

RHODES COTTAGE



CAROLINE & PETE DOHERTY

Map Reference D4

Caroline & Pete Doherty have lived in Rhodes Cottage since July 1997. The previous owner, Linda Mettyer, bought our house in Salisbury. Pete comes from Altrincham in Cheshire and Caroline from Winchester. We met at the BBC in



Southampton where we both work. Pete is a director, working mainly in the BBC's Corporate Office, producing videos for outside companies and Caroline is a journalist for South Today. On 31st May 1999 we were

joined by James Francis Doherty, a wonderful baby boy who has turned our lives upside down and made us realise how precious sleep is. We hope he will go to the local school and enjoy the village as much as we do.

Parts of the house date back to 1780, but it was extensively renovated in the 70's and 80's. These renovations are coming to the end of their life, so there is a lot to do. We have put in a new kitchen and bathroom and are slowly replacing floors. We still haven't fully unpacked and are beginning to suspect we never will! Apparently, the house belonged originally to the local Baptist Minister, the Reverend Rhodes, from whom it gets its name. It once had a thatched roof which was destroyed by fire, the scars of which can still be seen on the beams inside, and in one of its previous incarnations, it was a sweet shop.

Damerham is the most wonderful place to live and bring up children. After a day in Southampton, it's a tranquil oasis where you can recharge your batteries. But at the same time, it's a very vibrant place with a real sense of community, something which has been lost in so many villages. One of our favourite views is of the church as you come down into the village from Fordingbridge. It's a scene that has probably remained the same for hundreds of years, and it's that sense of history which adds to Damerham's charms.

ROSE COTTAGE

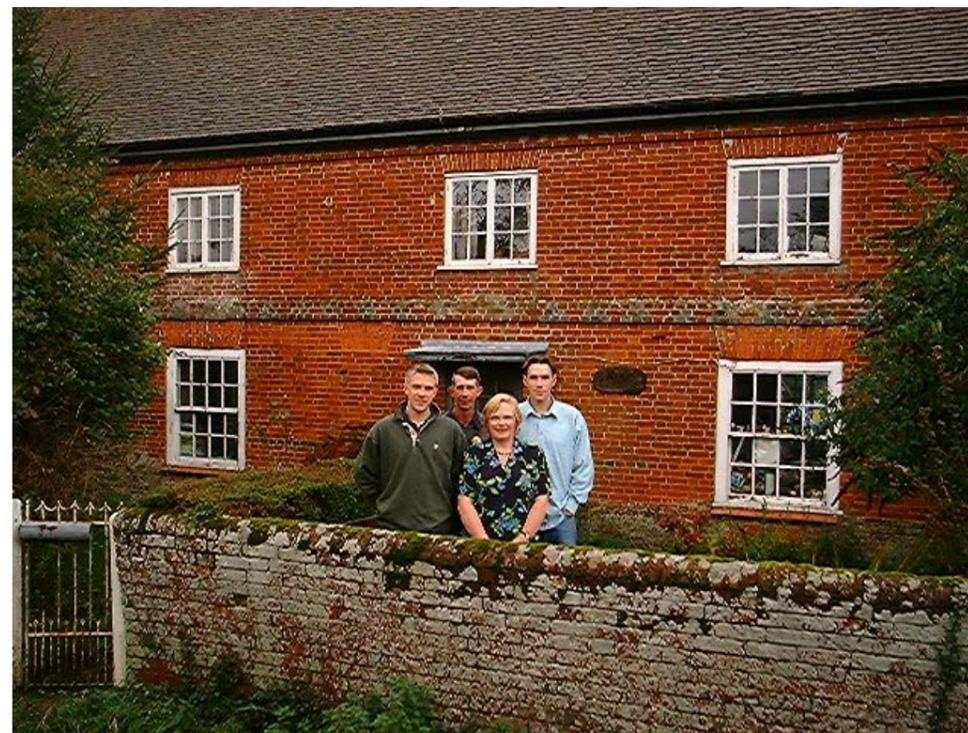


JOHN & CATHY GODBER

Map Reference C3

John and Cathy Godber have 2 sons James and Andrew. John works for Allenford Farms, has done so for 28 years. He works with outdoor pigs. John came to live here two years before we married.

For nine years we lived at Bouldsbury Farm



Cottages but have lived at Rose Cottage for 17 years. Cathy comes from Yorkshire, John

from Gloucestershire. We keep chickens whose eggs we sell at the gate. James is 22 gained a BSc from Reading University in Jul 1999. He is now working for the Environment Agency in Worthing. Andrew, 20, works locally for C.J.Lee. We have an old Welsh Springer Spaniel called Dumper (because we found him dumped).

Listed as a Grade II historic building. Late 18th Century, extended nineteenth century. Brick, some blue bricks. Two storeys, three bays with nineteenth century bay added to left hand and 1.5 storey bay added to the right hand. Front has central twentieth century door in older frame under flat roof. House used to be the farmhouse to North End Farm but was called Rose Cottage in the nineteenth century.

Evidence of stabling fixtures visible in barn. Used to be an Estate property belonging to the

Coote Family. Now owned by Lord Radnor and Trafalgar Estates. Large garden produces enough vegetables for consumption throughout the year.

John is a churchwarden at St George's Church and a member of the P.C.C., a governor of Western Downland School, an elected member of the Village Hall Management Committee. John's hobbies are gardening and badminton; he is a member of the Damerham Badminton Club.

Cathy is a Parish Councillor, a member of Damerham Parochial Church Council, Lay Pastoral Assistant for St. George's Church, Secretary of Martin and Damerham W.I., Chairman of Fordingbridge W.I. Country Markets, Vice Chairman of Hampshire W.I. Markets Ltd, Chairman of The Friends of Burgate School. She is Parish Council representative for Damerham Village Hall Management Committee and a Committee Member of Millennium Damerham. Homecraft Secretary of Damerham Horticultural Society. Hobbies include cooking, gardening, line dancing, willing to dabble in any crafts. Organises and helps to run Tea & Chat every month and the Village Get-together which is becoming an annual event.

James and Andrew both play sport, James hockey and football and Andrew, hockey, football and cricket.

Damerham is a very special village. There is a good mixture of people. Our life seems to centralise around the Village Hall, of which we are very proud. We feel it is a shame that there is not more public transport.

We hope that people moving to the village at the end of this century will enjoy their life here and join in to continue to make Damerham that special place.

John writes: When I first came to Damerham in 1971, Allenford was one of four farms without a dairy herd, however there was the obligatory house cow. Now no one milks any more - the last dairy herd went two years ago and the last house cow at the beginning of this year.

Harvest suppers have been resurrected after 20 years. Nowadays the hall is the venue, a far cry from the wooden barn at Manor Farm. To cut down the draughts straw bales were used and also for seats. No fire officer came to vet the premises, unlike the present day Tent Dance which cannot proceed without a fire and electrical safety certificate.

Nowadays no one throws sods at the youth of Martin, Rockbourne or Sandleheath when they came to try to woo the Damerham girls away. In the present economic climate they have to move away as the majority find the price of houses beyond their means. Prices are pushed higher by the second-home brigade. Unfortunately 95% of second home owners do not contribute anything to Damerham life, but saying this the community spirit is still good. Damerham somehow gets into your blood and if you move away you always want to come back - even if it's in a box!

STOCKS COTTAGE



KEVAN & SARAH MORETTI

Map Reference D4

Kevan and Sarah Moretti live at Stocks Cottage together with their daughters, Emily (born 26.7.96) and Lucy (born 3.1.99), their cat Benito and fish Dub (so named because it was the only word that Emily could say when we gave him a home). We moved to the village about 5 years ago, Kevan from Steyning in West Sussex and myself from Farnham in Surrey. We were married at St. George's Church and both Emily and Lucy have been baptised there.

Our house, in the centre of the High Street, began life as a simple, possibly late 17th or early 18th Century detached thatched cottage. About 20 years ago the property was almost doubled in size by the addition of an extension. The house sits in a large and very beautiful but simple garden with lots of lovely trees, including a Walnut, several Hazelnuts, Willows, a Sycamore and several very old Apple trees. At the bottom of the garden runs the Allen River. We are always very interested to find out more about the house especially before the alterations were carried out, any information would be very enthusiastically received.



Emily and Lucy love the house, Emily especially, as she loves to watch the squirrels, pheasants and ducks in the garden. She is getting very good at bird watching too - the Robins and the Green Woodpeckers being her favourites. I enjoy gardening (very amateur) and embroidery and take part in as many village activities as I can with the children. Kevan is a keen Pool player and enjoys playing in the pub pool team. We find the village to be very friendly, with a good community spirit.

THE KEEP



FAY & ROBERT MOULD

Map Reference D5

Fay Mould came to Damerham, with husband Robert, to retire to a proper village, in 1985. Both are involved in many local clubs and societies. Robert is a retired



business executive and Fay, a retired school teacher.

Quite a modern house - built in 1977/8, but mistaken for a much older house. We have moved around the country following husband's job, but love this house and soon settled in the village.