

ROUNDBOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Article and photo kindly supplied by Mary Baldwin

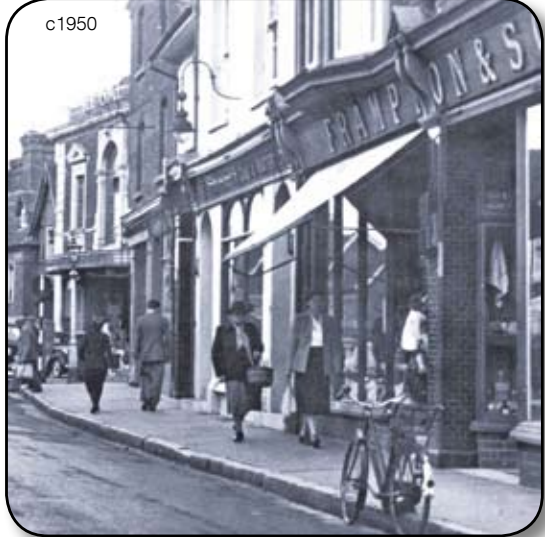
Frampton's Wine & Coffee Bar, High Street, Ringwood

Throughout the 20th century Frampton & Sons was one of Ringwood's best known shops. The current building with its distinct Dutch gables was erected in 1905 by brothers Harry and Bill Frampton, who ran their family business in partnership. Unlike previous generations of the family, neither lived over the shop; Harry lived in College Road and Bill in Star Lane.

Harry was in charge of the grocery shop in the High Street selling dry goods such as tea, rice, sugar and biscuits, while Bill ran the seed merchant side of the business from Frampton's Yard (now Boston Tea Party in the Furlong Centre). In the mid 20th century, sometime after this c1950 photograph was taken, the building on the left of the High Street grocery was acquired by the Frampton family and run as their horticultural and garden supplies department.

By the 1970s competition from the new supermarkets made it difficult for traditional grocers to make a profit. The grocery de-

c1950



partment with its wonderful aroma of freshly sliced ham, ground coffee and spices finally closed about 1978 and the stock was then entirely given over to seeds, garden and pet-care products. What had been the seed department then became the Job Centre.

It is now Hearnes Estate Agency. Ten years later the remaining business was sold to the Coles family who added country clothing to their stock but maintained the Frampton name and continued to supply their Ringwood customers in the same family-run tradition.

The original shop finally closed and was sold in 2011, when it was turned into a wine, cocktail and coffee bar, still retaining the Frampton's name and many of the original fittings.

March 2019

