

# 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.

## Ringwood Road & Pennys Hill

This series of photos shows how Pennys Hill has developed and changed over the years and is taken from a similar position to our last article where Spinneys Lane joins Ringwood Road adjacent to The White Heather Pub.

For this article we have simply turned to face north east up Ringwood Road with the pub on our left. Spinneys Lane was originally a narrow gravel track with three or four homes which have now disappeared, but the name survives as an access road seen in the foreground in the 2018 photo.

Originally on this corner before the White Heather Pub stood a private house called Heatherlands. This was also the site for Ferndown's first butcher's shop which was opened in 1895 by Reuben Webb who later moved across the



road to The Parade. The stable where he kept his horse, and later his Model T Ford, eventually became the Stable Gallery.

Heatherlands was bought from Reuben Webb by the father of Alec Nelmes around 1913 who planned to open a taxi and coach business but was thwarted when WW1 broke out in 1914.

Heatherlands was then sold to Marstons Brewery who opened an off-licence run by Mr Nelmes and later his son Alec Nelmes who always sported a bow tie! Strong & Co of Romsey later took the off-licence over which was then demolished in 1960 to rise again as the White Heather pub of today.

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

