

## ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

# PAST and PRESENT

### Lake Road, Newtown



The creation of "Newtown" in Verwood was a late 19th century "building boom" with large plots carved out of the North Common, south of Black Hill and stretching across to Potterne on both sides of what is now Newtown Road. The line of present Newtown Lane had long been encroached but land on the other side developed into Lake Road. Again, as was the Verwood custom, spacious grounds were allotted to each property.

With the development of the local brick industry came a change of building materials from the traditional cob although such cottages were built in this material



and style well into the twentieth century.

Today's photograph is pretty accurate as can be seen from the cottage on the far left in both pictures (albeit hidden in today's!) and the slightly uphill curve of the road. To take a photo from exactly the same location today would not only be impractical but no doubt impossible, since it would probably involve standing inside a neighbouring property! Today after over 100 years Lake Road has changed virtually beyond recognition from the original photo, with no hint of the view of the hills beyond. But incredibly, I was amazed at how many of the original properties still stand and are still recognisable. The cottage on the far left of the sepia photo identified by its windows now hides behind a eucalyptus tree but looks pretty original today with a smart coat of white paint and even retaining the attractive porch. (As shown in the inset photo far left)

