

# ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

## NOW and THEN

**H**ow long has it been since Friday's Cross has last seen a flock of sheep passing by? The old photograph was probably taken c1885, maybe on a Wednesday market day. The sheep are possibly being herded from the Market Place to the railway station (now Castleman's Way).

4 High Street shown in the middle of the old photograph next door to Hext jewellers was at that time a private house in the occupation of widow Mary Russell. Back in the 1860s and 1870s she had run a grocery shop there, selling everyday food items such as sugar and loose tea.

An earlier photo c1868 shows the property then had a shop front with the doorstep piled high with goods for sale and the words 'Russell's Grocery & Tea Warehouse' painted in capital letters on the wall between the first and second floor windows. By 1881 Mrs Russell had retired and had made drastic changes to her ground floor by scrapping the shop front and installing an entirely new central front door frame with bay windows either side. By 1901 William Ghrimes, who

### 4 High Street, Ringwood.



c1885

owned the upholstery business on the opposite side of the High Street, was living in this house with his wife and two daughters.

In the early 20th century 4 High Street changed yet again. Another new shop front was constructed and the building became an auctioneers and estate agency, for many years run by Ghrimes & Champion, later Ormiston, Knight & Hudson. In 1955 Ormiston's moved to the Market Place to the property now the Old Bank House and 4 High Street next became Aldersons radio, television and record specialists.

Later in the 20th century the property continued to change businesses and shop fronts quite frequently. It has been a greengrocery (The Grapevine and later Farmers) and a hairdressing salon, most recently Waves. The ground floor is now a tea rooms and gift shop named Jacqueline's, after its owner Jacqueline Henley, who has been trading there since 2014.

If Mrs Russell could come back to life she would be pleased to discover that, even though she couldn't sit and watch sheep passing by her house, she could still enjoy a good pot of tea there!



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