

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.

MANOR FARM COTTAGE



NIGEL, ROS, MATTHEW AND ABI CARVER

Situated at a low point in the village, in Washing Pool 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 1950s, 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 bressummer 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 all 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.

THE OLD FARM HOUSE



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 1980s. 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 on 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 used 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.

THE OLD RECTORY



CHRISTOPHER, 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 here 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. 20 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 Fraser 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 Rydalmer. 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.

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 which 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, he 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, 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 reestablishment 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, (often accompanies Sue when she "hacks out") and the unforgettable "Jones" a 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 Tesco's 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 parasail 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.

Wreakin House stands on the site of Manor House 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 “Rydalmer” 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 she often pops into the village stores and butchers.

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.

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.

War (World War II) tied us here, as she withdrew the notice she had tendered, 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 are 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 R.A. 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.

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 Oakford 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