

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN



**Parish Church
and Letchers**

The old photograph shows the Parish Church from the Market Place in about 1920. The narrow road leading to Fordingbridge and the garden wall of the old Vicarage described in the previous issue of Roundabout Ringwood can be seen to the left of the church wall. The high roof of Ringwood Mill can be just glimpsed behind the trees.

In the early 1930s the vicarage was demolished and a link road was constructed to take traffic from the Market Place onto the new first bypass. This in turn was abolished when the road was upgraded with a much larger bypass in the 1970s. The so-called hated 'Berlin Wall' was built blocking any access from the Market Place to the A31. Over time this landscape has softened but nevertheless the Market Place and the setting of the Parish Church

has lost some of its charm seen in the old photograph.

The building on the left shows the office built in Edwardian days for solicitors Arthur Jackson and Sons, who also ran an office in Fordingbridge. This firm was joined by Dr Percy Letcher who later ran the Ringwood office along with his son Peter.

In 1952, following an amicable agreement between the two families, the firm was divided with Letcher & Son remaining in Ringwood and Jackson & Sons retaining its office in Fordingbridge.

The Ringwood firm, now re-branded Letchers Solicitors, still continues to provide legal services to our area today. Over the years the building has been extended twice and the iron railings have been lost.

