

24 EPPLE ROAD : 'Treveddoe' May 2003

It is believed that the original house was built about 1860, because the front door of both this property and the one behind it, called 'Lavender Cottage', faces straight up against the railway embankment. If the properties had been built later, there is no way anyone would have placed the front doors here. On the other hand, before the railway arrived in 1863, these doors would have faced directly towards the sea, with the view across Epple Bay.

No. 24 was named 'Treveddoe' and the name appears as early as 1897. It appears to have been part of the 'Nursery' development in this area, providing living accommodation for some of the workers on the site. Mr Tibble either lived in this one or in 'Lavender Cottage' in 1884, but at that time, neither is mentioned by its specific name.

Unfortunately, the present owners have decided to rebuild, so the house has recently been demolished (May 2003). The plans for the site are for three two-storey properties, with attic space accommodation. Sadly, because the owners are trying to get so much value for their money, they will have to build up very closely to the west wall of 'Lavender Cottage', shutting out most of her light on that side of the cottage.

Addendum November 2006

Mr Ernest and Mrs Maud Belcham lived in the house from the late 1940s. When they first came here they used to run it as a tea room for people going to or coming from Epple Bay. This was very successful for a while, but as the seaside trade diminished, so did theirs. After Ernest died Mrs Belcham continued to live there until her death in November 1986, by then in her late 80s.

During her latter years a nephew used to come and visit her each year, bringing his dog Kim with him. One year he became ill while staying with her and ended had to be taken into Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Unfortunately he died there and so Mrs Belcham was landed with looking after Kim. She was not very mobile by then and so the dog got very little exercise until David Stone offered to take Kim for a walk each day when he came home from work.

Eileen Stone, who worked for the KCC as a Home Help, came in once a week to clean through the house for Mrs Belcham and got to know her well. She described her as a kindly soul, and a delight to work for. The plans of the internal details of the house are gleaned from Eileen's memories of its layout. The house was just one room wide, except where the bathroom was added upstairs, opposite the head of the staircase. All the rooms east of the staircase, both upstairs and down, were interlinked.

Eileen is not sure whether the space on the ground floor beneath the bathroom was enclosed or not. If it was, then there must have been a door through from behind the staircase into it.