

NOW and THEN

Brewers and debra, Market Place, Ringwood

1930's



House.' In fact this house is not faced with brick but with mathematical tiles, which are tiles designed to give the appearance of brick. Underneath the tiles, the house is of much older date, as shown inside by its timber-framing and large herringbone-bricked fireplace. In the 18th century this was the home of Richard Gosse, a wealthy clothier. During Victorian times it was the residence of two of his descendants, spinster sisters Mary Gosse Hamper and Lydia Dawson Hamper, who are both commemorated by stained glass windows in the chancel of the Parish Church. By the turn of the 20th century the house was the home of solicitor Francis Johns and his family and was known as St. Nicholas, a name which, though painted over, can still be seen above the door. By 1939 Mr Morley Hewitt, estate agent and surveyor, was in residence.

Continuing from the last Roundabout issue, the next two properties along the south side of the Market Place were also once owned by Kings College Cambridge as part of the Manor of Ringwood Rectory.

The 1930 photograph shows a lady walking past the original ground floor windows, which were later replaced with bigger picture windows when the ground floor of the property became a shop. The shop has had many differing businesses over recent years, including photography, antiques, gifts, shoes and clothes. Its latest occupier is the charity shop debra.

The house on the right of the photographs was described in 1768 as 'One Tenement containing two Ground Rooms and three Chambers with a small Stable and Garden adjoining'. These premises were occupied by several grocers during the early Victorian period and later by a family of boot and shoemakers named Savage. By 1911 the census shows that William Pelling, an engineer fitter and his family were in residence. Older residents recall this as Pelling's the plumbers. For many years in the late 20th century the property became the office of Fox & Sons estate agency, during which time the modern double fronted bow windows were installed. It is now Brewers wallpaper showroom and decorating supplies.

The next house to the east was described in 1768 as 'one Cottage, now a good Tenement with a brick front, containing four rooms on a floor facing the Market

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