

## Purbrook Cottages

In the 1800s Purbrook Cottages had a thatched roof and today you can see their stone foundations. The first person we know that live there was William Hooker and he rented one of them in 1840. He was an agricultural labourer who most probably worked for Manor Farm that was opposite his home and he died in 1844. His wife Sarah became a pauper and had to move into the Poor House in Back Street (now known as Rope Walk.)

The photograph below shows the cottages as they were in the early 1900s but in 1912, they were rebuilt to as they look today. In 1929 there was the tragic story of Rosie Andrews of 1 Purbrook Cottage, aged six, who was taken ill at school and she was sent to hospital in Southampton where it was found she had appendicitis. Rosie had an operation but died afterwards. At her funeral at Hamble church, six school girls carried her coffin and many of her school friends attended.

At least up to the 1960s the cottages still had outside toilets and their inhabitants were just getting bathrooms rather than having a tin bath to wash in front of the fire. Twins Roy and Dick Hooker, the village bakers, lived at 1 and 2 Purbrook Cottages respectively with their families. Cecil Lewis, shoe shop owner and repairer, lived at number 3 with his family and at number 4 Mrs Moss, followed by Vera Topp, lived there and rented out one of her rooms for a dentist to use. Vera Topp was a descendant of William Hooker but from a completely different Hooker family to Roy and Dick.

A few decades later Tracy Edwards, well-known round the world sailor, lived at number 3 with her mother.



Purbrook Cottages early 1900s.