

## ROUNDBABOUT VERWOOD

# PAST and PRESENT

### The Crossroads, Verwood - looking East.



Mid 20th century.

This is the view of the Crossroads a short distance down Station Road looking East. On the right is Shearing's Garage offering Esso petrol. The cycle repair shop at the front of the garage can just be seen beneath the sign.

Charles Shearing's son Frederick Charles, born 1880 and known as Fred, built a new forge near the south-west corner of the Crossroads, diversifying into cycle and later motor-cycle repairs. Fred also cut hair in the cycle shed at the

front, repairs sometimes having to wait until the current barbering was finished.

His son Eric, born 1912, then began a motor garage on the site. As well as selling fuel, it had a repair shop and second hand car sales. Later sold to Otton's and then Heynes, it ceased trading and was demolished in 2000, the site becoming today's Duke's Court apartments.

The view today is still very much recognisable - a telegraph pole is still in situ against the fence on the corner although the original 3 sided building on the left has recently been extended up to the telegraph pole..

The original grey roofed parade of shops built after World War 1 under the Government subsidy scheme haven't changed, although they are now rather dwarfed by the 1989 redevelopment of the Restyng House. The original sloping single storey extension built by Harry Brewer shown in the old photo still exists and now forms part of Connells Estate Agents premises.



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