

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Article and photo kindly supplied by Mary Baldwin
25 - 19 High Street, Ringwood

The old photograph shows the south side of the High Street in about 1910. The grand three-storeyed building in the centre of the photograph belonged to the Wheaton family for a long period during the 19th century. The first William Wheaton was a printer, stationer and chemist. Copies of his printed posters are now local collectors' items. His son, also William, continued as a chemist, followed by another chemist, John Bowring. The beautiful double-fronted bay window probably contained a display of traditional chemist's coloured bottles, along with patent medicines. By 1891 this property had become the Wilts & Dorset bank, which had formerly been situated in what is now Old Bank House in the Market Place. In the early 20th century this impressive building was entirely demolished and replaced by an office, which since 1931 has been the estate agency of Woolley & Wallis.

The building to the right of the bank was a private house, occupied by a Miss Elizabeth Duck. In 1914 this house was purchased by Lloyds bank, which had taken over the Wilts & Dorset bank. According to the late Dr. Little, the demolition of Miss Duck's house and the development of that site was delayed by



1910

World War 1, but finally the new Lloyds bank opened in 1923, designed in a mock-Tudor style looking much as it does today from the outside but now much altered internally.

The premises on the left of the photo replaced a very old thatched cottage shown in older photographs of the late 1860s. In 1873 the owner of the new building, barber Mr Wood, put up the long barber's pole which can be seen on the extreme left of the 1910 photograph, by that time belonging to barber Edwin Pennell. In 1947 Alfie Reynolds took over the lease and continued cutting the hair of many Ringwood men until his retirement in 1973. After several changes of occupancy since then, including the Woolwich building society, this is now Townhouse hairdressers, 19 High Street.

The part of the shop to the right of the barber's was a tobacconist's also belonging to Mr Pennell. Later Alfie Reynolds' wife Doris ran this part of the shop selling wool. Nowadays it is Simply Beauty salon, 21 High Street.



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