

ROUNDAABOUT RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

NOW and THEN

The Fish Inn, Ringwood.



The Fish Inn has the unique attraction of being Ringwood's only riverside public house. It has stood on the banks of the River Avon for at least two centuries - probably longer. The inn's position at the end of West Street meant that in the days before the bypass, it was the first or last chance for travellers to down their favourite pint before reaching or leaving Ringwood.

In the early 19th century the Fish Inn belonged to local brewer and banker Stephen Tunks, whose business spectacularly collapsed following his death in 1821. This brought hardship to many people who had invested their savings with his bank, although some money was recouped when his properties, including the Fish, were sold off six years later. The inn then became owned by Ringwood brewers Carter & Co, whose brewery was further along West Street on the site now occupied by the bus depot.

For over a hundred years the licensees were members of the Ward family,

starting with George Ward in 1851, followed by his daughter-in-law Mary Ward until 1900 and then her son George. A year after George's death in 1922, Carter's brewery was bought out by Strong's of Romsey, with the Fish Inn continuing to be run by George's widow Charlotte and later by her son-in-law Arthur Frampton until 1975. Since 1991 the Fish Inn has been owned by the appropriately named Mr Salmon of Marine Taverns and run by licensees Mike and Julie Nash.

Although the inn has been extended and completely altered internally, externally it has changed remarkably little over the centuries. The thatched double-fronted brick frontage looks much the same as it did in early photos, except for the addition of an entrance porch. A pair of cottages and a tea-rooms which used to be next to the pub have long since been pulled down, but the lawns close to the river still make a scenic place for a

drink, even though the noise of the nearby A31 traffic means it cannot claim to be the most tranquil!



May 2009

Copyright
© Mary
Baldwin