

# ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

## NOW and THEN



This old photograph, taken between 1881 and 1886, clearly shows The Royal Oak on the left before its rebuilding around 1900, as described in the previous issue of Roundabout Ringwood. To the right of it is the Star Inn, looking much the same as it does today 130 years later, except for the triangular pediment above the doorway.

The Star and the White Lion (now Scoltocks health foods) were Market Place pubs belonging to the small brewery at the top of Star Lane, a part of which remains today as Grants estate agency in the Furlong Centre.

In the 18th century this brewery and the two pubs were owned by a wealthy man named Stephen Marten and leased from him by various members of the Veal family, who in turn let out the pubs to a succession of landlords.

One of their employees was Thomas White, whose obituary in 1824 noted 'he was never known to wear a coat in the most severe weather, or seen at any place of worship, fair, races or amusement but always at his post at the Star Inn'.

During Victorian times the brewery and the Star were owned by William Newton Parsons, followed by Isaac Veal, then his son Frederick and by 1877 Messrs J and H Panton of Wimborne. The name Panton and what probably says 'Ales, Spirit Merchants and Brewery' can be seen painted on the side of the Star with a finger sign pointing up Star Lane. In 1893 the Panton family sold their company, so the Star Lane Brewery closed and became Bill Frampton's seed and corn stores. The Star was from then on owned by Strongs of Romsey.

During the first half of the 20th century the Hiscock family were licensees of the Star for many years followed later by Cyril and Gwen Browning. Following Cyril's retirement in the 1980s the pub underwent major

internal alterations, changing the layout to how it remains today.

For the past ten years the Star Inn has been owned and run by Ian and Nikki Pepperell, who combine its old English character with a Thai cuisine. Ian's main claim to fame is that he is also Roy Tucker in the Archers!

