

# ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

## NOW and THEN

### Barnwells, 18-20 High Street, Ringwood.

The buildings in the May 2018 photograph are a modern reconstruction of Barnwell's fruit and flower shop, remembered with affection by many older residents. Its chief distinction was that it was the only remaining thatched shop in the High Street, dating back possibly to the 17th century.

During the 19th century the premises consisted of at least three separate dwellings, all occupied by families carrying out a variety of trades. Sometime in this period shop fronts were installed, the oldest being the one with the bow window on the end nearest Fridays Cross. This must have made an ideal display for the sweet shop run in this part of the building by Mrs Jane Mouland, the wife of a shoemaker. When the shop closed for the night, the outside of this bow window was covered with a wooden shutter. This was a common practice in Victorian Ringwood but this was the only such shutter to survive until 1980.

In 1916 nurseryman and greengrocer Mr W H Barnwell took over from fruiter and dealer Frank White by which time all the shops had become one property, as

1960 approx



shown in the old photograph probably taken around 1960. After Mr Barnwell's death, Mrs Barnwell carried on until her death in 1970, when the business was continued by her son Arthur and his sister for about another ten years. They sold fruit, vegetables, seeds and flowers in their rather dark low-ceilinged shop.

Following Arthur Barnwell's retirement in about 1980, the shop was acquired by developers who caused so much instability to the building that it had to be completely demolished. Fortunately the NFDC planners insisted that the new building reflected the original design and so it was rebuilt complete with thatch. The only exception was the end shop which was slated as it had been in Victorian times. An archaeological survey undertaken at the time of the rebuild discovered a well in the middle of the site and pottery possibly dating to the late 17th century.

Today the new building consists of four shops, currently The Pantry cafe, Roberts Jewellers, Anna bridal shop and Irving Palmer estate agency.



May 2018