

ROUNABOUT
RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

NOW and THEN

55, High Street, Ringwood

Standing where the High Street joins the Market Place, this shop occupies a prominent position. Back in the 18th century it was a private house owned by a gentleman named Stephen Marten, who owned a brewery up Star Lane and two pubs, the Star Inn and the White Lion in the Market Place. In the following century the house belonged to the Dyer family, a dynasty of much-loved doctors; Thomas Dyer, followed by his two sons Samuel and Henry Dyer, tended the people of Ringwood throughout the Victorian era.

Early days of Dixons Garage, Market Place, after its move from Christchurch Street in 1916.



In the early 20th century their house underwent a total transformation after the Davis family acquired it and turned it into a garage. Nowadays it is extremely unlikely that a fine Georgian house would be given planning permission for a drastic re-building but in the period after World War I this was not required. The front of the house was completely modernised with large showroom windows on the ground floor and two bow windows above. The petrol pumps on the forecourt swung out over the pavement to fill the cars waiting at the adjacent kerbside.

Mid 1960s with early 20th century alterations



Although the 'footprint' of the building is basically the same now as it was in Mr Marten's day, all that can be seen of the original house is some iron railings next to Allum & Sideways, the jewellers. For many years

throughout the 1970s and early

80s the garage remained unoccupied until about 1985 when the Ayles family turned it into Ritzy boutique. The shop later became Wild's Sports and has now recently re-opened as an internet fancy-dress shop 'the bigpartyshop.com.'



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