching at home.

Transport is currently a small Peugeot car, necessary for weekly shopping, a VW Mann Lorry and ancient Landrover, both vital for transporting horses, sheep, and cattle. The Landrover is used for feeding the stock in the winter. Stan drives lorry and landrover to markets or sales on at least two days per week. Patsy does most of her weekly shopping in Sturminster Newton but is forced to go to Tescos in Blandford about once a month which she loathes! Stan is on the Parish Council, and Churchwarden of Woolland Church (Woolland being the next door smaller village, and seemingly in need of support). He is also President of the Village Cricket Club, as its first matches were played at Marsh Farm when the Club was re-formed many years ago. Patsy makes endless cakes for raffles and stalls for whoever is raising money for whatever event!

Most of Stan and Patsy's lives revolve around the Portman Hunt. Stan is Chairman of their Supporters Club, and between them they organise an enormous number of fund raising functions all the year round. This, in turn, forms most of their social life. The whole family ride and hunt, although Stan no longer follows hounds on horseback. Patsy still does and runs a small hunter livery yard at Marsh Farm. The Portman Hounds always hold their last Vale Meet at Marsh Farm, usually on the second Wednesday in February. There is always a large mounted field which includes visitors from neighbouring hunts and a huge crowd of foot followers, many of them from the village.

KITFORD FARM



RODERICK, LYDIA, EMMA, FLORENCE, OLIVER AND SOPHIE WURFBAIN

A Dutch family moving to Ibberton Both Roderick and Lydia were born and brought up in Holland. Roderick came to England in 1975 and, following an English education, started a career in banking, even though, deep down, he wanted to be a farmer.

After spending lots of summer holidays with her English cousins, Lydia grew to love England and decided to move here in 1987. She met Roderick in London and they got married in 1991.

Even though they lived in London they both loved the countryside with all its country pursuits so decided to rent a little cottage in the Piddle Valley as of May 1991, where they lived for three years. After that, they rented a farm house called Druce Farm in Puddletown.

Coming down from London each weekend and spending all their holidays in Dorset, they decided to have a look around to see if they could buy their own property. After a long search they found their dream house in Ibberton which they bought in September 1998. According to a few locals, the wettest farm in Dorset! They did extensive building work and put some love and life back into Kitford Farm. They moved in with their children Emma (6), Florence (4), and Oliver (1). Sophie was born in June 2000.

To come to Ibberton at the weekends and holidays is a real treat which is enjoyed by them all. They love this part of Dorset with the most amazing views and enjoy going for lovely walks. They hope to have a few animals in the near future to start a little farm, and maybe, one day, they will live here full time.

LEIGH LODGE



ERNIE AND MAUREEN HAYES

In 1979, Ernie and Maureen purchased the bungalow when they were still London publicans, to use as an escape from the hurly burly of City life. The bungalow was originally built by Will Miller's father and over the years they have made many improvements, all done by their own hands (Ernie is the Chargehand and Maureen the Labourer!). They have created a garden with different focal areas. The front garden has mature shrubs and trees and in spring, the grass is carpeted with snowdrops and daffodils. Ernie has made a wind chime, and hung bird feeders, to attract the many different feathery visitors. A more recent addition, is their kitchen garden and flower beds adjacent to the sheltered patio area which is surrounded by a collection of large pots all planted out with a colourful miscellany of plants.

Ernie was a Scientific Instrument Maker specialising in film, working for Plesseys and the Ministry of Defence, whilst Maureen, as an International Telephonist, was one of the original 'Hello Girls' until they moved into the Pub Trade. They have three sons, Tony, Gary, and Jeff, and they now look forward to entertaining their four grandchildren when they come to stay. They make frequent visits to London to visit their disabled son Tony, and often bring back his dog, Meggie, for a holiday. They recently had to have Lady, their terrier, put to sleep, and both miss her terribly.

They own a Shogun 4 x Wheel Drive vehicle, and generally shop in supermarkets in Blandford, but also support the shop at Shillingstone that caters for everything from papers to homebaked bread, and is soon to have its own 'hole in the wall' banking facility.

Although they are often called away at short notice, Maureen still manages to help with the cricket teas and make jam. They also grow their own vegetables. In his leisure time Ernie likes to pop up for the odd pint or two at the Crown, whilst Maureen enjoys sketching, painting, embroidery, crochet, and knitting. Ernie uses recycled material to create bird feeders, chimes, and wrought iron artefacts as well as finding time to make models for the grandchildren.

The village is their haven, and Leigh in particular seems to have a character of its own that has changed little over the years; the lane still echoes to the sound of tractors, animals, and children playing.

LITTLE MARSH FARM BUNGALOW



ALISON AND PETER HOLMES MEREDITH AND MAUDIE

Little Marsh is a three bedrooned Bradstone bungalow built in 1968 and is situated on one corner of Leigh Cross on the edge of Ibberton, overlooking Marsh Farm and with arguably one of the best views in the village. We bought the property with a three acre piece of an adjoining field in 1991 when job relocation moved us from Surrey, along with two horses John and Reilly, two dogs Pip and Tess, and two cats Tigger and Spike. We knew the village and surrounding area quite well before we moved as my parents, Gwen and Terry Small, had lived locally since 1974 and had kept the Crown Inn from 1980-1986 before their move to Woolland. We also knew Little Marsh as I had rented the bungalow for three months during the winter of 1989-1990 when my job first moved from London to Bournemouth. For Tess, it was a sort of homecoming as she was from a litter of puppies born at Bob Courage's farm, Silverlands.

After installing central heating, one of our first major tasks at Little Marsh was to build a small stable yard to accommodate the horses and Mrs Moo, the rescued Jersey house cow, who joined us from near our old home in Surrey shortly after we moved here.

Meredith was born in June 1992 in Dorchester Hospital during a particularly hot spell and Maudie followed in February 1996 on a day when it snowed so heavily, we awoke to no power, the local school was closed, the Portman Hunt cancelled its meet at Marsh Farm and the hospital offered to send out a helicopter to get us to the maternity ward! Fortunately, our trusty Land Rover got us to Dorchester safely and we were all able to get to Patsy's meet the following Wednesday.

John, Reilly and Mrs Moo are still with us and have been joined by Shelley, Meredith's pony. Tigger, Spike and Pip are now resting peacefully in the bank at the top of the garden and Tess has Eddie, a black labrador collie to keep her company along with Poppy the cat.

Peter is a civil servant with the MoD based near Salisbury and commutes each day by car. Alison left Chase Manhattan Bank in Bournemouth after Meredith was born and is currently taking a part time course in Learning Support at Poole College whilst working voluntarily at Hazelbury Bryan Primary School. Meredith attends Hazelbury Primary and generally travels on the school bus which stops at Leigh Cross. Maudie goes to Shillingstone House Nursery School on two days a week and to the Pre-School based in the Hazelbury School Hall on another two mornings.

Transport at the moment is a Peugeot 205 which Peter uses for the longer commute and a Daihatsu 4 Track used for shorter runs, towing trailers, picking up horse feed and bedding, and during inclement weather. Most of our shopping is done weekly at Tesco in Blandford although we do try to support the local shops in Sturminster when we can.

When it comes to leisure time, we always seem to have a project on the go, whether it be house improvement, car maintenance or keeping on top of work in the garden and the yard. Peter no longer rides as his old horse, John, has been retired but Alison still gets out when she can on Reilly, although she really only uses her for 'happy hacking' these days. Meredith enjoys her riding and has recently joined the Portman Pony Club and also goes to a weekly dancing class in Okeford Fitzpaine. She also loves spending time at the 'farm' down Leigh Lane helping Dave Winder with the sheep and lambs.

When we first knew we had to move from Surrey we searched exhaustively across a huge area for an affordable older property that would be within an hour's commute from both Bournemouth and Andover and would allow us to keep the horses. There seemed to be nothing for us and then, unexpectedly, Little Marsh became available, and now we wouldn't want to live anywhere else!

BULLBANKS



OLIVER, GEORGINA, CAROLINE AND SARAH CHAMBERLAIN

Bullbanks is situated near the bottom of Leigh Lane. It used to be thatched and was originally two Workers Cottages. At some time, the original thatch had been replaced by an ugly concrete tiled roof. When Oliver and Georgina Chamberlain bought it in 1996, it was owned by Mick Robertson and used as a weekend cottage. It had two rooms up and two down with a lean-to on the back. The Chamberlains have modernised the cottage, adding another two rooms up and two down, making it a family house. They have also enlarged the garden and built a wooden two storey garage.

Mick Robertson had farm buildings built on the twelve acres of land that now belong to the cottage.

The Chamberlain family number seven in all. Oliver is a Land Agent and works in Wimborne. He has held a commission in the Territorial Army for the last 26 years, and is currently ranked a Col. Yeomanry which takes up a lot of weekends. Georgina is a Jack of all trades, amongst which are secretary, cook and china restorer. At present, she is framing pictures and also helps a friend run a catering business. Caroline is in her second year at Durham University reading Geography, and Sarah is in her final year of A levels at a local school.

The family dogs are an elderly Jack Russell called Tussell, and a Flatcoated Retriever called Willow; both thoroughly enjoy going shooting and the more walks the better! A Welsh Cob called Bobby is at present on loan, as Caroline is very rarely home long enough to get him fit.

There is usually a fox or two in the area and in the summer months the family spend far too much time watching the cubs playing in the field in front of the house.

The farm unit and 12 acres are rented by a local farmer, David Winder, who keeps sheep, cattle, pigs, geese, and a very greedy goat called Pandora.

**Bullbanks was originally known by the name of 'Bulbanks' as in Bulbarrow. Before the Cottages came into private ownership, they were the property of the Parish and a forerunner of Social Housing!*

HEMMICK



DAVID SMITH AND CINDY BRIERLEY

Hemmick is situated on the outskirts of the village. It was built in 1974 and bought soon after by Rosemary Phillips. She named the house after a beach in Cornwall known as 'A little piece of heaven'. Rosemary went into a Retirement Home in 1993 and Cindy Brierley and David Smith were fortunate to be able to buy the property.

Hemmick consists of approximately three acres. It has a large garden with an orchard and two paddocks.

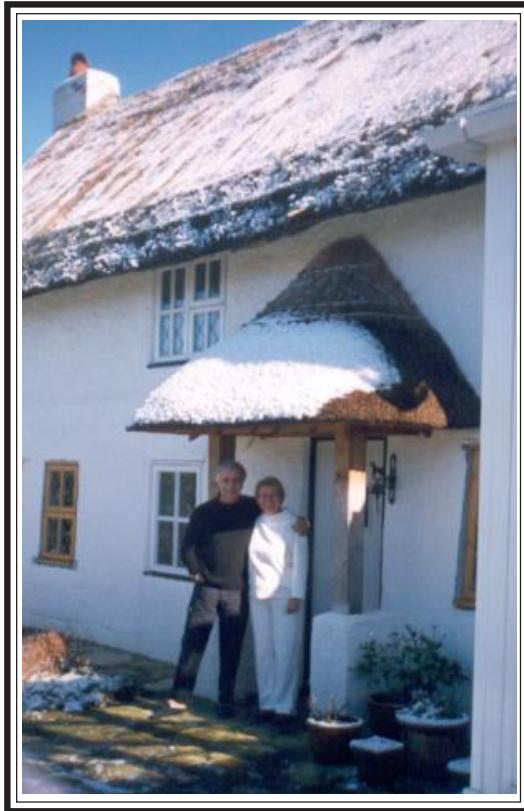
Cindy and David moved from Sussex after ill health forced them to abandon their sheep milking enterprise and David's career as a sales executive. They now keep eight Jacob sheep for pleasure and cross breed them with a local ram. Most of their time is spent gardening and working on the home which is currently being extended. They also produce most of their own fruit and vegetables.

They have an uninterrupted view of fields and enjoy all aspects of the surrounding countryside, where they also walk Oscar, the golden retriever.

Horse Racing is a passion, and they rarely miss a visit to Wincanton Races, or the local point-to-points.

They are enthusiastic supporters of most village events, and thoroughly enjoy village life.

COATES COTTAGE



JOHN AND VERONICA SUTTON

John and Veronica moved to the three hundred year old cob cottage in 1996. Ever since their move they have been busy restoring the cottage to its original state by taking down the lean-to conservatory and open stairs added by previous owners, and stripping the open Inglenook fireplace back to the cob.

The Cottage is always full to bursting with family and friends as John and Veronica have two daughters, a son-in-law, and granddaughter who all enjoy visiting, not to mention their close friends who are also regular visitors.

John has his own Steel Erection Business which takes him all over the world. Veronica recently retired from working in the business and now finds herself twice as busy!

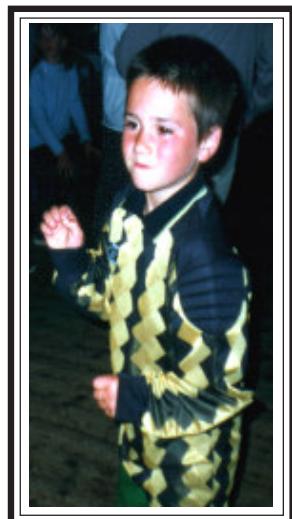
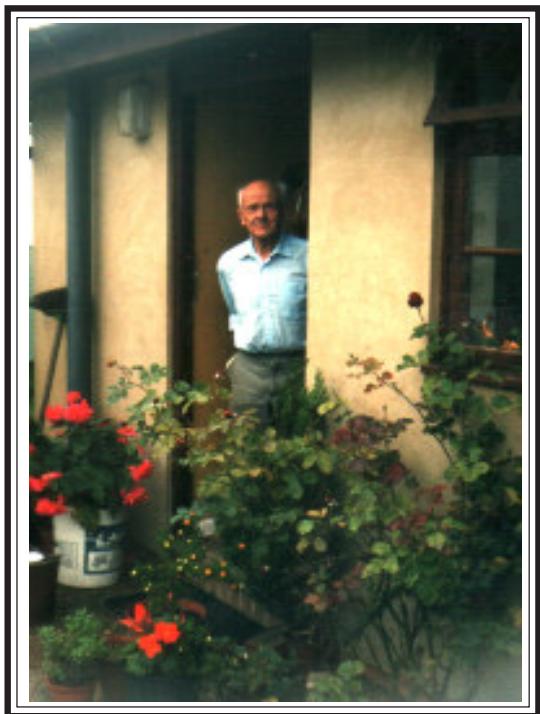
Their transport is a Mercedes 230 Picnicmobile. They shop mainly at Tescos in Blandford apart from fresh produce which they buy from Fruit and Vine in Sturminster and both enjoy browsing around Harts General Store.

Sherborne's Pack Monday Fair is a favourite event, and they support many other events in the local area.

They find a good way to familiarise themselves with the area is 'The Good Pub Guide' which they are currently working their way through!

They both enjoy pottering in their secluded garden and get their guests involved as well.

MILLER'S GREENE



WILL MILLER ROGER, MARY, KEVIN AND SCOTT LEAMON

The bungalow and annexe is built on land that originally belonged to Will Miller, and the name is a combination of Will's name, and Mary's maiden name, 'Green', to convey the fact that the land is also part of a green lane. The bungalow is set in three quarters of an acre of garden, mostly down to grass, flowerbeds, and a pond complete with water plants and a statue, all safely fenced in. The back of the bungalow has uninterrupted country views and it is the last building before the lane peters out into a track leading to fields. Prior to 1987, Will and Mary lived in a caravan on the land. Roger drew up the building plans for a house when he and Mary decided to get married. However, when planning permission was withheld, it was developed as a bungalow with annexe.

Will's grandfather was a shepherd at Church Farm,. He in turn was born at Church Farm Cottage, moved to Coates Cottage when he was 4 years old, and attended the village school. The family moved to Kitford where Will farmed for many years after his father retired to Leigh Lodge. In later years, however, Will provided an invaluable local taxi service. Will is a keen cricketer, a medium fast bowler who once took 100 wickets in a season; he played for Ibberton at Court Orchard and many years later when the Club was reinstated at Marsh Farm. Will has many memories of the village and its surrounding area, but now he enjoys pottering in his beautifully kept garden.

Roger and Mary have two boys, Kevin 11 and Scott 6, both of whom currently attend Hazelbury Bryan School. Roger is a Milking Parlour Service Engineer employed by a local company in Sturminster Newton, and Mary is a qualified play assistant, working part-time for two Pre-School Groups at Hazelbury Bryan and Pimperne.

Roger uses a company Renault Van, and owns a Landrover County, but the family car is a Maestro. Mary shops locally in Sturminster but likes to visit Yeovil for items such as clothes. Public transport is out of the question as in such a rural area it does not cater for the everyday needs of a busy family. Will drives a Ford Sierra that he also uses for ferrying people to and from hospitals and to the Methodist Chapel.

Will runs the Chapel with the help of Mary, which entails opening it for services, cleaning, and maintaining the garden. They also host an annual Garden Party in the grounds of Miller's Greene at the beginning of August to raise funds for the Chapel. Mary together with Annette Newman organised a children's club at the Village Hall one day in the Easter holidays and they plan to extend it to a few more days during the summer vacation.

Roger, Mary and the boys cut the grass at Woolland churchyard, and Kevin is Roger's right hand man, with a knowledge, far beyond his years, of most things mechanical. Roger also takes on gardening in his spare time! Mary is a member of the Village Hall Committee. Leisure time is a luxury, and Mary enjoys playing Bingo, but because of all her activities, finds herself attending a lot of meetings for the Pre-School Group, the Chapel, and the Village Hall. Roger and the boys all enjoy fishing. Kevin plays cricket for the Ibberton Junior Team, and is a member of the School Cricket Team that won the South West Championship at the County Cricket Ground in Taunton. Scott is a ball of energy, and no doubt will follow in his older brother's footsteps!

Mary has lived in and around the village for most of her life, and both she and Roger enjoy living in a village community amidst lovely surroundings, where the boys can play freely and safely in and about the lanes.