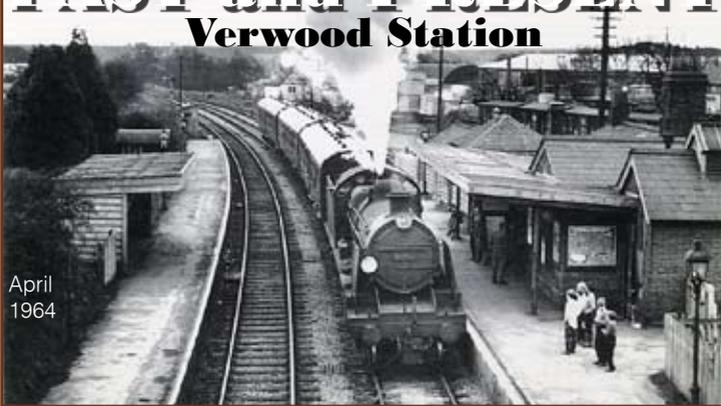


## ROUNDAABOUT VERWOOD

# PAST and PRESENT

## Verwood Station



Verwood was the first Dorset station on the Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway which linked Salisbury to Poole, the line opening on 20th December 1866. The village therefore had a station well before Bournemouth where Bournemouth West Station was built in 1874 and Bournemouth Central not until 1885.

The original stations on the single track line were Salisbury, Downton, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Daggons Road (for Alderholt), Verwood and West Moors, where there was a junction with the line coming in from London via Ringwood.

From the moment the station opened, Verwood came into its own. Business flourished and the goods of the area, vegetables, milk, watercress from Wimborne St Giles and Cranborne, together with pottery, were able to be exported much further afield than had previously been the case with a horse and cart.

The station yard became a busy, bustling place. The adjacent brickyard built a siding onto the line and one of the best remembered of businesses sited there was "Dorset Farmers", a co-operative dealing in agricultural supplies.

The village was devastated when the line was marked as superfluous under the Beeching Axe. It closed to passengers on 2nd May 1964 and to goods the following year. The only reminders of its existence now are the overbridge adjacent to the Albion Hotel and arches

in Edmondsham Road and Horton Way.

The photo above taken from the bridge shows a train for Salisbury arriving less than a month before closure. The fencing bottom right belongs to the Albion Hotel.

46 years later the bustling station and yard have been erased from the same viewpoint and it is hard to believe that it ever existed especially with the road realignment and extensions to the Albion.

August 2010 - the same view looking south from the same location.



The view looking north towards Salisbury is even more overgrown with the trackbed now flooded creating a pond!