

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Ringwood Social Club, 17-19 West Street.

The building on the right was once a public house called The Antelope, belonging to the Carter family who owned Bridge House and the brewery next to it during the 19th century. Deeds dated 1812 at Hampshire Record

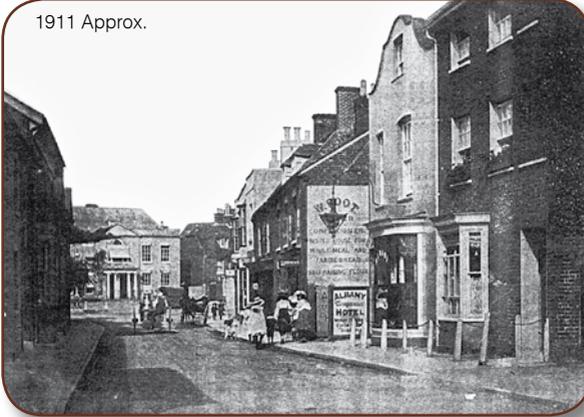
tioneer and upholsterer but also as a wine and spirit merchant and the proprietor of the steam saw mills by the railway station. His children were still living in the house in 1901. However by 1911 the building had become a temperance boarding house

named The Albany Hotel run by Samuel Hunter and his wife Ellen. The old photograph showing both properties must therefore date to around this time. What a pity the splendid lamp has long gone!

At the end of the 1st World War both buildings were purchased as a club for returning servicemen, known as the Comrades Club. This later became the British Legion Club and then the Ringwood Social Club. A rather ugly extension was added to the side and rear in the 1960s and remodelled in the 1980s. The club has

been the venue for many social gatherings in Ringwood, including wedding receptions, skittles and darts matches and parties over the years. At present it is closed while the committee are seeking to redevelop the site and refurbish the original buildings to provide Ringwood community once again with a vibrant and modern club.

1911 Approx.



Office state that Alexander Carter had taken down a public house called The Wagon and Horses and built the new Antelope on the same site. From 1851 through to 1881 the censuses show John Vincent followed by his son Thomas as the landlords. Shortly afterwards the licence of the Antelope seems not to have been renewed and the pub became privately occupied.

The next building in the old photograph is probably older, its Dutch gable end hiding the gable end of a pitched roof. In the early 19th century it was occupied by George Cranston, an auctioneer and upholsterer whose family had been prominent in Ringwood's history for many years. By 1861 Francis Ayles and his wife Elizabeth (nee Cranston) had taken over the house where they brought up a large family. Francis Ayles was a very influential figure in Victorian Ringwood. In White's Directory of 1878 he was described not only as an auc-



July 2016 prior to redevelopment.