

Ferndown before the Bulldozers

Less than 60 years ago Ferndown was just a village, with gravel roads, a scattering of shops and not even a set of traffic lights. Then the bulldozers arrived and much of Ferndown's history disappeared forever. Part autobiography and part history, these articles are a fascinating glimpse of a village in transition.

Victoria Road shops

A part from Ringwood Road, the busiest shopping area in Ferndown in the Forties and Fifties was Victoria Road, where Cobbs Garage, later known as Victoria Garage occupied the corner site.

It was started by Charles Cobb and Albert Haskett. Mr Cobb was a member of the Red Cross and the Red Cross ambulance was kept at the garage, which was badly damaged by incendiary bombs during WW2.

Next to the garage was a small parade of shops (hidden by the tree in 1951 photo right) which are still there today. It included Maison Coward hairdresser's and the estate agency run by William Stickland, a magician and one time president of the Magic Circle.

Last in the block was Arthur Wareham's fish-and-chip shop. Arthur and his wife Joyce married at Wimborne Minster in 1919. Joyce was featured in our October 2017 article and was Ferndown's first woman firefighter.



1915



Cobbs Garage 1951

Arthur lost both legs in what must have been a tragic accident at Creekmoor pottery in 1927 and had been fitted with two artificial limbs.

In 1931 they bought a fish shop at Ringwood and they also had a small one in Ferndown at the junction of Wimborne Road and Queens Avenue.

The Warehams moved to their shop in Victoria Road in 1936 and were there for more than 20 years. Arthur was always joking with 'customers and trading insults across the counter!

Since then it has been Ashley's wet fish business, then the Capital pizza and kebab takeaway and currently it is suprisingly a fish and chip shop yet again!

The book is available from Brian Davis, 31 Whinham's Way, Billericay CM12 0HD, price £13.99 + £2 p&p.



July 2018