



Issue 891 ● September 4th to September 17th ● 2024

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Ringwood School's Class of 2024 Celebrate Best **Ever GCSE Results**

Well done to Ringwood School students as they collect their GCSE results today. There have been lots of smiles and tears of joy from both parents and students as Year 11 opened their envelopes this morning in what looks like a record-breaking year for the school.

The Class of 2024 have had to meet the challenge of knowing that, nationally, GCSE results have returned to pre-Covid levels; despite the fact that the impact of the Covid pandemic has cast a long shadow over young people's learning and wellbeing. This year group were in Year 7 when the first lockdown was announced in 2020. However, due to their hard work and determination, today is a day of celebration for them and confirmation that they can put their Post-16 plans into action. continues on page 5

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Looking to start a business?

Our last couple of topics have been a bit doom and gloom - we'll admit it.

This regular release is more than that though. At Donaldson Ross & Co we want to truly help you exceed your expectations and over the next few releases, we'll be showing you how we can help. The blue banner below is one you're going to want to keep an eye out for.

Over the next 7 months, our regular releases are going to have an additional blog or resource that you can access. This bonus content is all about how to start a business.

We often have discussions with people who have brilliant ideas about a new service they're offering, or a product they've designed, but they don't know what the next steps are. That's where this bonus content comes in.

This week the blue banner will take you to a blog walking you through the steps to get your business starting on the right foot. From choosing a type of business to run, through to how to register it, pulling together documents like a business plan and the questions we get asked the most.

Future releases will run you through:

- Simplifying company taxes
- Mastering your finances
- · Staying compliant
- Planning for growth
- Getting noticed
- How we can help

Every release will be packed full of vital information for you as you start your business.

As always, we'd love to hear from you if you need that to bounce ideas around or some extra support. Get in touch with Donaldson Ross & Co today. Our details are below.

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EDITOR

Congratulations, you made it!

The school holidays are over! And what a summer it's been. We've been in the cohort of parents having the anxiety of GCSE results, which was an interesting challenge in itself. But we made it. So what now? As September unfolds it provides an opportunity for a fresh start, not just for the children starting a new school year, but for all of us. A chance to set new goals, revisit old aspirations and experience new challenges.

We've continued to set ourselves challenges for the paper, building from 24 to 32 pages. The feedback received about the puzzles pages and the different sections has been amazing. We are keen to provide updates for local sports teams so if you have any sports news please get in touch. Shortly we hope to be able to launch our letters page, where we will showcase some of the views/comments of our readers. If you want to comment on an event that has happened locally get in contact with the editorial team.

For the community, September is an exciting time as it marks the change in seasons and arguably the biggest event of the year, Ringwood Carnival. Preparations, we understand, are well under way so if

you are looking to get involved contact the Ringwood Carnival Team to find out how.

For now, our challenge for September is to embrace the transition from school to college and continue to nurture the growth of our businesses. What will you challenge yourself for September?



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Darren & Naomi





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CPRE Hampshire Celebrates Beauty of the Countryside with New Awareness Day

Local charity, CPRE Hampshire is set to host its first 'Countryside Day' on Saturday 7th September 2024.

CPRE Hampshire is inviting people to join them to celebrate the beauty of the Hampshire countryside with a brand-new awareness day that highlights the importance of a thriving countryside, for both people and planet.

The leading conservation charity also hopes to raise awareness of the importance of hedgerow management and strengthen the connection people have with the Hampshire countryside. On Saturday 7th September, CPRE Hampshire will host two free events including;



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- Foraging walk, led by Jen Williams, to learn about nature's 1. late summer bounty in Hampshire's beautiful countryside.
- 2 Textile Hedge workshop, led by Caroline Bell, so that people can learn the art of natural dying and leaf printing.

The two workshops will provide participants with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty of Hampshire's countryside, particularly it's hedgerows, and learn about their importance in the local ecosystem, and discover ways to actively contribute to their preservation.

Alison Talbot, Operations Manager at CPRE Hampshire said: 'Hampshire is the only county in England with two National Parks as well as three Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, and that's something we really want to celebrate. Thanks to generous donations and support, we're incredibly proud of the work our volunteers, partner organisations, trustees and staff do to protect these unique landscapes, so that they can be enjoyed by everyone. This awareness day is an opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate everything that makes the Hampshire countryside special."

In particular, the charity hopes people will be inspired to enter the Hampshire Countryside Awards, which CPRE Hampshire have been running for over 17 years https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/ countryside-awards-2024

This year there are four categories of award Hampshire Grassroots Action Award sponsored by Vitacress Hampshire Climate Action Award sponsored by Hascoe Housing Hampshire Projects in Protected Landscapes sponsored by Terra-

Hampshire Health & Wellbeing in Nature Award

To enter fill in the online form on the website by 30th September

For more information about the Countryside Day and Hampshire Countryside Awards visit Homepage - CPRE Hampshire Booking essential for the Countryside Day workshops.

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continued from page 1 - Progress measures at GCSE look like the strongest the school has ever seen, with students all achieving higher than expected by a quarter of a grade in every single subject. Performance at the top is strong with 28% of all Ringwood GCSEs awarded at grade 7 -9 (old A-A**). There have been some stunning individual results. Our top 5 students (representing 2 boys and 3 girls) between them attained 33 grade 9s; 8 grade 8s; 2 grade 7s; 1 A and a B in Advanced Subsidiary Additional Maths and Level 2 Distinction* in Engineering!

One key measurement for schools is the 'Basics' measure. This measure shows how many students get a 5+ or a grade 4+ in both English and maths. This year we have also seen the highest 'Basics' results since this accountability measure began. We are delighted that 58% of our students achieved a 5 or above in both English and maths (3% higher than last year and 10% up on pre-pandemic 2019 results) and 83% achieved grade 4 and above in both key subjects (6% higher than last year and 9% up on pre-pandemic 2019 results).

Many of our subject areas have seen particular success this year. Drama, French, Geography; Latin; PE; Photography and Spanish have performed very well, attaining 83%; 90%; 69%; 100%; 70%; 80% and 82% grades 9-5 respectively. For Modern Foreign Languages it is a double celebration, having posted best ever A-Level results last week. As ever, performance in Science is exceptionally strong with a third of all students receiving the highest of grades in this double award (77-99). Maths is celebrating a similarly strong performance to Science.

We are proud to offer a very broad curriculum at Key Stage 4 and performance in our vocational subjects has also been strong for example 45% of students have attained a Distinction or Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 7-9) in WJEC Engineering. It has been delightful to share in this success with students today,



who were excited to get their results and thank their teachers for all of the help and support in preparing them for their GCSEs and vocational qualifications. We are pleased for all of our students and proud of them for how they have managed formal examinations after a number of years of disruption.

We look forward to welcoming many of our Year 11 students back into Year 12 at the beginning of September and wish good luck to every single member of the Class of 2024.





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ROTARY CLUB OF RINGWOOD CONTINUES TO SUPPORT RINGWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL ENGINEERING CLUB

The Engineering Club was founded twelve years ago by the late Rotarian Dereck Higbee.

Each year, some thirty Year 6 pupils are provided with the opportunity to attend the after-school club and develop their initial engineering skills. Parents pay a small sum towards the cost of the club, the Rotary Club of Ringwood raises external sponsorship in order to provide additional funding for the Club's activities.

This year, sponsorship has been obtained from a major Ringwood employer – Armfield Limited.

Managing Director Andy Macpherson presented a cheque for £500 for the sponsorship to Rotary Club President Maddie Phillips at our recent Club Meeting.

Andy said "Recruiting into engineering is very difficult so starting engineering principles as an early stage



is extremely important. Armfield is pleased to be supporting the development of these future potential engineers."

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Dodgems - A Talk on the History



To commemorate the run up to Carnival Day, the Ringwood Meeting House is holding a talk on a memorable Carnival theme.

"Roll up...roll up".

On Thursday 19th September at 2pm there is a talk by well-known speaker Kay Townsend telling the "History of the Dodgems" (aka Bumper Cars) about how the dodgem car came about. It's a fascinating story!

Who thought of the Dodgem name?

When were they first invented? They are older than you think!! Doors open 1.30pm.

Tickets £5.00 available now by collection from the Meeting House 10.00am-12.00pm Mon-Saturday. Wednesdays 10.00am-2.30pm. Cash or Card.

Or alternatively, bookings and payment by card can be taken by ringing the office 01425 480656 from 9.30am-12.00pm.



Would you like the opportunity to win some prizes whilst supporting your local charity? If so,

then come and visit Helping Older People New Forest (HOPe) on Saturday 21st September

where we will have a stall on the village green at the Ringwood Carnival. Exciting raffle prizes

will be up for grabs as well as information about our services and volunteering opportunities.

For more information, please contact Emma at emma.baker@hopenewforest.org or call 07542059967





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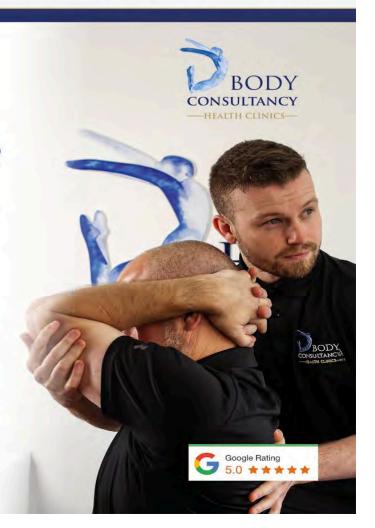
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New Forest residents to benefit from free energy saving scheme

New Forest District Council is partnering with Community Energy South to fund a new free energy saving advice and volunteer training programme.

Together, the organisations have provided New Forest Transition with £40,000 in funding to deliver the New Forest HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team) Project, which aims to support residents in becoming more energy-aware and to provide them with free advice on cutting their energy bills.

The New Forest HEAT Project is encouraging residents to get in touch this autumn and winter, either to request advice, or to train as an advisor. Local people can sign up to train for free to become volunteer energy advisors for the New Forest community. This volunteer team will then be providing free advice across the district to help residents save energy and money.

Cllr Geoffrey Blunden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sus-

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tainability, said: "We are proud to be supporting New Forest Transition, together with Community Energy South, by providing £40,000 in funding from our allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. By supporting the delivery of this programme, we are ensuring that we are continuing to take climate action and working towards our aim of becoming net zero carbon by 2050."



"This programme is an excellent way to support our residents to develop their green skills, improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and reduce energy bills, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this programme has within our community."

Laura Wilson, Head of Community Energy Pathways at Community Energy South, said: "Community Energy South is delighted to be working with New Forest Transition on this exciting project to develop green skills and encourage communities to take action on energy reduction. There is a lot of great work at a community level already happening within the New Forest, including through Community Energy New Forest, and this project offers an opportunity to link all these together."

Cathy Cook, Project Consultant at New Forest HEAT Project, said: "We are delighted to be receiving this grant and are very much looking forward to our volunteer team providing energy advice and thermal imaging surveys direct to New Forest communities through home visits, and also through local energy events at village halls."

Residents can request more information by emailing New Forest HEAT Project at coordinator@theheatproject.org.uk or calling 023 8028 3491.







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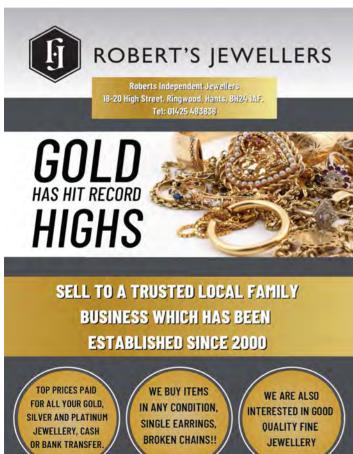




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Positive-thinking Edna celebrates turning 100 at St Ives House care home

A Ringwood care home resident who always looks on the bright side of life has celebrated her 100 birthday.



Edna, who lives at St Ives House on Horton Road, was joined by her friends and family from across the country for a special celebratory lunch, before enjoying tea and birthday cake with the other



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residents from the care home. She took great delight in opening a host of cards including a keepsake card from King Charles and Queen Camilla to mark her big birthday, as well as looking through the bunches of flowers given to her by friends and loved ones.

Care South

Edna said: "I enjoyed my birthday

party very much. I have had a good life and I've travelled a lot. My favourite place was Acapulco."

Edna was born and grew up in London where she worked as a secretary for an engineering office. While there, she met her future husband, Tom, who was the Managing Director of the business and together they travelled the world for Tom's work, before welcoming three sons, Steven, Anthony and Richard. Edna has seven grandchildren who she enjoys spending time with.

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House care home, said: "Edna is a joy for the team to support and care for. She always looks for the positives in life and appreciates everything we do to enable her to live a happy, fulfilled life, so we were thrilled to help her to celebrate her 100 birthday with all her family.

She added: "At Care South, we love to get to know the likes, dislikes, hobbies and passions of the residents to ensure that we tailor the care we deliver and the events we organise to their interests. For Edna, we know that she loves to dance and have fun at a party, so it was lovely to facilitate her family getting together to celebrate with

Edna is the second centenarian to mark a big birthday at St Ives House with Nin celebrating her 107 birthday earlier this year. St Ives House, which is part of the Care South family of care homes, provides residential, respite, and dementia care. It features a dedicated activities team who organise a daily programme of events to bring residents together to socialise and build friendships.

The care home features individual ensuite bedrooms for residents which benefit from a choice of communal lounges overlooking a landscaped courtyard and garden offering peace and tranquillity, as well as a bistro and onsite hairdressing salon.

Care South is the leading provider of high quality residential and home care services across the south of England. The not-for-profit organisation, which is a registered charity, has care homes in Dorset, north Devon, Somerset and West Sussex, and home care offices covering east and west Dorset, and northeast Somerset and south Somerset.

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Celebrating 50 years at this year's New Forest Show

'People, place and prosperity' was the focus on our stand at this year's New Forest and Hampshire County Show (30 July to 1 August).

On Wednesday, partners were welcomed to the stand for the launch of the council's corporate plan and to celebrate our 50th year anniversary.

Cllr David Hawkins, our Chairman, said: "I am honoured to sit as Chairman as the council celebrates 50 years since it was formed in 1974. Whilst there may have been many changes since then, one thing has remained the same; the council has been central in supporting the communities of this unique and special place."

Cllr Jill Cleary, Leader, said: "Our new corporate plan sets out our ambitions and priorities over the next four years. The New Forest is a beautiful place that has a unique offer for residents, businesses and our many visitors. I am confident that, working together with our partners, we will navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead, helping us secure a better future for the people we serve, protect our unique and special place, and support a vibrant and prosperous New Forest."

Over the three-day event, visitors took part in games and activities including building a puzzle house, a mixed recycling challenge, a litter-themed bean bag toss, and making pledges for the environment. Information about the council's many services was on display, and an anti-litter sculpture made from recycling was exhibited for the first time before it tours the district.

Read more about the corporate plan for the next 4 years on the our website.





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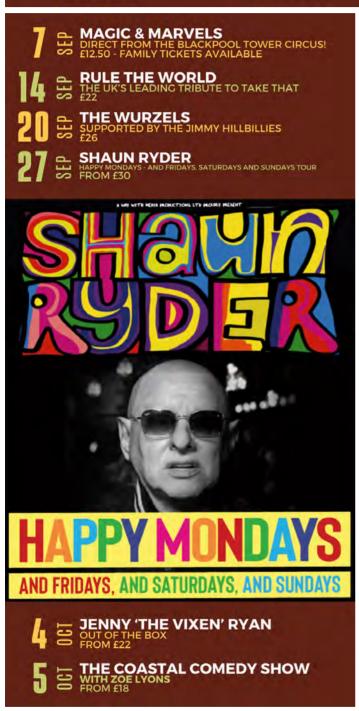
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View all upcoming events and book tickets on our website www.thebarnringwood.co.uk



R&F Business Community

Welcome to the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Business Community event! Join us at Moyles Court School for networking, learning, and collaboration. Connect with local businesses, share ideas, and discover new opportunities to grow your business. This in-person event is the perfect chance to meet like-minded professionals in your area. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to expand your network and strengthen your business community! Join us at our free event!

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/viewhr-66138318983



What's on at Greyfriars!

7 September – Craft De-stash (& re-stash)Come along and restock your fabric, ribbon, wool from 11-1.30pm in Ann Rose Hall, Greyfriars.

12 September-Ringwood Business Awards

The awards ceremony will take place on 12 September at lunchtime in Anne Rose Hall. This annual celebration acknowledges and rewards local businesses that have made remarkable contributions to the community.

14 September - Repair Cafe

The Repair Café is back! From 10-12pm, you can bring something you would like to have fixed. To add your name to the list, email ringwoodrepaircafeuk@gmai.com.



26 October - Moviola

Story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing 400-year-old estate. Battling entrenched traditions, they place their farm in the hands of nature. 2pm for 2.30pm start, tickets available at Greyfriars or via ticketsource.

31 October - Greyfriars Pub Quiz

The ever-popular Greyfriars 'Pub Quiz' returns just in time for those chillier nights, on **Thursday, 31 October**, starting at 7:30 pm!



Forthcoming Events

w climate emergenc

Craft De-stash (and Re-stash) - Greyfriars - Saturday 7th September 11am to 1.30pm

Are you an avid crafter, do you have lots of craft materials stashed away and you'd like to sell a few (or buy more). Tables cost £10. Follow the link to Eventbrite to book a table



Pick to Plates (Harvest Time Party) - Four Acre Farm -Saturday 14th September 11am - 1pm

Be inspired by the amazing variety of fruit and vegetables around at this time of year. Free tickets available via the link

For more information visit www.raceagainsttime.org.uk or email ringwoodraceagainsttime@gmail.com



WHATS ON

Waterside cancer support centre open day

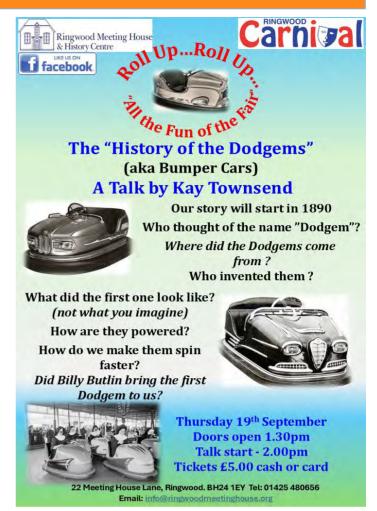


Drop in between 10:30am and 2:30pm to find out about the free and personalised support we offer to anyone affected by cancer.

The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe SO45 6BZ

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© waterside@wessexcancer.org.uk

Wessex Cancer Support, a charity registered in England and Wales (1110216) 91-95 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 2GG | 023 8067 2200 | wesse





Repair Café event dates



Four cafés to date, a total of 97 repairs were carried out and 260kg waste has been prevented. At our July event alone we helped local residents save a combined total of £475 by repairing their items instead of having to replace with new.

We're now on Facebook just search for 'Ringwood Repair Cafe UK'.



If you have attended one of our events at Greyfriars, do please consider posting a Facebook review of your experience.

14th September

12th October 8th November 13th December 11th January



ringwoodrepaircafeuk@gmail.com



We're so lucky to have such amazing volunteers, but due to increased demand, we are now looking for some more!

If you have expertise in fixing electrics, electronics, general repairs or textiles, we'd love to hear from you. Just email the address shown below.



LETTERS

Ringwood Under 1's Gets My Vote

Well done to the Ringwood Under 1s initiative. Our son and daughter-in-law's first baby is due the beginning of October, so this new venture comes in perfect timing, particularly as our daughter-in-law doesn't have English as her first language and currently has few friends in Ringwood.

I entered into the season of grand parenting two years ago. Our daughter lives in Bristol with her family and there are many jaunts backwards and forwards to help with childcare. Recently we've had the joy of entertaining our granddaughter here in Ringwood whilst nurse mum had a couple of night shifts. It was a grey, drizzly Wednesday morning and I decided to take our little one to the library for Rhyme Time. I chose to walk in to town; we live about a mile away. There isn't much going on for little ones in the heart of Ringwood during school holidays, when it's not really outdoor weather, so Rhyme Time is a great service, thank you. However, maybe not so great for a very active toddler, although the women

who run it were very gracious to us. In all honesty, they were probably grateful that we were only visiting! I walked out of there with a real need for a good cup of coffee, but then came my dilemma - where could I go where my wonderful, lively, little person didn't have to sit still all the time while I tried to relax and enjoy some refreshment? Out of over a dozen cafes in Ringwood, surely one could accommodate my needs? At that moment in my tiredness (having been up since 6am) I felt quite isolated in Ringwood, yet I have lived here for nearly 38 years. The only place I thought for definite would be accommodating was Carvers Clubhouse and it was, although the coffee was not barista style. Carvers is great, but what about the town centre?

Since that day, I decided to do my own mini survey and forgive me, if I have got this

wrong, but I only found two places in town that would be considerate to lively toddlers – one, although quite small, has an alcove under the stairs with a few toys in, almost like a play space and the other has a quiet area round the back, which would happily accommodate a child or two playing, as long as no one else was using that space at the time

The New Forest website describes Ringwood as a lovely bustling town. Whilst it may be lovely to have such an array of cafes and eateries, I wonder if we are really catering for all people, especially the more active toddler.

Anne Melrose

LETTERS

If you have a letter you want to send in please do so and we will try our best to publish it.

Constructive and Positive of course!

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Approved by The Openwork Partnership on 30/07/2024

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FORDINGBRIDGE

TOWN COUNCIL

NEWS

Warning: Toxic Hemlock Plants Identified at Sweatford Water Meadows

New Forest District Council have installed this sign warning of the presence of Hemlock and Water Hemlock at Sweatford Water Meadows (off Green Lane).

WARNING

Hemlock and Water Hemlock have both been reported growing on this site.

Both plants can easily be mistaken for non-poisonous plants such as wild carrot, parsnip or cow parsley.

It is recommended that members of the public avoid areas where any of these species appear to be growing.

Please keep dogs and children under control and away from these areas.

Although New Forest District Council work to remove poisonous species from our Public Open Spaces please be aware that these are native wildflowers that recur naturally and are very difficult to eradicate.

Hemlock plants are especially valuable to species such as the Marsh Fritillary butterfly (a listed species) and are an important food source.

Should you experience symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, dizziness or seizures within an hour of ingesting any plants on site please call 999 immediately.



Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

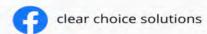


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Contact: Karl Scriven number: 07718926175 Email: clearchoicesolutionslimited@gmail.com



HISTORY & NEWS

A New Look



"It's a common misconception that societies set up to champion the character of a place only ever look backwards. We hope our new visual identity will show that we look forwards as well" says Alex Bancroft of The Ringwood Society, of the concept of their new logo and graphic style.

The Ringwood Society have recently unveiled their new visual identity, after months of work and detailed research to best represent their work and hopes for the protection of our town, the promotion of the best in new ideas and the progression of projects to enhance its character. The previous logo dated back nearly 15 years and it was felt a refresh would better communicate the ethos of the organisation.

The Society turned to John Saunders a specialist graphic, UX and UI designer of Work of Importance to carry out the biggest overhaul of the look and feel of the Society since the mid 1970s. "When I was approached me about helping The Ringwood Society it was great timing for me to do some work that helps support an

St Elmo Care Home Ringwood

Over the past few months all the staff have worked hard to ensure the standards set by National Dementia Care Accreditation Scheme. The national dementia care accreditation scheme is recognised by Care Match UK, CPD certification service, dementia action alliance and dementia experts.

In June 2024, we met all the standards and were awarded the dementia care quality standard.

This means we were independently assessed in person and are providing a good standard of Dementia Care Practice. We have been audited on over 120 points relating to dementia care practices in the area of person-centredness, the environment and team approach.

This means implementing everything we have learnt, we are continuing to aim to improve the quality of life for the people we car for, many of these people live with dementia. They have different types of dementia and are all at different stages in their personal dementia journeys.

We are fully aware that personal life histories are important, and it is often new memories which are lost first. Putting this knowledge into practice some of the staff at the home, arranged an open afternoon for the people who live here, their families and friends. The staff arranged an old fashioned fun fair. This included a raffle which was well supported by local businesses

organisation for the greater good. They have a passion for improving Ringwood and that ties into the brand of my company" explains John. He continues "together we developed a much more modern identity that gives a nod to the history of previous logo typography, graphically we built on the shoulders of good research to create a modern, fresh look. The identity reflects the areas the Society champions in Ringwood - important infrastructure, identity of place, the environment and community."

Along with the new logo, the Society has fully overhauled their website with help from local web designers; Suckerfish. Society Chairman, Joe Moorhouse, said "the new website, logo and graphics, along with new banners and flags promoting the Society show our intention to always look to improve the town for the future, not create a place stuck in the past."

The Ringwood Society was founded in 1962 following the demolition of the last house in the Market Place, and aims to protect Ringwood's unique character. The Society believes that good quality design which reflects the nature of Ringwood can enhance the old historic buildings and provide a twenty-first century town of which we can all be proud. They also encourage people to explore the town through the use of the Town Trail that is available in many cafes and bars as well as on-line.

The Ringwood Society always welcomes new members to support their work with projects and by joining the executive committee. The more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved! Membership of the Society is only £10 a year for a single membership, only £18 per year for a couple, with students receiving free membership. Further details can be found on their relaunched website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk

who donated prizes, pull the sting and win a teddy, name the teddy, hook a duck and other event. This was followed by ice-cream cakes, made by our cook, ice lollies and the usual refreshments.

The afternoon was a massive success, the weather was on our side and the people who live here, and all the visitors looked as though they were having a good time. It was a pleasure to see the smiles everyone's faces, especially on the people who have travelled along way on their dementia journey. We raised nearly £300, which is being used to increase our activities program.

A massive thank you for the staff who arranged the afternoon, the families, and friends who supported us. All with the same aim to give pleasure to all the people who live at St Elmo Care Home



HISTORY & NEWS

Ringwood Natural History Society

Formed 65 years ago, Ringwood Natural History Society continues to go from strength to strength.

The Society's first indoor meeting was held in October 1959 with a handful of members present. Talks were often illustrated by people's projected transparencies or even drawn on the evening if it was an artist entertaining the group. Some members of the Society give illustrated talks on many different subjects.

Early outings were sometimes by coach to such places as Weymouth's Radipole Lake and this would be combined with Portland Bill for birdlife. On one coach visit to these two locations, the leader would point out birds and other items of interest as the coach trundled along. Cries of "Buzzard to the right" or "Kestrel to the left" could be heard. As we headed down the hill towards Preston and Weymouth "White Horse to the right" was called indicating the huge carving on the nearby chalk hill but some bright spark replied "I saw a black and white cow just now but didn't say anything"



In recent times there have also been 'away breaks' to various locations. One such trip was to visit the highlands of Scotland staying in Grantown-on-Spey. Needless to say Golden Eagle was one of the target birds but restless feet took many of the group off for walks. Meanwhile the 'leaders' and a couple of other members stayed viewing the mountain ridge and here an eagle was seen drifting along on stiffly held wings. The majority of the group failed to see the eagle but a few did and kept reminding the rest that



sometimes it pays to keep watching likely areas rather than go searching for the wildlife. However, lots of Scottish specialities were seen by everyone on this 9 day trip including Red Grouse, Crested Tit, Pink-footed Geese and Red Deer.

Other outings more recently have seen groups of the members walking coastal paths in winter for waders and Brent Geese, in woodlands in spring for bird song, downland in summer for flowers and insects and the New Forest for fabulous autumn colours. One of the members was even responsible for getting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to establish the Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve.

The next set of outdoor meetings (from Autumn '24 through to the end of May '25) are being finalised as this is being written. There are also 15 indoor meetings/illustrated talks already organised beginning on 12th September with a wide variety of locations and subjects to be covered. New members are welcome or you can come along for just a single talk by paying a small entree fee.

Indoor meetings are held at Greyfriars Community Centre at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Thursday evenings from September through to April and there are almost weekly walks in the New Forest and Dorset etc. The membership fee is just £20 per year (It's great value!)

See the full programme at www.ringwoodnaturalhistory society. $\mbox{co.uk}$

Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery

'On Saturday, 17th August 2024, FoFS held a coffee morning at The Hyde Memorial Hall, Fordham.

The perfect place to hold a function and with perfect weather we welcomed, new and old friends to partake of coffee and cake. A huge selection of cakes made the choice of cake difficult.

Everyone who came along helped make a wonderful, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Our thanks to all those who came to support FoFS and to enable us to raise an amazing £420 for the fund.

To find out more about the charity or get involved, contact Friends' Secretary, Judy Poore via email: fofs.ppg@gmail.com











Puzzle Corner

SPONSORED BY BURLEY'S HOME CARE, AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



Crossword

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Sudoku

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Across

1 - Doubtful (4)

1 - Cheeky (8)

3 - Accommodating (8)

2 - Eating implements (5)

9 - Agitate (7)

4 - Move up and down on water (3)

10 - Implied (5)

5 - Middleman (12)

11 - Vanishing (12)

6 - Fragrant gum or spice (7)

14 - Religious sister (3)

7 - Obtains (4)

16 - Tennis stroke (5)

8 - Resolutely (12)

17 - Seventh Greek letter (3)

12 - Peers (5)

18 - Opposite of amateur (12)

13 - Loftiness (8)

21 - Path to follow (5)

15 - Perfect happiness (7)

22 - Make insane (7)

19 - A number between an eighth and a tenth (5)

23 - Broad and strongly built (8)

20 - Skin irritation (4)

24 - Reasons; explanations (4)

22 - Female deer	(3)

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Prepare Now to Secure Top Talent for the Festive Season

With just 18 Mondays until Christmas, the countdown has begunnot just for holiday shoppers, but for businesses seeking to recruit top talent. The festive season is fast approaching, and in today's competitive employment market, finding the right staff has never been more challenging.

Customer expectations are higher than ever, and having the right team in place is critical for maintaining smooth operations during the busiest time of the year. Whether your business is gearing up for the holiday rush or planning for growth in 2025, early action is essential.

By anticipating your staffing needs now and developing a wellstructured recruitment strategy, you can secure the talent you need, streamline your operations, and ensure a successful winter season. Even if your peak period isn't during the holidays, being prepared for January is just as important.

Gone are the days when recruitment slowed down in August and December. The employment market has shifted, and businesses can no longer rely on a traditional hiring calendar. With recruitment still tough in many sectors, candidates have the upper hand and a range of opportunities to choose from.

Indecision in recruitment can be costly—both in time and money. To stay competitive, businesses must act quickly and be ready to make compromises.

Here are some top tips:

- Anticipate your hiring needs
- Develop a recruitment strategy
- Build a talent pipeline
- Prepare thoroughly for interviews
- Carefully plan your onboarding process

Don't let the Christmas season catch you off guard. Start planning your recruitment strategy now, and partner with experts like Aspire Jobs to navigate the ever-changing employment landscape.

For more information call Helen Stacey on 07974 429217 or talk2us@aspirejobs.co.uk

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The role can be repetitive, but you will be able to pick inventory to a high level of accuracy.

The work can be fast paced but full training will be provided. You will be able to follow standard work instructions and maintain company procedures.

The Stores Operative/Packer will follow all HS&E regulations and achieve company objectives and highest level of customer satisfaction while assisting with any other activities that may be considered a function of the warehouse.

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The successful candidate will need to: - • Be over 18 • Be able to work the hours stated. • Be physically fit - a lot of manual handling, standing for a long period of time and walking involved. • Have excellent timekeeping and be reliable. • Be computer literate. • Be able to multitask. • Be numerate. • Have excellent communication skills. • Have excellent attention to detail. • Be flexible to suit the business needs. • Be a strong team player. • highly organised with the ability to meet deadlines when under pressure.

Call Amanda on 07988 784876 or email amanda@aspirejobs.co.uk



DELIVERY TEAM

We are looking for people to join the delivery team in Ringwood & Fordingbridge every other Wednesday/ Thursday.

> Interested, please contact us. Email: office@rfnews.uk

BEREAVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS & SMALL ADS

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

GLASSON

Thomas (Tom)

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday 14th August 2024, aged 87 years at Gorselands Nursing Home. Beloved Husband to Liz, Father of Thomas and Clare, Grandfather of Alex, Max, Emily, Conor and Sophie. Funeral Service to be held at Ringwood Parish Church on Monday 23rd September at 11.30am. Family flowers only thank you, but donations if desired for "Sailability" may be made online at

www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper, 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1HB. (01425 472104)

STUBBINGS Elsie Hilda

A lifelong Ringwood lady, passed away peacefully on Saturday 17th August 2024 after a short illness, aged 92 years. Loving Sister of the late George, Will and Vi Tanner. Best friend of Kathy and Nephew Ian, who would like to thank all at Alina Care. A Service of Celebration for Elsie's life will be held at Ringwood Parish Chuch on Tuesday 17th September at 1pm.

Flowers welcome and may be sent to Barrow & Tapper, 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1HB. (01425 472104

MULLARD Elizabeth Ellen Winifred (Known as Betty)

Passed away peacefully on Sunday 11th August 2024 at Lymington Hospital aged 96 years. Loving Wife of the late Edward Mullard. The funeral service has taken place, but donations in Betty's memory if desired for "The League of Friends of Lymington Hospital" may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or cheques made payable to the charity may be sent to Barrow & Tapper, 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1HB. (01425 472104)

RABBETS Angela Joan

Passed away peacefully on 4th August 2024 aged 89 years.
Beloved Wife to the late Bunny, Mother of Stephen, Paul and Philip. Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. Funeral Service will be held at Trinity Church, Ringwood on Tuesday 10th September at 11.30am. Family flowers only thank you, but donations if desired for Cancer Research UK may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper, 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1HB. (01425 472104)

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What's happening in the Ringwood sales market?





- Over the last 12 months the average sales price in Ringwood was £467,820, which compares to £324,509 across the South West Region.
- The highest value recorded by the Land Registry in Ringwood over the past 12 months was £370,000 for a flat and £1,900,000 for a house.
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