

ROUNDBABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Article and photo kindly supplied by Mary Baldwin **HSBC Bank, 27 High Street, Ringwood**

This building was once a pub known as The Kings Arms during the 18th and most of the 19th century, thus giving its name to the lane alongside it leading from the High Street to the Bickerley.

Sometime in the late 19th century the roof of the building was heightened, as can be seen by the change of brickwork visible both on the front and on the side facing onto Kings Arms Lane.

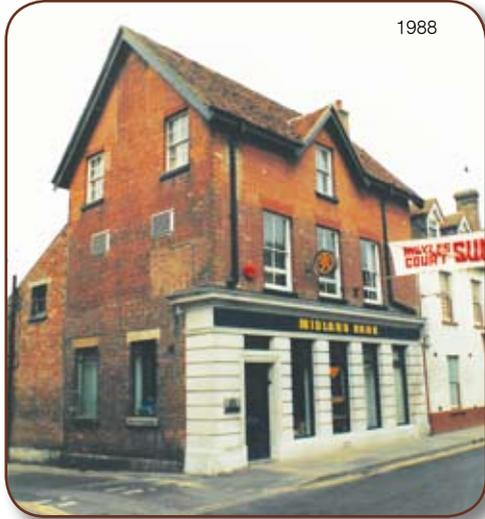
By 1891 it had become a cyclist restaurant, dining and refreshment rooms and the headquarters of the Cyclist Touring Club, reflecting the late-Victorian interest in cycling. So today's Cafe Velo in Star Lane is not the first of its kind in Ringwood! It also demonstrates the growing influence of the Temperance movement during this period, as the rooms above became a Temperance Hotel, run in 1911 by Mr Mark Payne.

Almost a hundred years ago there was another change when in 1921 27 High Street became a bank, initially known as the London, Joint City and Midland Bank but soon known simply as the Midland. The

ground floor was modified and given a new frontage and the first floor was rented out to Claude Meeson, a local solicitor. Midland's first manager was Francis Henry Birkett who lived in College Road. In those days managers tended to stay at a particular branch and knew and were known by all their customers. They were expected to take an important part in the community life of their town; for example in the late 1950s Midland Bank manager Leslie Tully was the first Treasurer of Greyfriars Community Centre and the manager of the Ringwood Citizen's Advice Centre.

In 1961 Meeson's solicitors moved out and the entire building became used by the bank. For the rest of the 20th century the familiar golden griffin logo of the Midland was a well-known part of Ringwood High Street until the bank was taken over by HSBC Holdings Plc in the 1990s. By 1999 the Midland name had been phased out in favour of HSBC as it remains today.

1988



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