

# ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

## NOW and THEN

### Keskins/Imperial Cancer Research/Metro Lounge, Market Place, Ringwood

1890's



only child William Bramble Baldwin also became a lawyer but predeceased his parents. After her husband's death in 1841, Mary lived on in the house until her death in 1855, when she left an interesting bequest of sixpence each to sixty poor widows of Ringwood to be distributed on every St Thomas's Day, 21st December.

**T**his property is unique in being the only building in Ringwood Market Place to have been entirely demolished and replaced by a new building during the 20th century.

The old house, like others in this area, belonged to the Manor of Ringwood Rectory, owned by Kings College Cambridge. In their survey of 1768 it was recorded as 'one cottage (now a very good house) near the George and fronting the Market House.' In the first three decades of the 19th century this was the home of William and Mary Baldwin (my namesake, but no relation!). William was a wealthy lawyer who acted as Steward of



The same view in March 2013

The 1890s photograph (top left) shows the house next to part of the old George Inn described in the last issue of Roundabout Ringwood. It continued to be inhabited privately well into the 20th century until the last occupants, the Neaum family, put the house up for sale around 1960. Sadly it was then demolished to make way for Ringwood's first purpose-built supermarket. The new building was a very poor substitute for what had been one of Ringwood's character properties. Constructed with cheap brick, flat roof and plate glass windows, the new supermarket looked totally out of character with its adjacent neighbours. This led to the setting up of the Ringwood Society in 1962 with the aim of safeguarding the historic fabric of the town and campaigning for higher standards of new design.

The building soon proved too small for Pricerite supermarket and was split into two separate shops, currently occupied by Keskins takeaway foods and Imperial Cancer Research charity shop. The first floor was until recently a snooker hall but it has now been transformed into the Metro Lounge Piano Bar.



For sale in the  
early 1960's

the Rectory Manor, which probably explains how he managed to acquire the freehold of this house from Kings College in return for some land at Harbridge. Their