

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Entrance to Meeting House Lane

Somewhat confusingly, the row of properties facing onto the entrance to narrow Meeting House Lane actually has the postal address High Street.

The old photograph of this little part of the High Street around 1910 shows the edge of Corbin's shop (see the previous issue of Roundabout Ringwood) on the extreme left, with George Clark's grocery next door. The 1911 census describes Mr Clark as a fruiterer but the signs on the wall above advertise Colman's mustard and Fry's cocoa. His stock must have been an interesting mixture! Next door was Henry Jefferis, china dealer, and then brothers William and George Patterson, butchers.

By the time of the 1988 photograph Mr Corbin's shop had become a Tandoori restaurant, now Indigo. Next door, the electrical shop run by Alan Rouse will be remembered by many. These days it is occupied by Alda's Engravings, formerly situated at the front of the shopping arcade. The Kowloon Chinese takeaway is now a Chinese fish and chip



c 1910

shop, Ringwood Fish Bar. In 1988 Ringwood had a launderette at 68 High Street; in 2015 the property is empty. The overall appearance of these properties has changed remarkably little over a century, except for the replacement windows on the right-hand side of the row, which appear a poor substitute for the character of the original sash windows seen on the left. Perhaps one of the most striking differences is the change in street furniture. The middle of the road seems an



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