



***THE PEOPLE'S  
PERSPECTIVES ON IBBERTON  
IN THE YEAR 2000***

## BAKER'S FOLLY



## BAKER'S FOLLY FLAT



## **PETER AND ANNE PHILLIPS**

Baker's Folly sits on the hill above Ibberton and is the home of Peter and Anne Phillips. They moved here with their four children Nicola, Kate, Joanne, and Jeremy, after running the Drax Arms Hotel in Bere Regis for ten and a half years.

Accessing water has always been a problem due to the high elevation of the property. The previous owner collected drinking water from the village and relied on rainwater for all other purposes. The problem was eventually solved by having water pumped up from the village.

In 1980, Peter and Anne were eventually granted planning permission to convert to a restaurant after their first application had been refused. The family successfully ran the restaurant for sixteen years when it was decided to close it down as the children had left home to go their separate ways and retirement age was looming.

Left with premises much too large for them, but not wishing to sell and move away from the marvellous situation and wonderful views, it was decided to divide the premises so they could remain there but let out part of the house.

The year 2000 will be Anne and Peter's Ruby Wedding Anniversary, having married in October 1960. They met that year when both were on holiday in Cornwall, and spent the week together, plus another one when Anne, who lived in Cheadle, Cheshire, visited Peter and his parents in New Milton, Hampshire, before deciding to get married (who said holiday romances don't last!).

Anne and Peter have two granddaughters, both born early in 1999, Lucia and Natalia, who visit regularly from their respective homes in Marnhull and Wimborne. They run a car for shopping and other transport requirements.

Walking is their main relaxation and they are both keen members of the Dorset Ramblers, walking or leading walks on most Sundays besides joining them on the annual holiday abroad and weekend breaks in various parts of the United Kingdom.

## **ROBIN AND ANNETTE STRANGE**

Robin, a former local farmer and old boy of Milton Abbey School and Annette, a Chef, currently reside in the flat after many years living abroad.

*\*Bob Courage has evidence that back in the 1800s when Mr Baker was farming at Manor Farm, he commissioned the building of Baker's Folly but died before its completion. Donkeys with panniers were used to transport manure up the hill, and the building stone was carried by mules from King Stag. The untimely death of Mr. Baker before completion resulted in the house remaining unoccupied for many years. This attracted the attention of some of the locals, Bob's father amongst them, who carved their initials in the stone where, no doubt, they remain to this day. The fact that no water was available, apart from the rainwater, meant that it made it impossible to keep livestock etc. This soon led to the building being known as Baker's Folly.*

## **BAKER'S FOLLY ANNEXE**



**CRAIG AND DEIRDRE MACQUEEN  
AND FRANK (the dog)**



The Annexe is a single bedroom flat situated at the east end of Baker's Folly where they have lived for 20 months. The flat is a perfect size for a couple, and has beautiful views over the Blackmoor Vale.

Craig is 55 years old, born and bred in Manchester, and plans to spend the rest of his life in Dorset. He enjoys watching cricket, football, reading, walking and pub quizzes. Deirdre is not as old as Craig, and was born on the Isle of Wight and lived most of her formative years in Christchurch. She loves reading, playing computer games, walking and pub quizzes. They have two grown up children, a son living in Sweden with his wife, son and daughter, and a daughter living in Plymouth with her partner and son. Frank is a 6 year old German Shepherd dog.

Craig is an ex-career soldier who now works for a charity teaching Braille to inmates of prisons all over England and Wales and advising on Braille production for the visually impaired. Deirdre is not working at the moment, but in the past has run her own catering business and worked for the National Health Service.

Both of them have cars which they use for all transport needs. So far they have not been involved in any organisation in Ibberton. Their social life at the moment tends to revolve around Okeford Fitzpaine.

What leisure time they have is spent reading, watching TV, eating and drinking in the Royal Oak at Okeford Fitzpaine, walking the Downs with Frank, and keeping in touch with children and grandchildren.

## ROWAN FARM



### JANIS AND TOM HILL AND NORMAN CHISMAN

Rowan Farm was originally part of the Pitt Rivers Estate and then of a vale dairy unit. In 1991 it was formed into a free standing unit incorporating a small part of Hedge End. It now extends to 108 acres between 240 and 270 metres above sea level and is flint and clay cap over chalk, being cropped mainly with cereals and has an indoor pig finishing unit.

Rowan Farm was purchased in 1994 with a view to extending farming operations from the 'home' farm of Butterwick Dairy Farm in the heart of The Blackmore Vale. Tom and Janis had farmed there since 1970 after meeting at a social function held at Harper Adams. Sons, Jesse and Roy, had returned home after attending Kingston Maurward College of Agriculture and the University of Reading Agricultural Faculty and were keen to develop the family business.

Moving to Bulbarrow from Boy's Hill, Holnest, was like going from the ridiculous to the sublime in terms of water levels. At Holnest the ground flooded regularly and was very wet in winter; at Bulbarrow all the rain ran away and the ground was relatively dry all year round and grass and crops grew well because of the heavy dew and condensation from the mists and low cloud in combination with the clay cap.

Mr Chisman, Janis' father, continued his active interest in farming, helping at harvest time, and provided good advice to support the younger generation.

The whole family enjoyed attending various village events, particularly the brass concert at Manor House Farm, and were always made to feel very welcome by all those they met, especially immediate neighbours.

Janis continued her career as a secondary school teacher and moved from The Gryphon School after teaching in Sherborne for 17 years (and prior to that for 10 years in Beaminster) to a school in Poole where she took up a senior pastoral position.

## CHURCH FARM COTTAGE



### **IAN, MARY, HANNAH, HARRIET, EMILY AND NAOMI FREELAND**

The house was originally two cottages and became one after a fire. The original was probably a farm worker's cottage built two hundred years ago. In a fire in the 1930's many of the original beams were lost, and since then the house has been extensively enlarged. It is surrounded by gardens and has a swimming pool. The views from the top of the garden are breathtaking and look over the entire village. During the renovations an old well was found by the back door and two bread ovens. On the edge of the garden running between the lawn and Derek and Kay Old's field hedge, is an old stone track which probably went through to the farmyard.

In 1989, Ian and Mary and their four daughters, Hannah (17), Harriet (16), Emily (14), and Naomi (11) moved from West Dorset to Ibberton. Ian and Mary met at Sparsholt Agriculture College and have been farming for 20 years. They started near Andover in Hampshire with an arable 'pick-your-own' swede and potato farm before moving to Chideock in West Dorset to run an arable and sheep farm, and finally to Ibberton to join Mary's farming family in the nearby village of Winterborne Stickland.

During the first four years Ian worked as a shepherd prior to investing in an outdoor pig unit which he has run for the last six years, but unfortunately by the time this is published he will be looking at other prospects. All the children went to the local school at Hazelbury Bryan and then on to the High School at Sturminster Newton where three of them still attend. Hannah, the eldest, goes to Kingston Maurwood College in Dorchester, and Mary works in Blandford in the agricultural department of Humberts Estate Agents.

The family own a Land Rover Discovery which Ian uses on the farm. Mary has a Peugeot 106 which she uses to go to work in Blandford. The family have recently invested in a very old Metro for Hannah, as she has just started to learn to drive. The buses are hopeless, only running on Thursdays and Saturdays, and by the time you get to your destination it is practically time to return.

Work commitments have curtailed involvement in many village events. Mary takes (or probably more accurately drags) the children, once a month, to the Children's Service in Ibberton Church. They also have a window in the church which they decorate on certain days. Mary also enjoys her involvement in organising the Carol Service where she helps put on a Nativity play in the church every year. Emily and Naomi play in the children's cricket team during the summer.

Leisure time is not something they have had too much of for some considerable time! As Mary's family (i.e. parents, two brothers, twin sister, four nieces and one nephew) live within a five mile radius, a lot of their spare time is spent having barbecues in the summer, and traditional Sunday lunches in the winter. Mary enjoys spending time in the garden whenever possible, and Ian, if he gets a couple of hours free, likes to take his small motor boat from Cobbs Quay in Poole to Studland Bay, where the children love to swim and play on the beach.

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## MY HOME

Ibberton is a nice, peaceful and quiet village where everyone is a friend and Ibberton is a very safe place. In most villages children are friends with children but in our village children are friends with adults. If I had a dream village it would be one like Ibberton with farm animals, a church, and a very happy village with a lot of happy people.

The village is enchanting because it is quiet and very clear, you can spread your feelings and say what you think, this village is open-minded.

I was not christened in this community but I am part of it. My next-door neighbour was christened in the village's church so she has made me feel part of this community of Ibberton.

I feel that the village is a big part of my life. I would hate to leave here and if I did I think that I would return frequently. It is like a holiday village, you go on holiday to enjoy yourself and relax, I think that this explains Ibberton a lot.

When I came to this village I was only a little girl so I can't really remember a lot of it, but I do remember going to Mr. and Mrs. Old's house after a church service on a special day. They had music, food and drink and I remember seeing all these big adults and being shy and scared of them, but now they are very good friends of mine. I am glad I went to the gatherings and that is what I think of Ibberton.

*Naomi Freeland*

*Age 11*

*Church Farm Cottage*

# CHURCH FARM HOUSE



## **BRIAN, ANNE, JAMES AND OLIVIA SHARMAN**

Church Farm House is an old thatched house set in gardens that run up to the church so that we have a fine view of the church and can always check our watches by the church clock! There are two ponds in the garden, the water for which comes from an old reservoir that used to provide the water for Sturminster Newton so that it never dries up, even in the driest summers. There are various outbuildings which are used as stabling for the horses and for barbecues when it is not quite warm enough to sit outside. There is a swimming pool to one side of the barns and further on the fields where our three horses are kept. We have lived there for thirteen years and have two children.

Brian is a solicitor with offices in Bournemouth and Southampton where he specializes in criminal law.

Anne is a housewife who spends a great deal of her time ferrying children from one place to another. When not engaged in this fascinating pastime she enjoys riding out across the glorious Dorset countryside where one can ride for miles without using a road. She is also a keen swimmer and enjoys practising yoga whenever there is time.

James is 15 years old and is at school in Bruton where he is a weekly boarder, at present studying for GCSE's. His hobbies are all bound up in the countryside. He frequently helps out one of the local farmers, and when not doing this he is to be found out with his ferrets, shooting, or looking after his little flock of sheep. His ambition is to take a degree in agriculture with the view of making his way in our rural landscape in some manner.

Olivia is 11 years old this summer. She goes to school in Marnhull at present but will be joining her brother in Bruton in September. She has a pony called 'Wally' which she rides out on most weekends either with her mother or sometimes alone. When asked what the village meant to her she replied, "You can walk round freely without feeling worried." This perhaps sums up our little village. It is a friendly secure environment in which to bring up a family.

Transportation is, however, a nightmare, the car is our lifeline to get to work, take the children to school, do the shopping or just see friends. Grocery shopping is done in either Blandford or Dorchester and we travel to Bournemouth or Bath for anything slightly more exotic!!

**MANOR HOUSE FARM**



## **DEREK AND KAY OLD**

Manor House Farm is a grassland dairy and sheep farm.

The Manor House is a part 16th and 17th century house built of flint and sandstone, the oak beams and nail studded doors confirm its centuries old past.

The village of Ibberton was given by Henry VIII to his fifth wife Catherine Howard, but there is no written proof of her living in the Manor House.

Kay's grandfather, Edward King, bought the house and 42 acre farm on the 23rd December 1915, for the sum of one thousand nine hundred and twenty eight pounds, moving from Marsh Farm, Ibberton.

Kay, the eldest daughter of Ivor King, married Derek Old, a farmer from Sturminster Newton, in 1960. Derek and Kay took the farm over in 1963. They have two sons, Andrew and Christopher, who both work on the farm, and live in the village, and a daughter called Helen.

Helen married Andrew Gould, a farmer at Stalbridge and they have two children, David and Amy. Andrew has a son called Nicholas and Christopher two children, Rebecca and Matthew.

Derek and Kay, with their two sons, now farm 260 acres and have a Channel Island herd of 125 milking cows, approximately 120 youngstock, a flock of Dorset Poll Sheep and a few farm fresh turkeys at Christmas. Kay also runs a successful Bed and Breakfast business, and the farm also has a self catering cottage.

Derek has been churchwarden for thirty years, winds the church clock up every week, and is also chairman of the Parish Council and Village Hall. Kay is on the Parochial Church Council, and does the church flowers every week, as well as being a member of the Village Hall Committee. Until a few years ago, Derek, a keen cricketer, was Chairman and Groundsman of the Village Cricket Club. Derek and Kay both enjoy gardening, and the farmhouse has a large garden to keep up, which is often used for open air concerts and fund-raising events for the church.

Derek plays skittles in the winter for a local team.

# KINGSLEY



## **CHRIS AND SALLY OLD AND 'THE GANG' STEPHANIE, CARON, KEVIN, REBECCA AND MATTHEW**

Kingsley is adjacent to Manor House, and originally formed part of the farm buildings in the yard. The sheds were also the site of the annual turkey plucking, when villagers earned themselves some extra money by helping to prepare the turkeys for many a Christmas table. The buildings were converted into a single layer holiday cottage, until it was extended into a four bedroom family home for Chris, Sally, and the Gang.

Chris and Sally share the home with Stephanie, Caron, and Kevin, the children of Sally's previous marriage, and Rebecca and Matthew the youngest members of the clan. Scrumpy and Jack, the two cats are part of the household, as are the horses, Indigo, Shannon, and Golly-Ollie, who observe life from the terraced hillside field where the original village was once sited.

Chris is the dairyman, and looks after the youngstock on the family farm, and in 1996 Sally qualified as a Registered General Nurse, and currently works at Dorchester County Hospital on a full time basis. Stephanie is in Blandford, and just about to start her training to become a Legal Executive. Caron is in her GSCE year at Sturminster High School. Kevin currently finds school 'boring', but he also attends the High School, and lists his favourite subjects as R.E., History, and P.E.

Transport is a Ford Maverick 4 wheel drive, and the family do the main bulk of their shopping in Tescos at Blandford. Caron and Kevin use the bus service periodically but it is not a flexible enough service to allow them to meet up with friends in other areas.

Chris and Sally support village events, when time allows! Sally monitored a section of the Millennium Path on the inauguration walk, and keeping it in the family, Kevin won 1st prize for the Walk Competition.

Leisure time is taken up playing darts. Both Sally and Chris play for a Blandford team in the Superleague; Chris is secretary of the team whilst Sally is captain of Blandford Ladies Team, and may shortly be playing for the County, whilst Chris is the Secretary of the Premier Saturday L.V.A. League. They also play in the Dorchester Summer League.

Rebecca is becoming very confident on her little Welsh pony Golly-Ollie, and it remains to be seen whether Matthew will follow her. Kevin is a big cricket man, who plays in the Ibberton Mid Week Team, and the Saturday Friendly side but he is hoping to get a motor bike - however, the jury is currently out on that! He also enjoys riding the Quad bike, having a go on the tractor, and making camps with Emily Freeland. Stephanie and Caron enjoy riding Indigo the Thoroughbred iron grey and Shannon the light grey Thoroughbred/Connemara, as does Sally when she has a spare moment. Caron attends the local shows, and enjoys jumping, but wishes there was an area that she could use for schooling in the village. She would also like a tennis court and there is general agreement that it would be nice if the village had an all weather play area where they could meet friends, and shoot a few balls, or whatever!

## THE OLD BARN



### MARK AND SARA BAYLISS

The Old Barn was converted into a house twelve years ago. It's hard to know how old the building is, but the main structure is Victorian built of brick and flint with a slate roof, and was originally an outbuilding attached to Church Farm.

Mark and Sara Bayliss moved in eleven years ago. They came from that most typical of suburbs, Surbiton, when Mark's employer relocated from the City to Bournemouth. Since then they have lived and worked abroad for several years but Ibberton has always been their real home. Mark is an independent consultant advising banks and other financial institutions on risk management and company security. Sara is an infant school teacher but has spent the last year or so at home redecorating and re-organising the house and garden.

Mark and Sara share the house with Toby, an elderly chocolate Labrador, and two kittens, George and Charlie.

Sara and her neighbours have been active helpers in organising the village's Millennium celebrations, and she and Johanne raised a substantial amount from a Table Top Sale in the Crown Inn gardens.

## WESLEY CHAPEL



## JOHANNE AND GRAHAM JACKS

Johanne and Graham moved to Ibberton from Blandford in 1989, just at the height of the housing market boom. It took them nearly a year to sell their old house and move into Wesley, mainly due to the renovation work they carried out. Both work in the construction industry and luckily Graham's architectural skills and practical building skills came in very handy, as they did most of the work on the house themselves. Even after eleven years they are still tinkering, especially with the garden.

Graham is an architect and works from his office at home. Johanne is on the Millennium Committee and together with Sara Bayliss organised the Table Top Sale.

During the first year in Ibberton they acquired Ralph, a Basset Hound, and in 1997 branched out into chickens acquiring two bantam hens and Eric, their black cockerel. Sadly, Ralph had to be put to sleep in May of this year.

They both love to travel abroad, especially to Italy and have started night school to learn the language. They hope eventually to spend longer over there than the average holiday break.

Could they ever leave Ibberton? - Not willingly! Looking back over old photographs reveals the many changes they have seen, but the last eleven years have brought new friends, and it seems such a popular village. Houses don't stay on the market for long, or is it because there is another housing boom?

## OLD SCHOOL HOUSE



### CLIVE AND CAROL CARSLEY WITH BUMBLE

Carol's parents, Paul and Margot Shields, bought the Old School House for family holidays in 1975. As a child her father had spent holidays in the countryside and wanted his young grandchildren, Michael and Joanna, to enjoy a similar rural dimension in their lives. Natasha, not yet born, was ultimately to take to Dorset in a major way and choose to live in Marnhull. When Carol's mother died she inherited the cottage along with the burst pipes. With these responsibilities came a greater bonding and a life-long love affair with Ibberton blossomed. Weekends got longer, visits were more frequent, and the Old School House their favourite holiday destination. By 1999 Michael, a photographer, and Joanna, a doctor, were married and Natasha preparing for university life so Carol and Clive were in a position to shift their base away from London.

Subsequently, they bought the Old Smithy next door and the year 2000 saw them supervising the rebuilding process in earnest. Clive was at that time a lawyer consulting on international contracts for utility projects such as clean water and sewage treatment in the developing world. Carol was then a psychotherapist and marital therapist working in private practice in south east London.

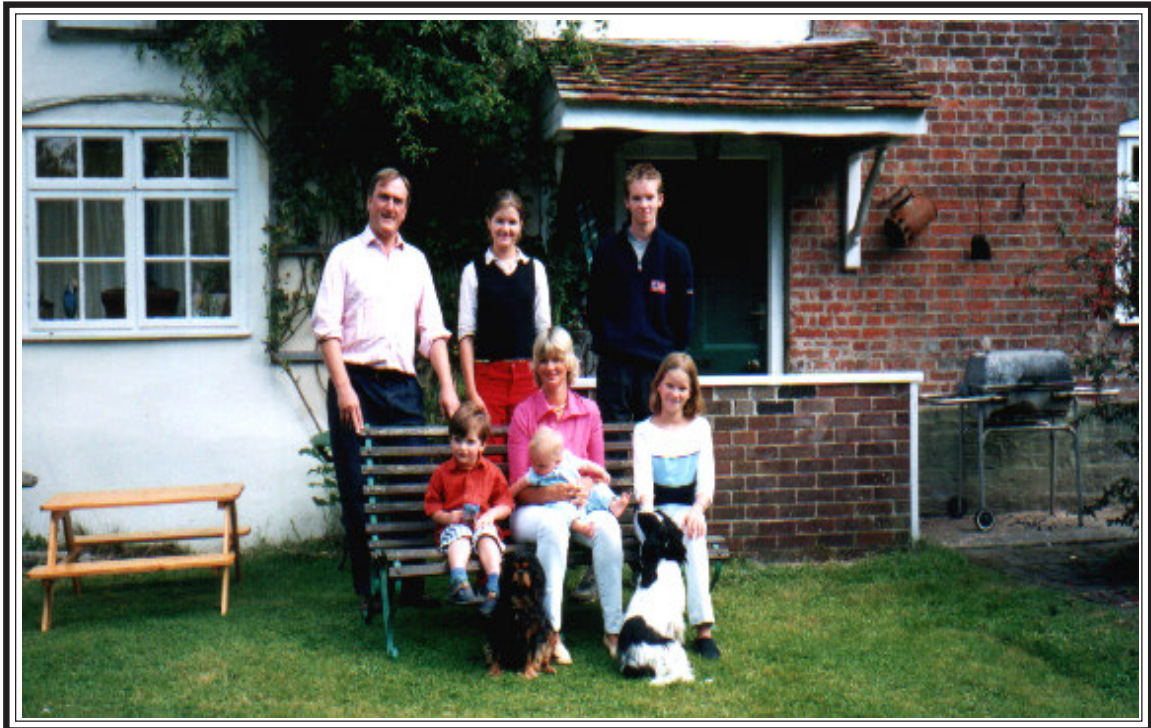
## OLD SMITHY



The Old Smithy had lain dormant for sometime having been rebuilt unsympathetically after a fire in the 1960s that had almost destroyed it. It lay like a chrysalis, wrapped up in old photos of its former glory that were found in the pub and in various old travel books and magazines. Eventually with courage given to them by several building projects Clive and Carol Carsley had undertaken in their suburban lives, they embarked on their ambitious reconstruction. Blessed with the old photos dating back to 1890 they were able to resurrect the Old Smithy and restore it to its former beauty. They started the building process in the year 2000, moving in the following year.

Carol comments, “We are thrilled to have been able to restore to the village this historic thatched smithy. The icing on the cake was several accolades received for the restoration. The project won both national and local awards. Best of all is being able to have made our dream reality and now to live in our dream house beneath Bulbarrow in this idyllic country side.”

## IBBERTON HILL HOUSE



## **MICHAEL AND LUCINDA FRASER, EDWARD, ALICE, ELIZA, ANGUS AND KITTY**

Ibberton Hill House, with its two fields behind at the foot of Ibberton Hill, is situated next to Manor House Farm right in the centre of the village. The front of the house was built in the late 1780's. The extension was added in the 1980's very sympathetically to fit in with the older part of the house. It was known originally as Shepherd's Cottage, and latterly as Rafflyns.

In 1998, the Frasers and Barrows moved into Ibberton. Michael and Lucinda were both widowed in 1995. They married at Christmas time in 1996 and Angus was born in 1997.

The family moved into Ibberton in July 1998 and Kitty was born in November 1999. Life is far from dull! Lucinda had three children from her previous marriage, Edward, 17, Alice 15, and Eliza, 11, so they are now a family of seven, not forgetting Lucy the King Charles and Nettie the Cocker Spaniel.

Michael works as a surveyor; he also restores antique furniture and is often to be found up in the barn fiddling around with one of his cars. Cars and antiques are his hobbies as well as walking in the beautiful surrounding countryside. Lucinda is a peripatetic clarinet, bassoon, and recorder teacher, and sings in a local choir. Her hobbies also include walking and playing tennis. Edward is a very keen sportsman, playing hockey and cricket for his school and enjoying golf as well. Alice is the artist in their family and can always be found drawing and sketching, while Eliza loves her riding and is a keen oboe and piano player.

When the family are all together they use their People Carrier as it is the only vehicle they can all fit into, however that is ditched for the much preferred Landrover whenever possible as it doesn't matter how much mud goes in or whether Angus throws his Ribena all over the seat. Michael can also be spotted going over Bulbarrow in a variety of modest but interesting cars.

The family love being part of the village and try and attend as many of the village events and gatherings as they can because these represent the heart of living in a village like Ibberton.