

## ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

# PAST and PRESENT

### Edmondsham Road looking towards Eastworth

**E**astworth Farmhouse was in a dilapidated state when Fred Sims of Springfield and Manor Roads, son of Robert Sims, potter of Newtown Road, took up the tenancy in the early 20th century around the time the photo above was taken.

Fred enjoyed "tinkering with houses" though his wife and daughter were initially appalled when shown where they were to live. The water from the well under the kitchen floor was undrinkable and, as Fred sank about ten wells without success, they had to go over the road to a thatched cottage to fetch all their requirements.

Eventually though, Fred restored it as a beautiful family home and bought it and the surrounding land from the Somerley Estate when it was auctioned in 1919. It was lived in by members of his family for many years after his death in 1934, in particular his unmarried daughter Gertrude who acted as accountant for the family firm of Sims Builders which carried on Fred's work. She had a fascinating fund of

information about the farm and the general history of the area.

Fred also enlarged the narrow track opposite the farm laying the bed on heather which does not rot, cutting away a hilly part and filling in further down. It was originally called Sandy Lane but as there was another road of this name in Verwood it was later changed to Eastworth Road. Fred did this in order to have a shortcut to take his milk to the station. The house and its outbuildings have now been converted into very attractive holiday cottages.

Today's roundabout has changed this view almost beyond recognition but is still just recognisable by the angle of the house which is also almost hidden by over 100 years of tree and vegetation growth seen in the enlargement below.



Early 1900's



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