

# ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

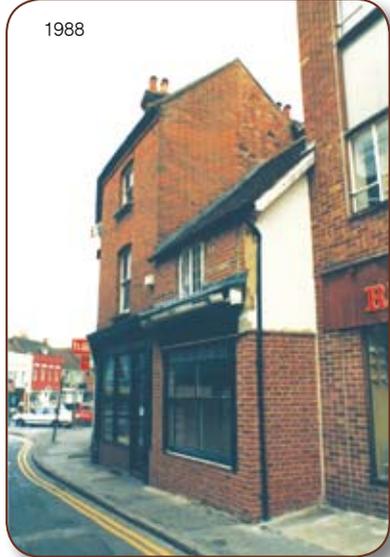
## NOW and THEN

### Palmers / Dorricott, 66, High Street.

**T**ucked away by the entrance to Meeting House Lane, its narrow street setting has meant that 66 High Street has often eluded the camera. Very few photographs exist of this little shop and unfortunately it has not been possible to locate any of when it was Palmer's fish shop. However many Ringwood residents will have fond memories of buying a portion of fish and chips there after a visit to the nearby Regal cinema.

George Palmer and his wife Rosina opened the shop in 1901 and moved in to live in the three-storey part of the property two years later. The smaller adjacent part had a marble slab facing onto the street for wet fish sales but it was as Ringwood's first fried fish and chips that Palmer's became really popular. As early as 1903 George Palmer was advertising himself in the Ringwood Almanac as a *'Wholesale and Retail Fish and Potato Dealer, Fried Fish a Speciality, Hot Fish and Chip potatoes every evening from 6 to 10pm. Trade supplied.'* Their fish came from Poole by rail to Ringwood Station. Originally it was fried in vats in the cellar – a fire hazard that would no doubt not be allowed by today's health and safety regulations. Later the fryers were moved to the ground floor and a corrugated iron-roofed room added to the rear for diners to eat on the premises during the late 1930s.

1988



After the death of their parents the business was carried on by two of the Palmer children, Maurice and Dorothy (known as Dot) until 1974, meaning that this family concern continued for over seventy years. Maurice died shortly after his retirement but Dot Palmer lived on for quite a few years in a house in the Quomp. She died in White Gates Care Home in 1994 in her 91st year. Her good attendance record at Ringwood Council School (now Ringwood Juniors) is now displayed in the Meeting House.

The shop was acquired in 1976 by jeweller Mr Robin Dorricott who moved from a previous shop in Christchurch Road. His business included repairs to jewellery and watches but never clocks! Cod and haddock made way for rings and brooches as the marble slab with its big sash window was replaced by a new display window. The first photo shows the shop in 1988 before the lane was enhanced. The corner of Ringwood Hardware, 1 Meeting House Lane, can be seen on the right. Today that property has been empty for many years but the jeweller's shop remains unchanged, now run by Jeff Dorricott and his mother.



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