

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Bickham's Bakery, 22-24 High Street, Ringwood.



Blocking Ringwood High Street in this 1950s photograph above are four of Eric Bickham's 'Country Loaf' delivery vans, presumably arranged for a publicity shot.

At this time Eric Bickham was a well-known figure in Ringwood, through his business connections and as a prominent member of the Rotary Club of Ringwood. He had acquired the baker's shop, seen on the left of the photograph, in the mid-1930s and by 1940 had opened a bakehouse in Christchurch Road, which enabled him to use the High Street premises purely as a retail bakery with a small restaurant above. Writing in 'Food Industries Weekly' in 1963, Mr Bickham stated that the bakery had been in existence since 1780 and when he took it over he had discovered the original faggot

oven. My research confirms this claim as quite likely to be true.

The shop continued to be a bakery right up until recently, as described in a 'Now and Then' article in 2011.

Go to www.roundaboutmags.co.uk and click on: Articles/News - Ringwood Now & Then - The Granary, High Street, Ringwood.

However a couple of years ago the owner of what was then called 'The Granary' sold the business, so sadly its 236 year-old history of supplying Ringwood with bread and cakes has come to an end, unless takeaway pizza counts as the 21st century equivalent of a bakery when it became Rominos Pizza!

But that has also closed after being open for a short time and the lease is now up for sale. Who knows what it will be next?



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