

Issue 878 ● March 6th to March 19th ● 2024



Popular bathing spot on the Hampshire Avon in Fordingbridge shortlisted by DEFRA as new bathing water site

Fordingbridge Avon Bathers (FAB), a community group in Fordingbridge, Hampshire has been campaigning since April 2023 for their section of river to be recognised as an official bathing water. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced on 26 February that the site has been shortlisted to be considered as one of their newly designated inland bathing water sites, subject to the results for a two-week consultation period.

The River Avon at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground is a vital resource for the town, and incredibly popular with swimmers and children paddling and playing in the river. A supporting survey showed that an overwhelming 98% of those questioned supported the application, and highlighted how important the site was to the whole community.

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Established 1990

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EDITOR

'PASS IT FORWARD'

Have you ever heard this phrase?

Most of us have in different scenarios. Probably more in the context of putting forward a solution, a suggestion or proposal.

We heard it used recently in the context of true community spirit. A lady towing a horse trailor had a flat tyre in Ringwood. Stranded with her daughter and pony on the way to a team event, there were various strangers who stepped in to help. The main person was a gentleman called Steve, who had his own plans and commitments. He was passing by with his black dog and said he would help. He went home, got some tools, returning as promised to help change the tyre and get the family on their way. The task he originally took on seemed a lot simpler than what actually transpired! But this stranger persevered. When offered payment for his help, the response was that he did not want money. His request was that the lady 'Pass it Forward' in memory of his father, who he had lost last year.

There were other passers by who also stopped to offer assistance, including a lady on a mobility scooter who brought daffodils to the family to cheer them up.



The out pouring of help and kindness shown by people in the town really struck the family. They managed to make it to their team event on time and safely.

The actions and words of this kind person really got us thinking about the phrase 'Pass it Forward'. As we head forward into spring time, thinking about the mud and water subsiding and brighter, longer days, maybe consider how you could 'Pass it Forward'. Whether it be helping a stranded stranger, offering support or reaching out to someone who may need a bit of assistance.

To the stranger that helped our stranded team mate, they and we are extremely grateful for your help and would love to put you in touch so they can say thank you.

Darren and Naomi

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Big news for users of Two Bridges!

Two Bridges is a care group that voluntarily provides transport services to local hospitals, doctors, and dentists, for those who need it.

To enable the group to meet demands, it is always in need of volunteer drivers and coordinators. Recent good news includes the introduction of a new easy-to-use automated computer-based booking system, making the drivers' and coordinators;' jobs even easier.

After extensive research to find ways of making Two Bridges more accessible for its users, the group now boasts a professionally designed new logo and a new contact telephone number! This will ensure that Two Bridges is even more easy to remember, user-friendly and simpler to use. The new telephone number (07391 804 222) is easy to remember and easy to use. What's more, it is



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less expensive to call, than the old 0845 number. The picture shows the new logo in situ at a recent meeting, emphasising the forthcoming AGM at Godshill Village Hall, at lunchtime on Tuesday 26th March.

For further details, call Two Bridges on 07391 804 222

You can see more by visiting the website helpandkindness.co.uk

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Protecting yourself from fraud

40% of crime in England and Wales is due to fraud.

By staying vigilant and taking a moment to stop, think, and check whenever we're approached, we can help to protect ourselves and each other from fraud.

The 'Stop! Think Fraud' campaign aims to raise awareness.

What's the risk of fraud happening to you? Ask yourself these 4 questions to see if you could be doing more to protect yourself.

Q1. Do you stop to check who's really contacting you?

Fraudsters often call or message people, pretending to be from their bank, other well-known and trusted companies, or even someone they know. They can be very convincing, particularly if they've already managed to get hold of some personal information, for example by looking on social media. Having earned their victim's trust, they often ask them to hand over confidential information, make a payment or give them access to their phone or computer.

How to reduce your risk

Never take calls or messages like this at face value – always take time to stop, think and check if the caller or sender is who they say they are.

If you've received a suspicious call or message:

* don't be rushed into a quick decision – think carefully before handing over money, personal details or access to your device

 * if you have any doubts, hang up and do not call the number provided

* be aware that fraudsters can spoof phone numbers, so the number that appears on your caller ID may not be proof of who they are

* instead, check with the organisation directly using contact details you know are correct, such as those on a utility bill, official website, on the back of your card or by calling 159 for banks

* if you get a message from a family member asking you to send money, use known contact details to check if it's real.

Q2. Do you automatically trust offers and click on links?

"Half-price tickets to a sold-out gig!" "Incredible savings on a last-minute holiday – hurry!" Fraudsters know most people love

continued from page 1

When a location is officially designated, the Environment Agency has a responsibility to test the water quality during the bathing season. A bathing site will then receive a classification of Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor at the end of the bathing season. The regulator then has a responsibility at Poor classified sites to prevent, reduce or eliminate the causes of pollution, and identify the reasons it didn't receive a higher classification.

The DEFRA consultation runs until 10 March, and anyone can complete the consultation: Please use the link to support the application! https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/consultation-on-designation-of-27-sites-as-bathing/.

a bargain, so they use discounts, time pressure and FOMO (fear of missing out) to pressure them into paying out for non-existent deals. Or



they urge people to click on links in phishing messages that can take them to a fake website, where the fraudster can steal cash and personal details, or infect the victim's device.

How to reduce your risk

If you see a tempting offer:

* don't be rushed into a quick decision – always take time to stop, think and check if the message, offer or advert is genuine

* don't automatically click a link, particularly in unexpected messages

 * if you're not 100% sure, don't use the link to click through – go direct to the organisation's website

* always stay on trusted websites and use the site's recommended payment methods

* avoid paying by bank transfer or virtual currency

* think carefully before you hand over any money or personal details.

The next 2 questions will be featured in the next issue.....



What's happening with the Former Cinema Site?

At the Ringwood Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 12th March we will be providing an update on the proposals for the former Cinema / Town Hall & Corn Exchange site as well as some insight on the progress of our Memories of the Railway Project.

The meeting is from 7.30pm at Greyfriars Community Centre and is open to Ringwood Society Members.

The Chair of Ringwood Society, Joe Moorhouse explained " Since 1962 the Society has been celebrating our historic town. The old Town Hall and former Cinema building is of great interest to us. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to explore the challenges and joys of developing such a site and hearing from members about their memories of the building and thoughts on the current proposal."

"In addition to the election of the committee the AGM will provide an update on the Memories of the Railway project, with a sneak preview of some of the materials that are being developed for the exhibition." Joe added

If you love our built heritage and would like to be involved in preserving and enhancing it in the future you can become a Ringwood Society member by emailing: info@ringwoodsociety.org. uk or scanning the QR code. Membership costs £10 per year.



Members of Ringwood Society benefit from free entry to all our talks and meetings including the next one by Mary Baldwin,

entitled "From Corn to Popcorn" which will be in the summer and will provide details of the history of Ringwood's former cinema.



More details can be found on our website http:// www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



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INVESTMENT NEWS

Understanding Investments:

Business Owner's Retirement Planning Plan

As a business owner (self-employed or limited company) you have a greater degree of flexibility over how you are remunerated but also greater responsibilities for your staff, customers and the future success of the business. What can often be missed is the responsibility to focus on your own retirement planning.

The big picture:

The first stage is to quantify what level of income you will need in retirement, and what other capital events you need to account for during your retirement (eg dream holidays, house renovations, financial support for children for house deposits & weddings etc). Once established, it's possible to work backwards and identify how much you need to have saved to meet your retirement aspirations. We utilize market-leading cash-flow software to quantify this, taking into account inflation assumptions and projected investment returns.

It's possible to model different scenarios; for example we can run one scenario to include a business sale, and another to assume the business continues under management to continue to generate revenue for the owner.

The role of pensions:

Whilst we would all hope that the business thrives and provides the capital needed to retire, sadly this isn't always the case. Like all things in life, it's sensible to diversify your options and saving into a pension can be a very effective way to provide further flexible capital for retirement with many advantages.

1-Tax Efficient: Pension contributions are treated as a business expense so save corporation tax for limited companies. They

pension savings are secure. 3-Lower Charges: Since workplace pensions were introduced,

competition has increased and charges have reduced. This is great for the consumer but sadly many existing pension schemes still charge the same as they always did. It is possible to consolidate and switch pension providers to save money after full analysis to ensure valuable benefits aren't being lost.

from your business. In the event of the failure of your business,

4-Inheritance Tax exempt: Under current legislation, pension savings are not included in the value of your estate for IHT purposes. The pension fund can also be passed down to nominated beneficiaries on death in a tax efficient manner (tax-free pre age 75 and taxable at the nominated beneficiaries own income tax rate post age 75).

To summarise, with sensible planning it's possible to pay less tax and keep more of your hard earned money to fund your financial future. Hopefully this means you may either retire sooner, or enjoy an improved lifestyle during retirement. If you'd like to learn more or discuss your personal situation, we would be delighted to meet for a free, no obligation initial chat.

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Pensions are a long-term investment not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028). The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up which would have an impact on the level of pension benefits available. The tax implications of pension saving and withdrawal will be based on your individual circumstances, tax legislation and regulation which are subject to change.

The book's editor and publisher, Janet Mobbs-Longman will be in the Meeting House from 10.30 to 11.30am on Monday 22nd January.

are a very effective way to draw excess profits from the business without the need to pay corporation tax on those profits or income tax/dividend tax if drawn personally. The self-employed qualify for taxrelief so in effect pay no tax on contributions. There are annual allowances of £60,000 to consider but it's possible to go back up to 3 years if full contributions haven't been made and use "carry-forward" to make higher contributions in the current tax year.

2-Secure: Pension schemes are protected to varying degrees, with some insured schemes offering 100% protection in the event of provider default. In addition, money held in a pension is secure and separate



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Launching Stronger Together Across **Ringwood & Fordingbridge STARF**

This wonderful charity has been created to help families in crisis in the Ringwood & Fordingbridge area.

It all started with Ryan McShea of Empower Energy having a vision that businesses could help the community by donating to a locally based charity. He spoke with Adam Skirton Pastor at Poulner Baptist Chapel to get it off the ground. Ryan quickly raised the first £7K by match funding donations from his customers.

With Adam's help they contacted the local schools in Ringwood & Fordingbridge to ask what was needed. The stories of families in hardship were overwhelming and the first donations were quickly distributed by the schools to families facing financial crisis.

Simultaneously a group of businesses; Moyles Court School, Grants of Ringwood, Aspire Jobs, View HR, and Ringwood Town Council were also looking at ways to encourage local business to network and help the community.



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Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community (RFBC) held their first 'networking with a purpose' event in October 2023 with STARF as the key speaker. There was a great atmosphere in the room with many local businesses wanting to help with their services or donating to STARF.

Since then, STARF has gone from strength to strength, raising

£150,000 in just over a year. The varied projects in Ringwood & Fordingbridge schools include:

- Immediate help for families in financial crisis
- A School Hardship Support Worker who helps families to ensure they are getting all the support they need and signpost to relevant charities. Citizens's Advice and Ringwood Foodbank have partnered STARF in this project.
- Contracting with a team to provide additional counselling to children and young people in the schools. With the current wait time of 54 weeks for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health team,

this project is desperately needed.

- Working towards getting a Debt Coach to help families become free of debt.
- A range of educational activities to support families with healthy eating, wellbeing, financial management and parenting skills.

A big 'shout out' goes to Empower Energy who have raised in excess of £90k and to Poulner Baptist Chapel who raised an incredible £33k in their Christmas Appeal.

Mandy Underwood, Chair of Trustees for STARF said, 'It's wonderful to be able to hold families hands, set families free and empower families lives' Would you like to know more about STARF? See their website www.starf.uk

Council Tax for 2024/25

At the NFDC full council meeting on Monday, we set our part of the 2024/25 Council Tax bill.

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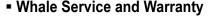
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Over 200 volunteers are improving food security and reducing food waste in Ringwood and Fordingbridge

Almost 200 volunteers from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge communities currently support 3 different types of organisation devoted to improving food security for their communities and reducing food waste.

Ringwood and Fordingbridge Community Fridges are part of the National Hubbub Network and their primary purpose is to prevent food going to waste. Donations are collected by volunteers, often late in the evenings, from local supermarkets, then sorted and made available for free to anyone who visits Ringwood or Fordingbridge Libraries. The Ringwood Community Fridge is run by the charity Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency (RACE) and the Fordingbridge one is part of Fordingbridge Greener Living. Since they started the amazing people who give up their time at the 2 fridges have saved over 100 tonnes of food from waste. More information is available at www.raceagainsttime. org.uk and www.fordingbridgegreenerliving.org.

Ringwood Foodbank has over 100 volunteers who process donations, and sort and deliver food to clients. There are distribution centres in Ringwood and Fordingbridge and in 2023 they provided 35,200 meals, toiletries and household cleaning items to those in financial need. The Foodbank, from supplies that would otherwise go to waste, also provides fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Fareshare as well as bread collected from local supermarkets. Foodbank volunteers are also able to help clients with access to specialist advisors working for Citizens Advice and other support available in the community. Referral to the Foodbank is via organisations such as Citizens Advice, Doctor's surgeries, Schools, Housing Associations, Churches and New Forest District Council. More information is available at www.Ringwood. foodbank.org.uk Ringwood and Fordingbridge are also visited by



Fareshare food larders. Fareshare are a national charity dedicated to fighting hunger and food waste. The larder vans, run by volunteers, are situated in Ringwood Leisure Centre car park and Fordingbridge Avonway Centre between 1.30 and 2.30pm on Fridays. They supply dried, fresh and chilled food to Fareshare members.

It is free to become a member and clients only pay a small fee each week for up to 25 food items. To become a member visit https://fareshare.org. uk/getting-food/





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Golf Society Fundraiser

Following my serious accident in October`22 to which thankfully the Air Ambulance team attended (and I believe saved me from what possibly could have been life changing injuries).

The London Tavern Golf Society (of which I am a member) decided that their chosen charity for 2023 would be the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance in thanks not only for how they saved my foot (no pun) but the amazing work they continuously carry out, remembering they are a charity, so fund raiding is vital for them to survive. Their helicopter is often seen in the skies above Ringwood . So through various silly fines and donations during tournaments and in the bar afterwards through the 2023 season the "Golf Society" managed to raise the fantastic sum of £1428.00 which was handed over to the HAIOWAA on Friday 9th February 2024 at The London Tavern.



picture left to right Nick Hill, Michele Doe, Lily, Mike Foot & Phil Hoyle





JOBS

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Aspire Jobs is a boutique recruitment agency matching talented individuals to the best job opportunities across Dorset & Hampshire

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Helen Stacey is the owner of local recruitment agency Aspire Jobs and has over 35 years of industry experience. Here she highlights some of the key benefits for businesses in using a recruitment agency:

• Access to passive talent: Recruitment agencies have access to a network of passive candidates; those in our established network who may not actively be job searching but are open to learning about the right opportunity and could be a great fit for an open role at your company.

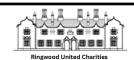
• Headhunt top industry talent: In addition to our networks and talent pools, recruitment firms like Aspire Jobs reach beyond passive candidates and use methods like headhunting to find qualified people who are not actively on the job market. We can access talent that you may not reach with your own job postings and networks.

• Save time: The recruitment process is very time-intensive, including writing compelling job posts, reviewing CVs, coordinating interviews, follow-ups, and offers. A good agency handles all of these tasks for you, saving your team resource significant time to focus on other core operations.

• Industry expertise: Established and reputable agencies have deep expertise in talent and hiring trends across many industries. We use our insider knowledge to match great fits between candidates and companies. We can also undertake salary benchmarking and give general guidance on the recruitment market.

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LOOKING



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The Ringwood United Charities Clerk is the key contact for the residents of the Ringwood Almhouses, ensuring their wellbeing, security and comfort on a day-to-day basis.

The Clerk also administers grant applications and works alongside the Trustees.

The role is part-time, with flexible hours equating to approximately 35 hours <u>per month</u>. Pay is from £11.50 per hour depending on experience.

If you would like to know more about the role or about Ringwood United Charities please email our Chair Dave Brown - d.v.brown@btinternet.com

SUPPORT WORKER

'Jenny is a mature adult with a learning disability. She lives a full and busy life living in her own flat in Ringwood, with support.
We're now looking for a further Support Worker to join our team, working with Jenny, as 'day out companion', on alternate Saturdays (6 hour shifts and there will be some relief shifts available during the week). Common sense and a good sense of humour are the main requirements. Car driver preferred. Excellent pay. Call Sarah on 07901 803054.' Recruitment agencies are often seen as a costly option, but when you weigh up the expertise, time savings, access to passive talent, and other benefits, you soon realise it is actually a value-added service that pays dividends in building your ideal team.

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207974 429217

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Part-time Carer/Housekeeper required Ringwood area Some experience preferred Please call 07788 715304

Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan passes examination stage

Ringwood is one step closer to the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan which will enable the local community to have more influence on development in their area. Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans set out local planning policies for the area that will ultimately be used in determining planning applications.

Ringwood Town Council started work on its Neighbourhood Plan in 2018 and there have already been several rounds of public consultation to help shape the Plan. The draft Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for independent Examination in November 2023.Mr David Hogger BA MSc MRTPI MCIHT was appointed by New Forest **District Council and New** Forest National Park Authority - with the agreement of Ringwood Town Council - to undertake the examination of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The Examiner report was issued on 22 February 2024. The Examiner's report concludes that subject to the modifications set out in his report, the draft Ringwood



Neighbourhood Plan meets the relevant tests and legal requirements. The Examiner recommends that the Plan, once modified, should proceed to local referendum, which will be held with residents of Ringwood parish.

The next step is for New Forest District Council, through liaison with the New Forest National Park Authority and Ringwood Town Council, to approve the modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and confirm the arrangements for the public referendum. It is anticipated that, subject to sign off from district councillors, the referendum will take place in the summer of 2024.

For further details see https://www.newforest.gov. uk/ringwoodplan

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The Ringwood Artisan Craft Market is expanding!

Get ready for an exciting journey of discovery as the eagerly anticipated Artisan Markets make a triumphant return to The Furlong shopping centre in Ringwood this March!

After a short hiatus, these markets are poised to redefine your local shopping experience with a delightful blend of local craftsmanship, cultural vibrancy and a true sense of community spirit.



Adding to the excitement, the market is expanding its footprint to include stalls at the bustling Ringwood Gateway Square (opposite the council offices) - a strategic move aimed at fostering greater town -wide involvement and enticing an even broader array of local artisans.

Sue Boston, one of the co-founders of the Artisan market with her husband Phil, comments; "we feel truly lucky to be fostering such a wonderful community of local artisans and be able to offer them the opportunity to showcase their designs in such a lovely location."

Ringwood, traditionally an historical market town, welcomes this market on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10am – 4pm (with the exception of December when it is a week earlier).

Mark your calendar and join the artisans throughout The Furlong and Ringwood Gateway Square starting Saturday 23rd March.

- Saturday 20 April 2024
- Saturday 18th May 2024
- Saturday 22nd June 2024
- Saturday 20th July 2024
- Saturday 24th August 2024
- Saturday 21st September 2024
- Saturday 19th October 2024

Support local artisans and celebrate the rich tapestry of creativity that defines Ringwood and the New Forest. See you there!



Call Sheila 07765 680020 / 01425 477980 Call for a free estimate sheilaterry7@googlemail.com

Get In Touch

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Other dates/events to be adde



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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Reading, John

John passed away at Lymington Hospital on 21st February, aged 91 years, with his family by his side. Now reunited with Margaret. A loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he will be very sadly missed by his children Steven and Susan, and all his family and many friends. A proud and active member of The Rotary Club of Ringwood, and founder member of The Ringwood and Fordingbridge Blind Club. The memorial service will be held on Wednesday 6th March at The Salvation Army, Ringwood, at 12 Noon. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to 'The Salvation Army' can be made online at the 'Tributes and Donations' page at www.edenfuneraldirectors.co.uk or sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

Hooper-Barry Frederick

Barry passed away at home on 3rd February, aged 80 years. Loving husband to Diana, a loving father to Fiona, and grandfather to Pete, Lily and Jack. He will be very sadly missed by all his family and many friends. The funeral service has taken place, but donations for animal rescue in memory of Barry may be made to 'Second Chance Society' can be sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

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- During spring, properties found new owners in an average of just 51 days, significantly quicker the 61-day winter average.
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RINGWOOD £1,900,000

EXCEPTIONAL Architect Designed HOME Finished To A VERY HIGH STANDARD, Breath-Taking, FAR-REACHING VIEWS Over AVON VALLEY, Incredibly FLEXIBLE & SPACIOUS Accommodation (Around 5000sq ft) With ANNEXE POTENTIAL, 5 Beds & 4 With En-Suites & 4 Walk-In Wardrobes, PLOT Of 0.5 Acres..



ASHLEY HEATH £985,000

FABULOUS, FLEXIBLE & SPACIOUS HOME, Incredibly SOUGHT-AFTER POSITION (within 600 metres of Ringwood Forest), Wonderful PRIVATE PLOT OF 0.3 ACRES, 4 Bedrooms & 3 BATH/SHOWER ROOMS (2 ensuite), Stylish SPLIT-LEVEL, Part-Open Plan Design, Wonderful MATURE GARDENS, Extensive Parking & DBL GARAGE.



RINGWOOD £775,000

Simply SUPERB CHALET HOME, FABULOUS ELEVATED VIEWS, Incredibly SPACIOUS & FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION With Annexe Potential, 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 Bath/Shower Rooms & 4 Receptions, DOUBLE GARAGE & Additional USEFUL LOFT SPACE, Delightful PRIVATE GARDENS & Views.



FORDINGBRIDGE £325,000 QUIET CUL DE SAC setting with nearby access to wonderful Forest WALKS. WELL, PRESENTED home with THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, modern re-fitted KITCHEN and BATHROOM. GCH & Double Glazing. Converted GARAGE/OFFICE AND PARKING. Lovely PRIVATE GARDEN. VENDOR SUITED.



ST LEONARDS £650,000 EXCEPTIONAL BUNGALOW, Extensively & STYLISHLY IMPROVED, 3 BEDROOMS & SUPERB 4 PIECE BATH/SHOWER ROOM, Fabulous OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/DINING/SITTING ROOM, Lovely PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, Plenty Of Parking & Garage, INCREDIBLY SOUGHT-AFTER LOCATION



RINGWOOD £645,000 Simply WONDERFUL DETACHED FAMILY HOME, PEACEFUL CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION, Spacious & Flexible Accommodation, EXTENSIVELY IMPROVED By Current Owners, Superb MODERN FITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST RM, 4 Bedrooms & MODERN BATHROOM, Delightful PRIVATE GARDEN, Lots Of Parking & GARAGE

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