

# 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.

## Rosina Nurseries, Church Road

Rosina Nurseries were run by Harry and Elsie Froud during the twentieth century and were started by Mr Froud's father in 1892 and named after his wife. The large greenhouse from which exotic plants were raised fronted Church Road and children were always welcome in there. It was a fascinating world and Mrs Froud would sometimes let the children through to the back to watch the waterboatmen insects skimming across the surface of the concrete water-supply tank.

The business announced itself very clearly across the gable end of the greenhouse as 'Rosina Nursery', but was generally known as 'Froud's'. It was later run by Harry and Elsie's daughter Joyce.

Unfortunately a large part of the garden was designated for compulsory purchase in 1982 and was buried under the Ferndown Centre car park. The greenhouse itself remained for another 30 years until 2012, but now it too has fallen to the developers.

Today only its brick foundations can just be seen with its beautiful tiled floor, marking the end of one family's century of horticultural endeavour.

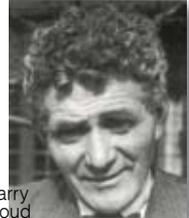
There are quite a few references on the web to two fair sized Edwardian properties which were also built on this site - one Google report from 2017 said that the owner of the site which used to be a florist with a plant nursery, sadly passed away in 2014 aged 93.

There is also a 17 minute YouTube video uploaded by 'Abandoned Explorer' featuring a brief wander round one of the old houses which at the time retained many interesting original Edwardian features but it all looked very dilapidated.

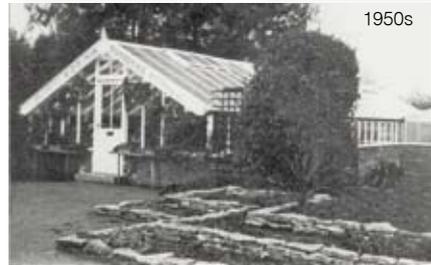
These houses still stand - just - since there is a recent newspaper report of one of the houses badly damaged by what appeared to be a deliberate fire in May this year.



Elsie Froud



Harry Froud



1950s



Early 1990s



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