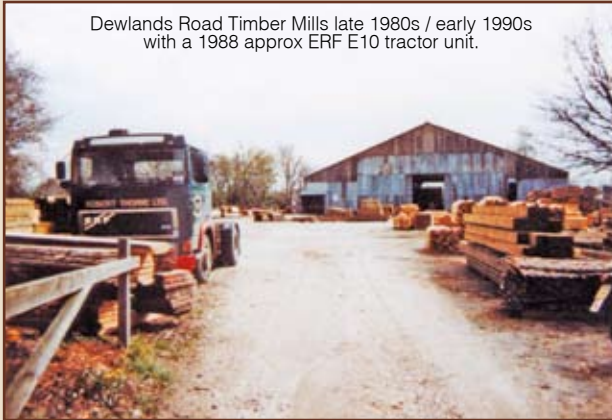


ROUNDAABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

The Timber Mills - part 2 - Old Sawmill Close



Dewlands Road Timber Mills late 1980s / early 1990s
with a 1988 approx ERF E10 tractor unit.

The sawmill at Romford, which also saw success in manufacturing pit props for the trenches in WW1, was razed to the ground by fire in the early 1920s and was replaced on new premises in Dewlands Road.

The family moved from Romford Mill in 1934 to a large brick house named "The Coppice" on Station Road. By then, Robert Thorne had also bought the Crossroads Pottery from Fred Fry and owned parcels of land in both Verwood and Woodlands.

"Robert Thorne Ltd" became a limited company in 1944 with Robert, his wife Eva Jane nee Shearing and their five surviving children Clifford, Horace, Sidney, Blanche and Douglas as directors. Robert

Thorne, a devout Methodist, died in 1946.

Cliff had gone into farming but Sid, Horace and Doug continued the timber business, employing 60 men at one stage. Sid managed the sawmill, Horace, the woodlands and threshing whilst Doug took charge of the office.

Timber was bought from estates such as Wimborne St. Giles, Crichel, Charborough Park and Breamore. The firm also employed several hurdle makers who at one time produced 400 dozen hurdles a year for the Poundbury Sheep Fair which were sold off after the event.

When the remaining directors retired in 1998 the firm closed and the ground where it stood has now been developed as Old Sawmill Close.



September
2018

