

MILANE



PEGGY STEVENS

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

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

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

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

OLD POST COTTAGE



PRISCILLA HOUSTOUN

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

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

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

I sometimes take a taxi to go shopping as I no longer like to drive, and friends and neighbours will always fetch me anything I need.

THE CROWN INN



JOHN AND LINDA WILD HAROLD AND EMILY GUARD

The original building dates back to the 16th century and although it has been enlarged over the years, it still retains the original flagstones floor, bread oven, and inglenook fireplace. In the 1870's the inn was renamed the New Inn when Cromwell was in power.

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

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

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

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

In summertime visitors can enjoy sitting in the garden with it's views of the church and Bulbarrow.

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

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

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

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

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

Harold and Emily support most Village events.

ROSE COTTAGE



ALAN AND JANET PEARSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CROSS



IAN AND DEBBIE ALDOUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS COTTAGE



Andrew and Jill Frankiss are pictured with the eldest (Susie) and youngest (Charlotte) daughters outside Cross Cottage Ibberton

ANDREW AND JILL FRANKISS SUSANNAH, JOSEPHINE, ALEXANDER AND CHARLOTTE

Jill and Andrew Frankiss moved into Cross Cottage in June 1987 with four young children - Susannah 10, Josephine 9, Alexander 6, and Charlotte 3, and an old tortoiseshell cat called Cracker who was a ripe old 17. Jill is Head of English at Clayesmore Prep School in Iwerne Minster and Andrew works with the Royal Mail in the SP (Salisbury) district in varying capacities. Susie is currently working for P&O in Poole having graduated in French and German from Durham University. Jo is in Australia travelling and will be the first in the family to see the millennium in; she gained a degree in Geography from Cambridge University. Alex is now at Southampton University reading Social Sciences and Charlotte is studying for her GCSEs at Canford School; they both have a strong interest in drama. Most of our time in Ibberton with a growing family has necessarily been spent in the pursuit of education. Besides academic achievements, all the children are musical and sporty. Charlotte and Alex have been champion orienteers. We have kept chickens, mainly bantams, and ducks, and rabbits, and a sweet stray tabby cat has joined us recently. She has a lovely nature and is a good mouser so will be kept on! Charlotte has raised many a chick from our broody hens to ensure continuity of stock and eggs! The children remember setting up the matchstick game for several years at the annual fete and taking part in Christmas Carol Services in various roles and joining in the fun at the village BBQs and Christmas parties. In later years, some food service experience has been gained by them locally. Charlotte now works at The Crown Inn Ibberton at the weekends as a waitress following in Alex's footsteps as a waiter. Susie and Jo did a similar stint at Baker's Folly restaurant and Susie was at Belchalwell Golf Club for a period also. But probably the most significant and long-lasting contribution the children have made to the village is religiously watering the sapling by the village notice board during the drought of 1989 which is now a flourishing tree. This tree had been planted to celebrate the centenary of Dorset County Council 1889-1989. Cross Cottage was built in the mid-18th Century and is of solid brick and stone construction under a thatched roof and has been extended and altered over the years. It was given Grade 2 listed building status in 1984. It has had a varied nomenclature and use over the years. In the early days it was called Cross Tree Cottage as it harboured a particular tree and we are told that it was possibly originally two farm cottages joined into one. It was Ordnance Map Number 111 and Estate Number 102. At one time its front room served as the village post office. Also a Thomas Cross rented it from the Pitt-Rivers estate and his name was adopted eponymously for the cottage rather than its position in the village as is generally thought. The garden is approximately a quarter of an acre and has several apple trees, a plum tree, two horse chestnuts and a flowering cherry amongst flower beds. The cottage has been pictured in Dorset Life and other local magazines.

CROSS (“SILVERLANDS”) FARM



BOBBY AND BETTY COURAGE

The original farmhouse was in the Old Bakery Shop, one of the thatched cottages that were sited at the Cross. When Bob's father came back from the 1914/18 war the family moved into a converted army hut in Mead, the field opposite Silverlands meadow where their farmhouse, built in the late 40's, now stands. Bobby was born in Mead, and his Grandfather Williams, the village cobbler, lived in Shoemaker's cottage. His full name is Robert Mullett Courage, Mullett being the name of his Ibberton ancestors, and he was the last person christened by the Reverend Plowman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHOEMAKER'S COTTAGE



CHARLES, CLAUDIA, ALEX, AND JANE ABELL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With the family in other parts Jane drives a small car with room in the back for the dog!

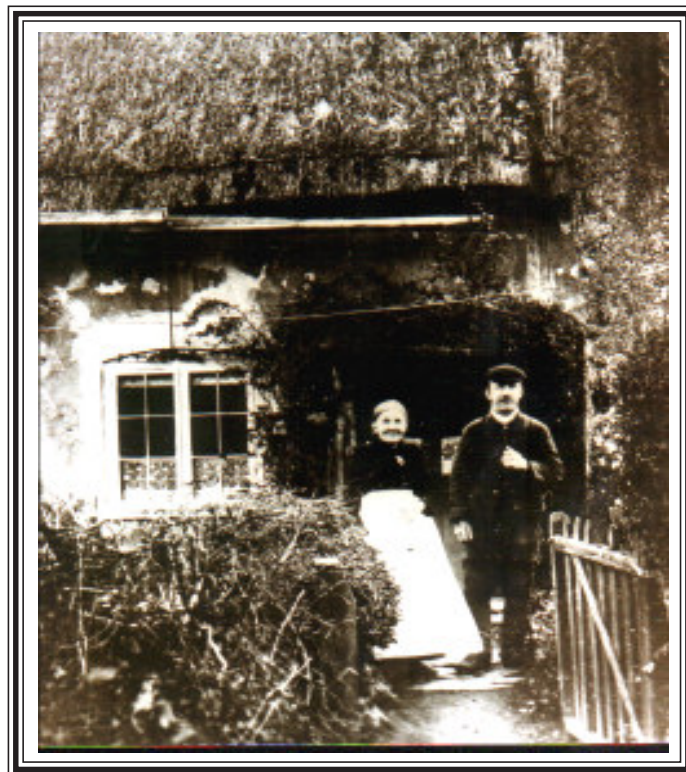
Family shopping is done mostly in Blandford where the larger supermarkets are situated, or in nearby Sturminster Newton. Poole and Yeovil can be reached within the hour by car where the family goes to the cinema or theatre. Jane swims regularly at Blandford Leisure Centre, but the long awaited sports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

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

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

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

“OLD JOHN’S”



“OLD JOHN”

John Sturmev With His Mother Martha Cave In The Year 1900