

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

The Restynge House, Ringwood Road



Early 20th Century

Our last article featured Verwood's Parish Church and its first Vicar, the Reverend Claud Brown. He was born in 1850 in New South Wales to a merchant family of Scottish origins and returned to England in 1875 where he graduated from Wadham College, Oxford.

During his first few years in the village he built an imposing Vicarage, since demolished but thus giving Vicarage Road its name. The coach house and stables still stand as dwellings in Copse Road.

In 1907 he also had built "The Restynge House" opposite Ferrett Green in Ringwood Road as a social club and alternative to the pubs, so the young men, visitors and travellers to the village could obtain refreshment should they not wish to visit a Public House. It became popularly known as the Coffee Tavern and after the First World War it was enlarged at the back to provide space for a Men's Clubroom with a large billiard table and dartboard. It was also used as the Church Hall and the first doctor's surgery in Verwood was held there.



The Restynge House April 2011

During the 2nd World War it was an A.R.P. station and the windows were sandbagged. For a few years in the early '50's it was also used in the daytime as an intake classroom for the schools, children going from there to the Church School.

The building was sold by the Church on 25th March 1960 to Mr Bailey and became his new showroom - the money used to improve the then Church School.

This was rebuilt in 1990 in a similar but larger style and houses other businesses including Bailey's Electrical shop.

Claude Brown's first wife sadly died two weeks after giving birth to his son Claude Leonard and the stone cross in the central path in the churchyard is a memorial to her.

He married again at Salisbury to the daughter of a Naval Commander with whom he had three more children.

He also had All Saints built at Three Legged Cross in 1893 and All Saints and St Mary's at West Moors.

He retired to Salisbury in 1917 where he died and was buried in 1929.