

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD  
& SURROUNDING VILLAGES

# NOW and THEN

16 High Street, Ringwood. Santander.



March 2018

For at least a hundred years 16 High Street was an ironmonger's. Back in 1865 it belonged to James Hiscock, who was also a corn dealer and seedman, as is shown by the advertisement on his calling card. Bags of seeds, buckets and spades are all shown stacked up in front of his shop in traditional ironmonger's fashion. The wide crinoline dresses of the ladies date this card to the 1860s. The three distinctive curved dormer windows on the roof remain the same to this day.

By 1891 the business belonged to William Chilvers from Norfolk. The Chilvers family continued as ironmongers for the next seventy years, passing from William to his

son Edwin and then to Edwin's son Edgar. Chilvers was a household

name in Ringwood, still affectionately remembered by many of the town's older residents. The front of the property, shown on the right in the c1950 photograph below, changed very little from Hiscock's day, except for the addition of a large bay on the right-hand first floor window.

The shop finally closed in the mid 1960s and for a few years became a branch of Westminster Bank, which involved a completely different shop front and the addition of a metal balcony rail. About 1969 the bank moved over to the opposite side of the High Street when Westminster merged with the National Provincial Bank, becoming the NatWest. The property then became Abbey National building society, again involving a series of changes to the ground floor facade. In 2010 Abbey was rebranded as Santander UK bank, which it remains today.



c1950