

ROUNDAABOUT
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

NOW and THEN

Strides Lane, Ringwood



The old photograph, probably taken in the 1950s, shows an attractive 18th century house with two shops on the ground floor, namely Freemantle & Son saddlers and leather good makers and Pilley Brothers, pork butchers. The building stood where the Market Place joins West Street. On the extreme left is St Mary's Café, now the Fireplace Room. In between the café and Freemantle & Son saddlers is the very narrow Strides Lane. On the far right is another shop and part of the New Inn.

Freemantles carried on a long tradition as George Arney had been a saddler there for many years during the Victorian period.

George Stride, who was described as a general dealer in the 1861 census, then occupied the Fireplace Room, and so gave his name to the adja-

cent lane. Previously Strides Lane had been known as Carmalts Lane after John Carmalt, clock and watchmaker, who was an earlier occupant of the premises.

Around 1960 the entire building in the photograph was demolished to widen Strides Lane, thus giving it vehicular access. The New Inn to the right was also demolished and replaced by New House. Freemantles and Pilleys both relocated to this new building, but sadly both businesses had closed by the 1970s. New House is still owned by Meesons solicitors who occupy part of the ground floor and the offices above.



Today the buildings in Strides Lane can now be seen quite clearly from the Market Place, whereas before 1960 they had been hidden from sight..