

ROUNABOUT RINGWOOD & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

NOW and THEN

Article and photo kindly supplied by Mary Baldwin
Ringwood Fabrics and Kelly Eyecare
15 - 17 High Street, Ringwood

Late 1960s



In the mid-20th century 15 High Street was the location of Charter's Stores, one of many grocers in Ringwood. At the time of the late 1960s photograph it was Tyler's wine merchants. By the 1970s it had become Brian's Fabrics, supplying dress, curtain and furniture fabrics and haberdashery. Today it is known as Ringwood Fabrics, owned by Angela Cork since 2002. She has expanded the business to include knitting wools plus a wide range of all kinds of sewing requirements.

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The frontage of these two properties appears to have been built at the same time, probably about the end of the 18th century. However the interiors of both shops are considerably lower than their entrances and the pavement outside, suggesting that they had an earlier origin. From the position of the first floor windows it seems likely that there were once probably two more which at some time have been blocked up and plastered over.

The late 1960s photograph from the Ringwood Meeting House collection shows that 17 High Street was then Pennell's tobacconists, newsagents and confectioners. The Pennell family owned several other properties in Ringwood during parts of the 20th century, including 19 and 21 High Street. 17 High Street is now Kelly Eyecare opticians, established in Ringwood in 1991.