

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

Barrow Brothers "The Verwood Stores"



Early 1900's

Dedicated shopkeepers, grocers and bakers increased in number over the century, one such being Barrow's Stores in Ringwood Road where the purchase of numerous household items was made pleasant by the fragrant aroma of bread baking over hazelwood faggots.

John Barrow was born at Burley in 1852 but moved up to his wife Louisa Barker's county of Bedfordshire for many years. By 1901 they had moved south again to Verwood to establish a grocery store on the corner of Ringwood and Newtown Roads before moving to a bakery and shop fronting Ringwood Road (see photo above) where some of their sons assisted them.

Fred Barrow ran a delivery service with his horse 'Old Tom' taking goods all over the scattered area and even obtained items to order such as medicines, not then available locally, from Ringwood which he would take to customers on his

next round. There was little need to travel far for the staples of life apart from a trip into Ringwood Market on foot or by carrier cart.

The shop later became a "Spar" grocery store, then for a short while a small shopping arcade followed by an off-licence, convenience and video store and is presently Venice, an Italian restaurant, above which the same gabled roof still remains.



Fred Barrow and 'Old Tom'.



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