

# NOW and THEN

## The George Inn/Seasense/Allan & Bath

The George Inn 1890  
(Low building to centre)



ing the ironmongers to the west. On the eastern side was another small hipped-roof part of the building, which was set back from the road in line with the other houses in the Market Place. A narrow lane next to it led to a stable block.

During Victorian times the inn was owned by the local Carter brewery of West Street. Its most famous landlord was a man named William Mahershalahsbaz Bradford, whose unusual second name came from the Old

The same view in  
Jan  
2013



The George Inn has a very long history, although much is shrouded by the mists of time and remains conjectural. References to the George Inn in the 17th century predate the Hanoverian King Georges (King George I came to the throne in 1714), implying that its name may have originally derived from St George of dragon fame.

The inn then belonged to Kings College Cambridge who held the Manor of Ringwood Rectory and the Manorial Courts for the Rectory were held there. This indicates a strong link with the Parish Church and could even have been the location for the brewing of Church Ales in medieval times.

The George Inn 1992



Up until 1900 the inn was a small one, consisting of a cottage adjoin-

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During Victorian times the inn was owned by the local Carter brewery of West Street. Its most famous landlord was a man named William Mahershalahsbaz Bradford, whose unusual second name came from the Old Testament. Mr Bradford was also a coal and coke merchant, a fact displayed on the front wall of the set-back part of the inn. The Bradford family continued as innkeepers until the 1930s.

In about 1900 the inn underwent a major rebuilding, taking on the imposing form it retained throughout the 20th century. A small part of the original inn was retained at the back, as can be seen in the 1992 photo. Then called the George Hotel, it was owned by Strong & Co and later Whitbread. Last orders were finally called in 2000 when the hotel closed.

The oldest part of the building and the stable block were demolished and the George Mews erected at the rear. The ground floor of the George facing the Market Place has been altered by the insertion of two new shop fronts. The eastern side is now occupied by Seasense Mortgages while the western side is Allan & Bath estate agency. The first and second floors have been turned into private accommodation.