

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 & Wimborne Road junction



Early 20th century - still very rural with unmade roads



Galton's Store early 20th century before it became a Post Office and appears to be offering 'Wonga' type cash loans!



Probably late 1920s with extended shopfront and showing a model K1 MK 236 telephone call box which was introduced in 1927

Our last article featured the shops at the Ringwood Road end of Victoria Road, but at the opposite end at the junction with Wimborne Road stood the original Ferndown post office. This was the only one in the village until the early 1930s when another opened in the Stubblings shop at Penny's Hill.

It was run from Harry Galton's General Store and continued to serve the needs of homes at the Wimborne Road end of the village for many years after the new one at Penny's Hill opened.

Galton's was part of a building which at the time incorporated the Ferndown Primitive Methodist Chapel. The chapel then became a furniture and antiques showroom and then housed Tots and Tiddlers Toys.

The Post Office next door closed a few years ago and the whole site has now been replaced with a block of flats.



Late 20th century showing Old Chapel Pine and the Post Office which is still open.



September 2018

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