



Ringwood and Fordingbridge NEWS




Issue 873 | December 20th 2023 to January 9th 2024

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Editors

From our family to yours

MERRY Christmas!! And what a run up to the festive season it has been.

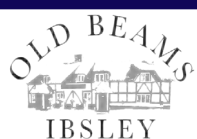
Anyone that knows us knows that this is our favourite time of the year. This year has been extra special as the paper has given us the opportunity to make so many new connections. We are really excited to be focusing on the New Year and the chances it provides us all with. The ability to regroup, evolve and look to the future.

We start the New Year with a fond farewell to Brian, who is now retiring. Brian has been a loyal associate of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News for over 18 years, assisting Michael with the advertising and being a familiar and friendly face for all our lovely local businesses. Brian's dedication to the paper and the local community has been unmatched. He very kindly agreed to help us following the handover and has helped Rae to ensure there is a seamless transition. We hope you will all join us in thanking Brian for his years of hard work and commitment to our community. Here's to a happy retirement!

As many of you will already be aware, Rae Frederick, Deputy Mayor of Ringwood Council, is taking over from Brian. If she has not already had the pleasure of meeting you she will no doubt be in contact soon!

So all that is left to say for now is Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all our readers. We are taking a slightly extended break due to the Christmas holidays but look forward to reporting the celebrations and excitement of 2024.

Darren and Naomi



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Next issue of R&F NEWS

BECAUSE of the extended Christmas break the next issue of the paper has been put back a week. The next edition of Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS will be published on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024.



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A Sad Farewell

MANY of your readers will be familiar with one of Ringwood's landmark trees. Situated on the corner of Greyfriars Community Centre in Ringwood this beautiful Blue Atlas Cedar has graced the local landscape for many years.

Some five years ago we sadly discovered that it was suffering from a fungal infection which was irreversible. This has meant that high winds have increasingly posed a safety risk to the public from falling limbs, some of which weigh several tons. However, through the good offices of a number of local experts and the Local Authority Senior Tree Officer a safety procedure was established at that time which was followed whenever high winds were forecast. This ensured as far as possible that for the last five years public safety was managed and that the public were safeguarded.

Recent surveys have sadly shown that the fungal infection has continued its inexorable advance, and that the safety measures adopted are no longer adequate. The risks to the public from retention of the cedar are no longer sustainable and are uninsurable. As a consequence, formal permission to fell the tree is about to be sought.

In anticipation of this sad day Greyfriars Community Centre took advantage of a generous offer from Ringwood Town Council and its Councillors to fund a replacement English Oak, and this was planted at the opposite end of the Greyfriars lawn to commemorate Jubilee Year. It is flourishing and in due course will grow into a worthy replacement for the cedar.

For further information please contact Claire Alexander, Manager, Greyfriars Community Centre





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Christmas Party

TWENTY five members of the Tables community activity met on Thursday 14th December for their Christmas party. From 11.00am onwards the friendly group enjoyed tea, coffee and conversation as they all caught up on each other's weekly news and then out came the Rummikubs, jigsaw and colouring etc as each took to their own enjoyment.

A two course Christmas dinner was served to them as they continued to enjoy each other's company and following the meal a game of Pass the Parcel ensued which caused a good deal of fun and hilarity, winners receiving a special bar of soap and a packet of toilet rolls! All members left the party with a smile on their faces, a Christmas card and a Cadburys selection box. Tables will recommence in the New Year on Thursday 4th January, 11.00am to 2.00pm at the Salvation Army Hall in Christchurch Road, Ringwood. If you enjoy board games, etc and would like to get into a friendly community group, please come along and get to know us.



Fordingbridge Rugby Club supports local Foodbanks

THE club recently donated over 145kg of food to the Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Verwood Foodbank. Players in the Mini's and Juniors sections were encouraged to bring food essentials to support those less fortunate locally. Mini's Chair Edward Murphy said "We are a community club and it's really important for our players to feel that too. For young children, Christmas can often get caught up with "want" so it was great to see them so enthused to support

those in need. Many of them have been doing a reverse advent calendar where each day they find an item to donate from their kitchen cupboards." The players who have had plenty of disruption to their sport are now just thrilled to be back playing the game they love, with a range of covid secure measures in place.

The food will be used to support vulnerable and in need local families at the difficult time of the year. The food is enough to feed 14 families, 3 meals a day, for 3 days.

For youngsters looking to get into rugby the club runs training for all age groups from U5s-U12s every Sunday at 9:30am on Fordingbridge recreational ground. All ages and abilities are encouraged to try, with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment. Email frfcmimis@outlook.com

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News

Sacrifice and Remembrance

THE emotive story behind how the fallen in the two World Wars and more recent conflicts are commemorated began in November 1918, immediately after the end of WW1.

Jeremy Prescott (a retired Lt Colonel) will talk about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) when he joins Fordingbridge History Society (FHS) on Monday 8 January at 2.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Fordingbridge. FHS Committee Member and talks organiser, Katie Gregory, comments, "Sadly, there are war graves at 23,000 locations, across over 150 countries, commemorating 1.7 million individuals. Jeremy will focus on CWGC's development and how it has

sometimes been misunderstood: he will also talk about the design and layout of the cemeteries and share the stories behind some of the headstones."

FHS Secretary, Helen Coote, adds "There are many war graves in and near Fordingbridge, including 12 in the cemetery at Stuckton and a significant number in Ringwood. In the early days, Rudyard Kipling, Edwin Lutyens and the Directors of both the British Museum and Kew Gardens were closely involved in the design of the cemeteries. Do come along and join us to find out more about this poignant activity: you'll be sure of a warm welcome and a fact-filled afternoon! Check out the FHS website (fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk) for further details."



The Menin Gate



St Nicholas churchyard, Brockenhurst

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THE GREENHOUSE YEAR

Gillian Taylor was the speaker on Thursday 30th November at Ibsley and District Horticultural Society, she told us about her fantastic greenhouse journey – from a small “ordinary” off the shelf greenhouse to a big and beautiful cedar one designed by her husband and



included a long row of cold frames. Her husband even descended into an 18 foot hole which he dug in thick clay and brick lined for a nearby well - now there's gardening devotion. We also viewed some essential but slightly different hand tools which were seen as crucial for any gardener and would also be good Christmas presents. (see pic) Gillian showed us lots of lovely greenhouses some of which are listed and also some sadly in need of repairs. In addition we were treated to many ideas of what can be grown in a greenhouse, with or without heat and throughout the year. As it was a really horrible wet and cold night for the Garden Club meeting this felt almost like being on a holiday in warmer climes. Our meeting was preceded by a short AGM at which Officers were able to report the many activities that had happened over the year and we also elected a full committee for 2024. Our next meeting will be our friendly Christmas Social. And then we start again in 2024 with a new year of exciting talks, trips and events. Why not come along and join in? You would be very welcome at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of every month at Ibsley Village Hall BH24 3NP



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NEWS





50 Year Anniversary for Ex-Tablers

Ringwood and Ferndown Ex-Tablers recently celebrated the 50 year anniversary of Ferndown Round Table

by Ringwood Round Table founded 10 years earlier.

Ringwood is the "mother" table of Ferndown. In attendance was Steve James National President of Ex-Tablers clubs across the U.K. Lots of memories of the founding were shared throughout the evening.



Left to right

- Derek Scott (Chairman Ringwood Ex-Tablers)
- Steve James (National President Ex-Tablers clubs)
- Colin Agnew (Chairman Ferndown Ex-Tablers)
- Ricard Dyson (National Councillor for South west)

Fordingbridge Conservation Group at Bishop's Pond

BISHOP'S Pond Conservation Site is at the corner of Normandy Way and Cottage Mews, Fordingbridge, SP6 1RJ.

Your New Year's Resolution for 2024? – Do something for Nature! Come along and support your local Conservation site!

Our next work parties, on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays, all from 2.00 to 4.00 pm (weather permitting!) are scheduled for:

January: Monday 8th, Saturday 20th, Sunday 28th

February: Monday 5th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 25th

Visitors are welcome to come and explore the conservation site on any of our working party sessions to find out more about its flora and fauna, its history and our plans for its future management.

Volunteer help is always welcome; just bring gardening gloves and secateurs if you have them! Children are welcome to help if accompanied by an adult.

Visit our website- www.fordingbridgeconservation.uk which has a gallery of current photos, and our Facebook page: Fordingbridge Conservation Group for more information.

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News

AVCM Lights Up Fordingbridge at Late Night Shopping

MORE than 100 people, including children and their families and carers, took part in Avon Valley Community Matters' first Lantern Parade through Fordingbridge High Street on Friday evening during the town's annual Late Night Shopping event.

Working in collaboration with Culture in Common, the Salvation Army, Fordingbridge Events, Town Council and the Rotary Club of Fordingbridge, prior to the event the Avon Valley Community Matters (AVCM) team organised a free Family Lantern Making Workshop in order to create the wonderful spectacle which lit up the town. Headed up by a pair of well-behaved Kelly's Donkeys, the procession began and ended with stories of light and wonder from internationally acclaimed storyteller Danya Miller. In between the parade lit up the High Street and dazzled hundreds of late-night shoppers out for a spot of Christmas shopping, to witness the turning on of the town's Christmas lights and to enjoy the evening's entertainment organised by Fordingbridge Town Council.

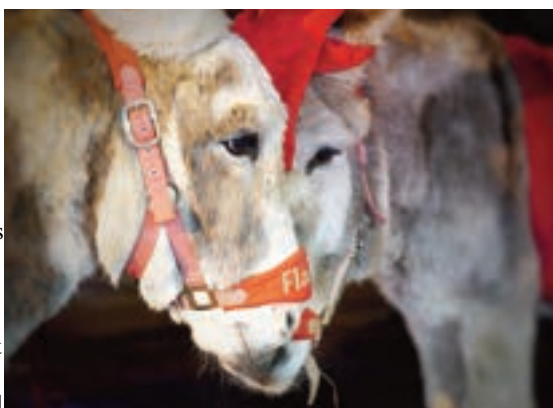
Claire Godson, AVCM's Family Befriender, said: "We are so delighted by the support from so many families as well as local organisations for our very first, spectacular lantern parade. Thank you to everyone who took part for making it such a memorable occasion. We feel so lucky to be part of this wonderful community - such kind support enables us to continue our charity's aim of 'reaching out to all'".

AVCM's new Charity Shop on the High Street was also open for the first time during the late- night shopping evening - staff and volunteers enjoyed watching the parade and welcoming many locals in to browse the shelves jam-packed with preloved clothes and treasures.

AVCM runs the local, inclusive Superstars Playgroup from 9.30am each term-time Friday morning at St Mary's Church Hall in Fordingbridge. During the holidays, staff and volunteers continue their family work by offering free Holiday Activities, including Picnics Together, Building Together and Christmas Together. The charity also offers Bereavement Support, runs a Friendship Group, a Miscarriage Support Group and offers support and friendship at its new Charity Shop on Fordingbridge High Street.

For more information on the charity's community outreach projects, or if you would like to get involved and join AVCM's friendly volunteer team, please visit www.avcmatters.org, email avcommunitymatters@gmail.com or call 01425 653258.

Photo credits to Jamie Warne.



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News

Ringwood's Liz Ferioli-Brown Triumphs as Women's Kickboxing World Champion

IN a stunning display of skill and determination, Liz Ferioli-Brown, a 48-year-old mother of six from Ringwood, has emerged victorious as the new World Champion in women's kickboxing. The crowning moment took place at the WAKO (World Association of Kick Boxing) World Championships held in Portugal from the 18th to the 26th of November.

Liz's journey to the top is nothing short of extraordinary, beating six competitors from over 120 countries to claim the coveted gold medal. Her dedication to the sport led her to establish the Ringwood Kickboxing Organisation back in 2019, inspiring individuals interested in this demanding and exhilarating discipline to get the most out of themselves, more on how you can get involved further down!

WAKO, holds the World Championships every two years. To secure her spot on team GB this year, Liz had to qualify in the WAKO British Championships, an annual competition held back in February in Nottingham, and attend all the rigorous Team Squad training sessions.

The road to the World Championship was not without challenges, notably a longstanding rivalry with Italian kickboxer Carlotta Pra. Despite previous setbacks, Liz's resilience paid off in the 2023 rematch. With strategic insights from her coach, George Peploe, paired with unwavering determination, Liz beat Carlotta in the quarter-finals, setting the stage for the final.

In the final, facing Sahin of Germany, Liz showcased her exceptional skills and overcame a rib injury sustained earlier in the day. The closely contested match culminated in a decisive moment where Liz executed a step-back side kick, securing the points needed to claim the World Championship title in the points division. Additionally, the Senior team secured a gold medal in the Teams event, further solidifying Team GB's dominance on the international stage.

Basking in her glory was not on the cards (nor in her nature), Liz had to seek medical treatment after sustaining a rib injury earlier in the day and experiencing acute chest tightening. Five hours later and Liz was exactly where she was supposed to be, on the podium lifting the World Champion trophy...with her good arm!

Liz's achievements extend beyond personal glory; she has a vision for her platform. Her desire is to impact the community positively by upgrading her new gym and having the facilities for other to come and train and belong to a kick ass club (literally!). Helping emerging athletes and hobbyists alike to realize their potential and instil a deep love for the sport.

Kickboxing is not only great fun and good for fitness, but also a game changer for mental health. The benefits include increased confidence, improved self-esteem, reduced anxiety, the list goes on.

Through the month of January, Liz is offering free taster sessions open to adults & kids. Come down to Ringwood Kickboxing's new space at the Wesley Centre on Christchurch Road and try a class!

You can find out more about Ringwood Kickboxing on their website

<https://www.ringwoodkickboxing.co.uk> and their Instagram @rko_ringwood_kickboxing



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~ 1 ~

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

Fear not! said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town, this day
Is born, of David's line,
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from Heaven to men
Begin and never cease!

~ 2 ~

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

THE holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flow'r;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good.

~ 3 ~

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

HARK! the herald angels sing:
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald angels sing:
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.



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Greetings & Carols

~ 4 ~
THE FIRST NOWELL

THE first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping
their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far,
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made Heaven and earth
of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

~ 5 ~
IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

IN the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him?
Give my heart.

~ 6 ~ **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep,
the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.

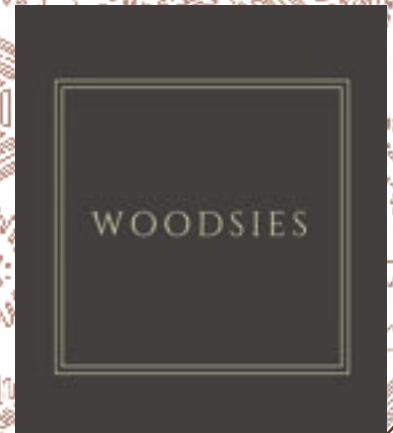


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~ 7 ~
AWAY IN A MANGER

AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with thee there.

~ 8 ~
ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

ONCE, in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a Mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed;
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

~ 9 ~
**DING DONG!
MERRILY ON HIGH**

DING dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.

Glo - - - ri - a,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo - - - ri - a,
Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen.
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen.

Pray you dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve-time song, ye singers:

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Greetings & Carols

~ 10 ~

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

GOOD King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

~ 12 ~ O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O COME, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels:

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

~ 11 ~

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

GOOD Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow;
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus
Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door,
And man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb,
Very God,
Begotten, not created.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest:



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Greetings & Carols



~ 13 ~
ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

ANGELS from the realms of Glory,
 Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye, who sang creation's story,
 Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship,
 Christ the new-born King;
 Come and worship,
 Worship Christ,
 the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
 Watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with man is now residing;
 Yonder shines the infant light:

Sinners, moved by true repentance,
 Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
 Justice now revokes the sentence,
 Mercy calls you; break your chains.

~ 14 ~
JESUS, GOOD ABOVE ALL OTHER

Jesus, good above all other,
 Gentle Child of gentle mother,
 In a stable born our brother,
 Give us grace to persevere.

Jesus, cradled in a manger,
 For us facing every danger,
 Living as a homeless stranger,
 Make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,
 Risen Master, death defying,
 Lord in Heav'n, thy grace supplying,
 Keep us to thy presence near.

Lord, in all our doings guide us;
 Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;
 We'll go on with thee beside us,
 And with joy we'll persevere!

~ 15 ~
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are;
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
 Gold I bring to crown Him again,
 King forever, ceasing never
 Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I.
 Incense owns a Deity nigh.
 Prayer and praising all men raising,
 Worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
 King and God and sacrifice.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Earth to the heaven's replies.



Greetings & Carols

~ 16 ~
**LONG TIME AGO
IN BETHLEHEM**

LONG time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day.

Hark now hear the angels sing
A new king's born today
And man will live for evermore
Because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
They saw a bright new shining star
And heard a choir from
Heaven sing
The music came from afar.

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
Came to Bethlehem that night,
They found no place to
bear her child,
Not a single room was in sight.

By and by they found a little nook
In a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger cold and dark,
Mary's little boy-child was born.



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~ 17 ~
GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

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Sandpiper
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~ 18 ~
**RUDOLPH,
 THE RED-NOSED REINDEER**

RUDOLPH, the red-nosed reindeer
 Had a very shiny nose.
 And if you ever saw him,
 You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
 Used to laugh and call him names.
 They never let poor Rudolph
 Play in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas eve
 Santa came to say:
 "Rudolph with your nose so bright,
 Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him
 As they shouted out with glee:
 "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
 You'll go down in history!"

~ 19 ~
SILENT NIGHT

SILENT night! Holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright,
 Round the virgin mother and child;
 Holy infant, tender and mild,
 Rests in heav'nly peace,
 Rests in heav'nly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
 Guiding star, lend thy light.
 See, the eastern wise men bring
 Gifts and homage to our King,
 Jesus Christ is here,
 Jesus Christ is here.

Silent night! Holy night!
 Wondrous star, lend thy light.
 With the angels let us sing
 Hallelujahs to our King,
 Jesus Christ is here,
 Jesus Christ is here.

~ 20 ~ **THE INFANT KING**

SING lullaby!
 Lullaby baby, now reclining,
 Sing lullaby!
 Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
 Angels are watching, stars are shining
 Over the place where he is lying.
 Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
 Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,
 Sing lullaby!
 Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
 Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
 Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:
 Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
 Lullaby baby, now a-dozing,
 Sing lullaby!
 Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
 Soon comes the cross, the nails,
 the piercing,
 Then in the grave at last reposing:
 Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
 Lullaby! is the babe a-waking?
 Sing lullaby!
 Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
 Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
 Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
 Sing lullaby!

Merry Christmas
 AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM US ALL AT

BRIGHTWATER



Greetings & Carols

~ 21 ~

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year.

We all like our figgy pudding;
We all like our figgy pudding;
We won't go until we get some
So bring it out here!

Good tidings we bring

We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
And soon will be here.

Good tidings we bring

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring

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Christmas Lasts Forever

How merry can we truly feel while bade to 'tighten belts' -
Though we'll wish 'A Happy Christmas', most sincerely, as of old?
We watch once-frozen winters, turn from snow to 'Arctic melts',
And bewildered creatures wonder when this season will grow cold?

We boast extensive knowledge when we still won't understand
The works of mighty Nature with each drama she'll unfold,
Though mercy, love, compassion - still shed by unseen hand -
Would salvage Earth's confusion by this Wisdom, oft retold...

For long ago a Father's heart looked down upon Man's plight;
And God reached out, in human form, to join His human race:
His promise? That He'd bring us Hope - an everlasting Light -
To walk with us from that day on; to bless us with His grace.

He tells us now: 'It's not too late... Come! Worship by this stall,
With shepherds, lambs and cattle; with treasures brought by kings,
Where Mary's laid My baby Son - World-Vision shared for all,
So they may kneel with grateful hearts, humbled by simple things.'

Simplicity and Peace are His - gifts wrapped for our sheer joy -
'Accept them gladly,' all He asks. Let gratitude abound
As slowly we change focus beamed on God's small smiling Boy,
So those around us may accept this new Love they have found...

Renewed each year through Jesus' birth, in simple manger laid.
So... enter Gentle Presence now, with Angels, Power and Glory -
For Christmas lasts for ever - its Hope will never fade
Re-living history's Truths through this timeless Christmas story.

P & J - Christmas 2022



Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing
Ringwood Market Place Saturday December 24th 6:00pm to 8:00pm



Powdered Sugar Snowmen Cookies

- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Decorations:

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- Decorator black sugar pearls
- Decorator orange sweets
- 20 small gumdrops
- Fruit winder roll



1. Heat oven to 190°C.
2. Combine sugar and butter in bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy. Add egg; continue beating until well mixed. Add flour, baking powder and salt; beat at low speed until well mixed.
3. Shape dough into 30 cookies: (10) 1 1/4-inch balls (about 2 tablespoons), (10) 1-inch balls (about 1 tablespoon), and (10) 3/4-inch balls (about 1 teaspoon). Place same size balls, 2 inches apart, onto ungreased cookie sheets.
4. Bake 1 1/4-inch balls 9-11 minutes, 1-inch balls 8-9 minutes and 3/4-inch balls 5-7 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to cooling rack. Cool 10 minutes.
5. Sprinkle lightly with powdered sugar. Press black sugar pearls into larger cookies (base and body) for buttons and into smallest cookie to create face. Use toothpick to create hole for nose. Press orange sweets into face for nose.
6. Stack cookies, larger to smaller, to make snowmen.
7. For each hat, cut 1 gumdrop in half, flatten bottom half into 3/4-inch disk (discard top half). Cut base off another gumdrop; attach, sticky-side down, to disk. Place on top of snowmen. Repeat with remaining gumdrops. Use fruit roll to create scarf, if desired.

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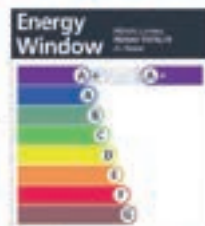
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News

Ellingham & Ringwood Rugby Club supporting our community

THE club has been supporting a variety of local events over the festive period including at the Ringwood town centre Christmas lights switch on and through a generous donation to the Ringwood foodbank.

A cry for Elves went out to support the Christmas light switch on and Becci Winsor, the club's bar manager who also helps organise town events, asked for help from the the rugby club's junior teams. Isaac, Archie, Freddie, Finlay and Arthur all volunteered to dress the part after their match on Sunday morning as can be seen in the picture. The five friendly elves handed out Christmas treats on a soggy Sunday to people who came to see Father Christmas and shop in the 70 market stalls.



The Rugby Club also supported the Ringwood Round Table bar, supplying beer and wine from their clubhouse, raising funds for charities in the local area and you may have seen the club's banner proudly hanging behind the beer at the event. Ringwood Round Table are heading into their busiest week escorting Santa around local roads to collect for the Ringwood Food Bank and other local charities that need donations more at this time of year than ever.

The Round Table are also great supporters of the club, helping to fund their matchday video camera and international honours board in 2023.

The club also made a donation and ran a collection over the weekend to raise money for the Ringwood Foodbank. Over £400 was raised and this has been used to buy Christmas food that will be used in Christmas bags for children in low income households. Many thanks for to everyone who donated and helped in making a child's Christmas that little bit better.



Maid for Christmas

THE Ringwood based ladies chamber choir 'Chamber Maids' will be raising their voices again this Christmas.

In the very capable hands of our brilliant Musical Director Ivy Tan, together with our talented accompanist David Beeby we will be presenting 'Maid for Christmas' - an eclectic mix of Christmas songs old and new

- from Britten to Bing,
- contemporary to classical

on December 21st at 7.30pm at Ringwood Parish Church.

We hope you will join us to set your Christmas festivities going. There's even a chance for you to raise your voices in a couple of well known carols.

So come and celebrate Christmas with us. Tickets can be purchased online at trybooking.com

The Chamber Maids rehearse once a week at the parish church and perform a varied programme:

From musicals to madrigals, rock to requiem.

Find us on facebook – 'Chamber Maids Choir' for more details and future performances.

Our friendly ensemble occasionally has vacancies for sopranos and altos. An ability to read music and some experience of choral singing would be an advantage. If you think you might like to join contact Ivy Tan on 07949 127016 or email

ivylianguy@gmail.com

Ringwood Directory

The Ringwood Directory will be regularly published in Ringwood & Fordinbridge NEWS, The Directory is a helpful reference for various businesses in Ringwood that have subscribed to the page. For subscription details, please telephone R&F Newspaper at 01425 563111.

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CRACKNELL

Robert James (BOB)

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2023-24



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Interesting facts for Hearnes Ringwood – 2023

- **196 homes sold in BH24 and completed in 2023, Hearnes selling 114.**
- **Hearnes took instructions on 56 homes after other local agents were unsuccessful and sold 42 without the need to reduce the price.**
- **With confidential marketing being a key factor in 2023, almost a quarter of our sales were achieved before going onto Rightmove.**
- **The average house price for a home in BH24 was £560,259 with detached homes being £731,706.**
- **November was our busiest month in 2023 averaging 1.4 house sales per day with house prices totaling £9.367,000.**
- **Fairlie Park recorded its highest ever house price of £860,000.**
- **Hearnes Ringwood have increased their market share in 2023 to just under 46% out of 10 agents in the town.**
- **32% of our business came from repeat clients, referrals or recommendations. “Thank you to everyone”.**
- **88% of our ‘For Sale’ boards turned to ‘Sold’.**
- **What will 2024 bring**



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**Wishing you all a
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& Peaceful
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