

ROUNABOUT VERWOOD

PAST and PRESENT

Priddle & Franklin's sweet shop in the old New Inn on Church Hill, the white building on the right. Looking down to Margard's Lane, here erroneously called "St Margaret's".



In the early twentieth century, Mr Reginald Franklin was the proprietor of a very popular sweet shop in the premises previously occupied by the New Inn. One farthing (almost 10 to today's 1p!) would buy aniseed balls, beans or popcorn and also sherbert tubes. When the shop was opened, a bell rang to warn Mr Franklin who could be in the coach house or stables from where he ran a horse and trap taxi service. Verwood people remember the sense of occasion when their parents hired Mr. Franklin to take them to or from the station.

Mrs. Franklin's stepmother, Mrs Eliza Priddle, known as 'Granny Franklin' helped out in the shop wearing a lace bonnet which must have added an air of old fashioned quaintness to proceedings, even in those times. The first family to live in the brick house, previously had the thatched cottage behind, which you can just make out.

Today it is still clearly the same location with the double fronted Victorian brick house very recognisable and Margards Lane snaking off into the distance. Sadly the New Inn and all adjacent stables etc have since been demolished.

