

## ROUNDBABOUT VERWOOD

# PAST and PRESENT

### Old Crossroads Pottery, Manor Way, Verwood



The old Crossroads Pottery housed a variety of enterprises between 1952 and 1996 - Tea Rooms and Craft Shop, Decorators, Electricals, Plumbers and Hardware Store. The photo above shows the Hardware Store where you bought screws, nails and other items in the exact number you required rather than being obliged to buy a whole packet. The open sign outside also offers: *'Lawnmovers serviced & repaired'*.

The original electrical business was started by Len Halfacre in an old wooden hut situated at the Crossroads. The business was then taken over by a Mr Wilkinson and finally Fred and Olive Bailey in 1954/5 who displayed a TV in the window of the hut, a washing machine in the shop and had their workshop behind.

Fred then moved to the disused Crossroads Pottery building after the deorating firm of Cox and Guy vacated the premises. Here he took charge of radio and television being joined by his brother Maurice and by Mike Hudson who looked after washing machines. The business then expanded when the Bailey family purchased the original Restyngne House from the church in

1960 when it then became their new showroom.

The double yellow lines on the original photo indicate a time when you could drive through this shortcut between Manor and Ringwood Roads.

Today, the Old Crossroads Pottery building is almost unrecognisable since it has been restored and extended and has now aptly become the New Verwood Heathland Heritage Centre with a cafe and shop. The shortcut has been removed and the whole Ferret Green area attractively landscaped and pedestrianised.

