

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

Thatch Cottage, Three Legged Cross



Early 1900's

Bessie Steele, née Orman outside her home in Ringwood Road, Three Legged Cross. Bessie usually wore a man's cap and one of her occupations was to light the fires at the Congregational Chapel further down the Ringwood Road. Bessie was the great-granddaughter of Joseph and Keturah Orman who headed the Orman clan in Three Legged Cross.

Their son Stephen, born 1810 and Bessie's Uncle, rented Birch Tree farm. (See April/May issue for Birch Tree Farm Past & Present or on line at www.roundabout-mags.co.uk and go to: articles/news.)

Bessie was born in 1876, married to Fred Steele in 1912 and died in 1962

aged 86.

Fred was a broommaker and had his thatched workshop behind the house. Both house and workshop remain today as picturesque dwellings and has for some years now become the 'Thatch Cottage' B & B.

Today's setting has changed somewhat from the original photo and is much more open so the cottage can be seen in all its glory from Ringwood Road. The cottage itself has changed a fair amount which isn't unusual with these dwellings over the decades, but despite the extensions, the fancy thatch and lack of chimney it is still recognisable from the size and position of the windows either side of the porch.



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