

Ferndown before the Bulldozers

Less than 60 years ago Ferndown was just a village, with gravel roads, a scattering of shops and not even a set of traffic lights. Then the bulldozers arrived and much of Ferndown's history disappeared forever. Part autobiography and part history, these articles are a fascinating glimpse of a village in transition.

The Dormy Hotel, New Road, Part 1

The De Vere Dormy Hotel in Ferndown was one of the largest Country-style conference hotels on the south coast. Set in 12 acres of landscaped grounds, it had 114 bedrooms and 25 suites, spread across 2 main blocks and several smaller buildings, all linked by glass corridors. It also had conference and banqueting suites, a childrens' play area along with a sizeable leisure centre including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a gymnasium and squash courts. Today it is remembered with the name of the new recently completed housing development - Dormy Crescent.

The 2 cottages which were reputedly the original part of hotel were built around the beginning of the 20th century. These were combined with more buildings and it became the modest Dormy Hotel in 1926.

During the First and Second world the Dormy was believed to have been used as a hospital for returning soldiers.

The father of the Ferndown book's author started as a waiter at the Dormy in 1933. He was there until war broke out and returned in 1946 as head waiter and is standing on the right in the 1949 Christmas photo.

Much more information and many old photos can be found on Google and Google Images together with links to various fascinating YouTube videos taken just before demolition. www.derelictplaces.co.uk www.28dayslater.co.uk



Pre-war main entrance



Early years showing the 2 original cottages - centre



1949 Christmas spread