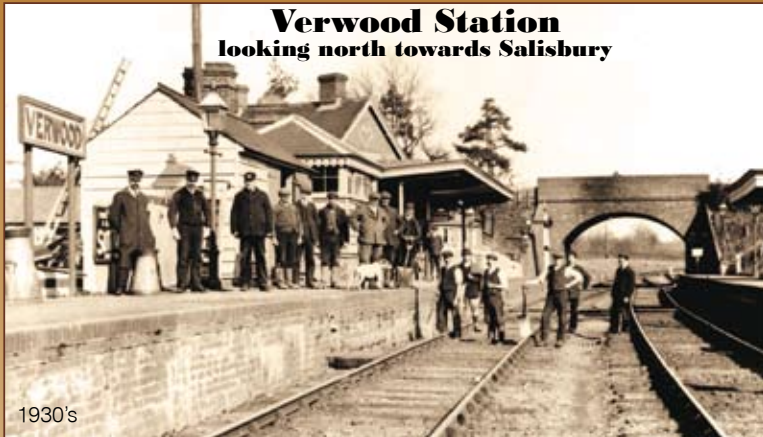


ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT



With the opening of the line from Salisbury to Poole on December 20th 1866, the village of Verwood immediately came into its own and trade flourished.

The railway also opened up new horizons, bringing people who had been born well outside the county with tales of their own to tell. Conversely, several young Verwood men obtained work on the railways and moved further afield. Some brought children back to Verwood to be christened amongst family and friends. Around 1873 Seth Bennett had obtained employment as a Railway Gatekeeper and Signaller in Surrey. He and his wife, Ketura Ann (Kate) née Orman returned from Godalming and later Woking for the baptism of their younger offspring.

Conversely, George Guy came from Piddlehinton to be a railway Porter at

Verwood Station and married a local girl, Emily Budden. They lived in a cottage in Does Lane having twelve children, some of whom became ancestors of several village families.

Several men, however, welcomed the change in employment offered on a local basis as opposed to the inevitable agricultural labouring of their forebears. The Davis and Jacobs families of Three Legged Cross in particular embraced this new technology with employment as Railway Platelayers, Linesmen and gatekeepers.

To obtain the same view today almost 50 years after closure, I would end up behind a high wall in the garden of a property in Albion Way. So the location of today's view in the old photo would be taken just in front of the chap with the shovel!

