

## About Us, The House and 'The Annex'

As far as we are aware the house at Westbury Road was built in the Mid 1930's and the Deeds mention it as being called 'The Hollies'. Built at the same time as much of the area it is of brick construction with a couple of extensions from the original box shaped building with 3 bedrooms, dining & living room, small kitchen and separate bathroom and toilet.

In later years, the present lounge was constructed by creating an 'Archway' to join the dining & living room. One of the doors was blocked off. The kitchen was extended and a large bathroom built above it, the old bath area became a route through to the new bathroom. It is not known if any of this work was undertaken by the previous owners to us; Pat & Graham, 2 very interesting people!

The Oak wood work in the lounge and in the Annex was designed, made and installed by Graham. We have tried to keep it almost as original, but we did have to completely renovate the kitchen and replace the louver wood wardrobes in the bedrooms.

Pat and Graham were also responsible for the Garage and the area that is now known as 'The Annex', formerly 'The Studio', the room you are sleeping in and garage have had a number of interesting roles that have changed since we watched it being built in the late 1980's. The chest of drawers & ornament cupboard would have been on the other side of 'The Annex' door in the Dining room area.

We started our married life down the road in 1983 and 10 years later moved down the road, that move is a story in itself; Tinker, the cat, wasn't so keen on it!

The garden was also modeled and built by Pat and Graham. Holding 5500 gals of water the pond, with over 100 fish including some Coy Carp, frogs and attracts a couple of ducks as regular visitors in the spring – relining it a few years ago was fun! We are not sure if these ducks are 1 or a pair of 10 ducklings born here some years ago. Pat & Graham also built the covered well in the garden that takes rain water off the west facing roofs.

The garden enjoys a sunny west aspect and is almost secluded. After years of deliberation we removed a garden area outside the kitchen, lawned it to create a large seating area to enjoy a garden for all seasons. Hyacinths, Daffodils and numerous Fuchsias bring colour to garden along with a Pear tree and large Acer. Besides the ducks, we get many visitors to the garden; cats, urban foxes, a badger visited this winter and crows often nest in the top of the Silver birch tree and see off the occasional heron (beautiful but unwanted!).

Besides alterations in keeping with the style of the house we have changed nearly all of the windows. Besides the bathroom, Ray did the impossible and added a shower inside an upstairs toilet area. We recently moved the old gas boiler from the lounge chimney into the loft, replacing the old boiler with a lovely wood burner, try not to trip over the wood store near the front gate!

Transforming 'The Studio' to 'The Annex' was seen as adding value to the property. Started in January 2014 it was completed in March. The 1st task was to move everything out of the room and find new homes for it – so many recycling bags filled too. One of the computers got a new home and more is now done 'Mobile'. The Studio once ended just beyond the toilet, the garage door was moved and part of the garage got a new role as we built a shower – a car still fits, but who ever puts a car in a garage! After a few challenges, newly decorated and furnished 'The Annex' had its 1<sup>st</sup> visitor on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.