

ROUNDAABOUT
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

NOW and THEN

Mansfield House, Southampton Road, Ringwood



Mansfield House has faced onto Southampton Road, formerly Up Street, since the 18th century. Its name came from one of its first inhabitants, William Mansfield, who is said to have lived there till his death in 1814. He was born in Ringwood Manor House in 1735, the son of attorney John James Manfield, (the 's' was later added to the family name).

A few years later Joseph Bull Bristowe, the minister of Ringwood Meeting House from 1817 till 1840, purchased the property. He recorded very precisely in his own Meeting House register that his daughter Josephine

Bristowe was born 'at the house in Up Street called Mansfield Cottage on 19th January 1830 between 2 and 3 o'clock p.m.' It was this gentleman who built the large side extension to the house which still bears his initials JBB and the date 1828. It may have also been Mr Bristowe who added the yellow mathematical tiles (Small interlocking facing-tiles hung on timber laths designed to look like quality bricks with joints) to the front of the main building. These tiles, which are similar to those on the Old Bank House in the Market Place, are clearly shown in the old photograph. For many years the tiles were hidden beneath a mass of Virginia creeper, but this has recently been removed.



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During the 20th century the house was occupied by a succession of dentists and today the ground floor of the main house continues to be used as a dental surgery.

The building to the right of the old photo has now gone and has become the forecourt of Austin & Wyatt, whose estate agency occupies the former coach-house of Mansfield House. Most of the house's original large walled garden has been built on.