

# 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.

## Ivy Cottage, Ringwood Road

**O**ur Feb/March 2018 article mentions Ferndown's first butcher's shop which opened in 1895, located on the site of what is currently The White Heather Pub and owned by Reuben Webb. Twenty years later he moved across the road to The Parade.

In 1916 he bought a large plot of land between Dudsbury Avenue and Fernlea Avenue where he kept sheep, pigs and bullocks for slaughter. But slaughtering finished before the second world war and meat was bought in from the Uddens abattoir. Reuben's son Percy joined the business as a 16 year old and in 1937 Percy's 14 year old son Ken left school to work in the shop, which by now had moved along Ringwood Road to new premises at Ivy Cottage. (Circled on the 1st photo)

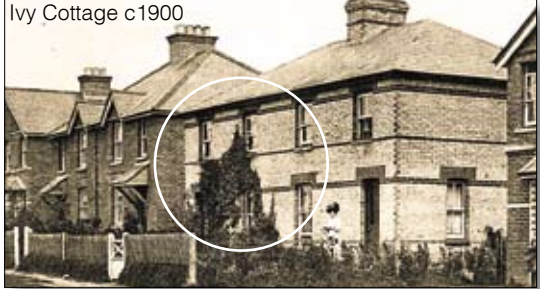
The 2nd photo taken during the Queen's Coronation in 1953 shows that the house has been extended outwards to become Webb's butchers shop.

Percy retired in 1959 and Ken left to work part-time at the Wallis store in Victoria Road and Robson's Grocers. But the Webb shop remained as a butchers for many years and is today the Joy Indian restaurant.

Today although these properties have escaped the bulldozers ...so far, the attractive brickwork has been painted over and the constantly busy road is a far cry from the unmade gravel track and the rural atmosphere of the photo from the 1900's.

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

Ivy Cottage c1900



1953



May 2018

