

# Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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Issue 884 ● May 29th to June 11th ● 2024 Established 1990



Photos courtesy of Derek Maidment

## Annual Town Assembly Awards

At the Annual Town Assembly held on Wednesday 15th May 2024, the Town Mayor presented Awards for Outstanding Community Service.

The first Award went to Steve Benson which, following his sad passing, was collected by his wife Marian, son Henry, daughter Charlotte and granddaughter Amelia. The Award recognised his outstanding contribution to Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club and the wider Rugby Union family. For over thirty years, as a player, a coach and a committee member Steve had given skilled and self-less service. His dedication to the sport and passion for promoting wider participation in the community is worthy of celebration.

*continues page 4*

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**INSIDE**

- Page 5 - Under The Spotlight
- Page 8 - Pension Changes
- Page 16 - D-Day Events
- Page 18 - Whats On
- Page 26 - Small Ads
- Page 31 - Property Recycling

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**EDITOR**

**Join the expansion!**

Over the last few months we have outlined our goals and ideas for the future of our community newspaper. In a world dominated by growth in technology and changes in the industry, we've been considering ways in which we can continue to produce a paper that has the focus of supporting its community at its core.

We set ourselves the target of increasing the paper from 24 pages to 28 pages, providing more content, more information for the residents of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. We are very pleased that the target has been smashed and this issue is a whopping 32 pages!!

We are so incredibly grateful for the support we have received, both from the local businesses and our loyal readers. The feedback received is grateful and we're pleased to be able to confirm we are moving forward with a letters page and puzzle page. For businesses wanting to expand their reach we offer competitive packages, including marketing through social media sites. It is an extremely exciting time here at Ringwood and Fordingbridge News and we can't wait to experience it with all of you!



Someone we couldn't have made these changes without is Rae Frederick, who is the front face of the Newspaper, meeting new people and interacting with businesses to secure advertising. Without Rae's hard work and efforts in securing the advertising we would not have been able to expand. We are forever grateful for her help and support.

Change can sometimes be good so why not embrace it and be a part of it! Contact us on the details enclosed to find out what we can do for you.

*Darren and Naomi*

**RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE NEWS**

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The next issue will be published on Wednesday 12th June

Editorial copy deadline  
Wednesday 5th June 2024.

*Printed by Blackmore LTD, Shaftesbury, Dorset.*

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## NEWS

### Ringwood residents to vote on neighbourhood plan

A referendum relating to the adoption of the Ringwood Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on Thursday 4 July 2024.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan contains policies for the use of land in a designated neighbourhood area. The designated Neighbourhood Plan Area is the whole of Ringwood Parish.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is: 'Do you want New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ringwood to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?'

Residents will be asked to vote either 'yes' or 'no' to this question.

In 2018, Ringwood Town Council decided to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and a number of public consultations were undertaken from 2021 to 2023 on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Work on the Ringwood Neighbourhood Development Plan has been overseen locally by a steering group of town councillors and community representatives. The initial Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan was published in February 2023 for public consultation.

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The plan, its supporting documents, and further details on eligibility to vote can be viewed on NFDC's website at <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/ringwoodplan>

More details will be published soon.

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continued from page 1

The second Award went to Ringwood Carnival Committee who came on mass to collect their award in recognition of the tireless work they do to create an amazing event that draws large crowds year after year. From the Procession, to the Fun Fair and the Village Green everything is organised with precision. This success requires a huge team effort behind the scenes throughout the year. Their dedication to making Ringwood Carnival great, and the team's passion and devotion to the town is worthy of celebration.

The third Award will be presented to Chris Treleaven at the next Annual Council meeting on 29 May 2024. The Award is to acknowledge his many years' service as a District Councillor and Town Councillor and as a Rotarian. His outstanding contributions to the development of local planning policy documents has helped to preserve the distinctive buildings and features of our town and will have a lasting impact. His passion and dedicated service to our community is worthy of celebration.





# UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT .....



*Gareth DeBoos*  
Mayor of Ringwood

**Family:** Married, 2 Children  
**Pets:** Imaginary Dog called Toby  
**Hobbies:** Too busy carrying out Mayor duties

**Which 3 people would you invite for dinner, dead or alive?**

*My dad (died young), my dad-in-law (also died young and I never met) and my wife.*

**If you could have any job for a year, what would it be?**

*Sommelier*

**Any advice for our younger readers?**

*Don't settle for anyone that doesn't respect you and choose things to do that you are passionate about.*

**If you could change one thing to Ringwood what would it be?**

*Affordable small housing for first time buyers in Ringwood*

**What would be your Superpower?**

*No superpower, but I always try to be kind.*

**24 hours - no food or no sleep?**

*No sleep*

**Last Supper?**

*In the best restaurant that I have had the luck and pleasure to eat at - Core by Clare Smyth.*

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## The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking Newspaper Recording Studio has moved?

After many years recording at Ringwood Medical Centre the R & F TN was given the opportunity to move its operation to St Ives Care Home, Ashley Heath. Fortnightly news items are extracted from the local newspaper, audio recorded onto CDs and sent post free to the visually impaired in the local area.

The News can also be found on the British Wireless for the blind web-site at <https://bit.ly/3xdAXxe>.

Chairman Peter Ansell said: 'Talking News is very grateful to Care-South for providing free space for our recording sessions every fortnight. We are a registered charity, dependent on donations and fundraising activities. Care-South's kind and generous offer will have a marked positive influence on our slender resources.'

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News was founded 25 years ago and was then based in St Leonards Hospital. It subsequently moved to the old Council Offices in Christchurch Road and thence to the Medical Centre. Pictured in the new surroundings is last fortnight Friday's team having just recorded the 780th edition.

R & F TN is always on the lookout for new readers who have time to spare on a Friday morning on an eight week rota and currently would welcome an additional sound recording engineer. There is plenty of spare capacity to accommodate new listeners so if you or anybody you know has any difficulty in accessing the local news please telephone Peter Ansell on 07801 539516 for more information.




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Any 10 Windows	£8,215	£7,805	£7,395	£7,250	£6,275	
Any 11 Windows	£8,940	£8,590	£8,230	£7,970	£6,895	
Any 12 Windows	£9,805	£9,365	£8,930	£8,700	£7,525	
Any 13 Windows	£10,680	£10,155	£9,625	£9,425	£8,155	
Any 14 Windows	£11,535	£10,930	£10,320	£10,155	£8,780	
Any 15 Windows	£12,265	£11,705	£11,165	£10,875	£9,405	



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## Understanding Investments - Pension Changes linked to the Lifetime Allowance (LTA)

It's over a year ago since the government announced the abolition of the pension Lifetime Allowance. This significant change has now received Royal Assent under the Finance Bill 23/24 and the changes are finally clear.

For the sake of brevity, this article will highlight some of the key points and considerations we have identified which relate to our clients. However this is a highly complex area so the information is not exhaustive and you should speak to a financial adviser about your own personal situation.

### Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) and Lump Sum Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA):

The LTA has been replaced by the LSA and LSDBA. The levels of these are the same as the previous LTA so £1,073,100 for the LSDBA and £268,275 for the LSA (tax-free cash).

In effect, the total tax-free cash available to draw from all pensions is £268,275 from now on (still limited to 25% of your pension fund value). This means if you receive a Defined Benefit (DB) pension after April 6th 2024 with no tax-free cash, you can still draw up to £268,275 of tax-free cash from your other pensions (assuming the TFC doesn't exceed 25% of your pension value). That is a very positive change from the old rules.

What if you started to take a DB pension before April 6th 2024? In that instance it is assumed that you used up a % of your LSA which was linked to the old % used of your LTA (for example if you used up 50% of the LTA that would be £536,550 so it's assumed that 25% of that would have been tax-free cash so £134,137.50 even if you didn't actually receive that in tax-free cash).

You are now able to apply for a Transitional Tax-Free Amount certificate (TTFAC) if the tax-free cash you took was less than 25%. However you can only do this before the first benefit crystallisation

event post April 6th 2024 so it's important you seek advice if you have significant pension savings remaining and have previously taken benefits from a DB pension.

The LSDBA is the amount that may be paid as a tax free lump sum with any amount in excess of available LSDBA subject to income tax at marginal rates. Therefore this can be avoided if your pension allows for Beneficiary Drawdown and you have the correct nominations in place. Again if you aren't sure then either check with your pension provider or seek advice.

The limits noted above may be higher if you have previously applied for Pension Protection. In addition you are now able to contribute to your pension without breaking your protection.

There are many more rules and caveats, so if you think that you could be affected by these changes because you have significant pension savings/benefits, then I would urge you to seek advice from a financial professional. Any article can only cover off limited information and only by relating your specific situation to the new rules can opportunities or threats be identified.

**If you'd like to discuss your personal financial situation and planning, my colleagues Stewart Sims-Handcock, Harry Goodship and I are available for a free initial, no obligation chat.**

**Howard Goodship is an Independent Financial Adviser with Lonsdale Wealth Management, 5 Friday's Court, Ringwood Tel: 01425 208490 [www.lonsdaleservices.co.uk](http://www.lonsdaleservices.co.uk)**

A pension is a long-term investment not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028). The fund value may fluctuate and can go down, which would have an impact on the level of pension benefits available.

Levies and bases of relief are subject to change.

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November 2023

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## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Skin Cancer - Latest protection advice

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- You need to apply the equivalent of six to eight teaspoons for your whole body.
- You may want to reapply sunscreen after an hour to help fill in gaps and offer extra protection.
- Reapply sooner if you've been in the water, even if your sunscreen claims to be waterproof.
- Avoid direct sunlight whenever your shadow is shorter than you –

that's when the sun is strongest. This is roughly 11am to 3pm.

- Wear a hat with a brim of at least 7cm and clothes with a tight weave to block UV rays. If you can see through the garment, it won't offer much protection.
- Remember often-missed areas, such as the backs of legs, ears and the tops of feet. Women are most likely to develop melanoma on their legs and men on their backs.
- Don't be complacent because it's not hot or sunny. Harmful UV rays can be present even on cloudy and cool days between mid-March and mid-October.
- For more advice, visit [britishskinfoundation.org.uk/talk-health](http://britishskinfoundation.org.uk/talk-health) and [cancerresearchuk.org](http://cancerresearchuk.org)



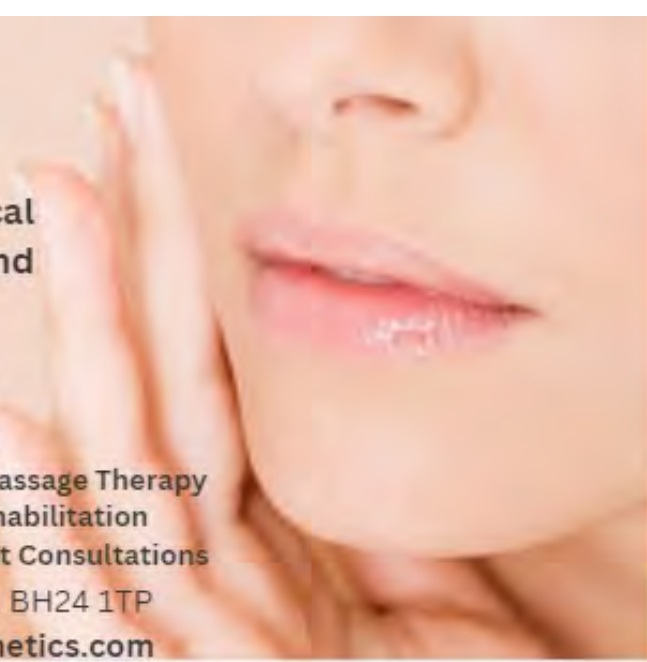
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## Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery



Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery

*Supporting with care, compassion and consideration*

Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery (FoFS) would like to thank all of the buyers and sellers who came along to support us at our first ever Car Boot Sale held on Saturday 20th April 2024 in Fordingbridge Surgery Car Park.

As this was a new venture for us we were a little nervous, as the event was very much weather dependant, however the weather was kind with sunshine and blue skies, a beautiful morning. Around 20 sellers came along on the day. We also sold coffee and cake, books, plants and a tombola, which raised the sum of £497, a great success. On Saturday 27th April 2024 Fordingbridge Surgery ran their Spring Covid Booster clinic for the over 75's and those who are vulnerable. In the region of 1300 patients were vaccinated.

Patients donated a total of £1948, which will enable FoFS to purchase, for the Surgery and benefit of patients, a new ECG machine. Please look out for us at the Fordingbridge Summer Festival on the Saturday 20th July 2024, when we will have a stall.

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Christchurch Rd,  
Ringwood BH24 2DW  
Wine: £2.50 per glass

Enquiries to Hon Sec: Penny Buckley  
Tel: 07985-004830

Secretary: ringwoodfrenchcircle@gmail.com/  
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## SPORT

### Fordingbridge Mini Rugby Celebrate at their Awards

April's Fordingbridge Mini Rugby Awards saw 177 mini rugby players celebrate a tremendous season of rugby. Each player received a trophy to mark their success for the year and a special mention from their coaches. Family and friends gathering to congratulate and cheer on their recognition.

The Under 4s to Under 12s category provides a positive, friendly and fun community environment in which the children can develop from tag rugby through to full contact.

Fordingbridge Mini Rugby continues to go from strength to strength, with 40 amazing and dedicated volunteers in the section making sure that England RFUs TREDs are at the heart of the values of the club - thank you! Ed Murphy, Fordingbridge Mini Rugby Chair said: "We pride ourselves on positive coaching, encouraging kids to gain confidence and believe in themselves. Sport can be such a force for good in young people's lives and an important part of the local community."

This year saw tremendous success for Fordingbridge across the age groups at all of the rugby festivals they entered, with the Under 12s coming runners up in the Hampshire tournament against some massive clubs.

### Chess Adventures from Ringwood to Canada

It's late when I eventually make it to Downtown Toronto. I've travelled 3500 miles to see the final rounds of The Candidates chess tournament but thanks to a delayed flight and missed connection I've had an unplanned 24 hours in Amsterdam! The Candidates is held every two years with eight of the top men and women battling it out in two separate tournaments. The winners of each section get the chance to become World Champion as they get to play head-to-head matches against the current champions.

A combination of factors including lots of enforced time inside during the pandemic and the popular Netflix series 'The Queen's Gambit' have led to a big increase in the popularity of chess over the last few years. Keen to make a positive contribution during the pandemic, the Ringwood Chess Club did some innovative work organising online tournaments, so people still had a chance to play competitively even when it wasn't possible to meet in person for over the board matches. This work combined with offering an environment that welcomes players of all standards and offers opportunity to play across a range of levels led to the club winning the English Chess Federations "Small Club of the Year" award which was a great achievement.

Back at the Candidates in Toronto, my interlude in Holland means I've only made it in time for the 14th and final round. It turned out to be a dramatic day. Out of the 16 players that qualified for the tournament five were 22 or under which included two Indian teenagers in the Open section - Pragg (18) and Gukesh (17). The women's tournament has had some exciting games but overall hasn't been too surprising with former world champion Tan Zhongyi from China winning.

However, the Open section hasn't followed the script with teenager Gukesh heading into the final round in the lead just ahead of three pre-tournament favourites - two Americans and one Russian. All four still had a chance to win the tournament with one game to go. After Gukesh drew his last round the outcome of the tournament

As a community club, we pass huge thanks to our minis sponsors who help to create the special awards that the club offers: Pro Fusion Therapy, View HR, Resin, The Stickleback Fish Company, Airius, Ockenden Financial Planning, Resin, Lambert & Son, JB Cook Plumbing. COME JOIN US: Minis will be back on Sunday 8 September and we would welcome new players, boys and girls. No previous experience required. Just turn up or contact us at: [frfcmis@outlook.com](mailto:frfcmis@outlook.com)



depended on the final topsy-turvy game that improbably ended in a draw. That meant that Gukesh held on to his half point lead and became the youngest player to win the Open section of tournament. He will go on to challenge current World Champion Ding Liren from China in November.

There is a big increase in young players breaking through at the top level of the game as evidenced at The Candidates. However, beyond the elite level and all the way to the grass roots it seems chess has captured the imagination of young players across the globe in a new way. At Ringwood we're seeing the numbers of juniors at the club quickly rising and the club actually outgrew official "small club" status between the time the nomination was submitted, and the awards being given - mostly through new juniors joining. Fortunately, the awards committee were so impressed with what the club had done they decided the award was still merited.

Looking ahead, at Ringwood we are keen to continue with a growing emphasis on offering development opportunities to players of all standards from beginners playing friendly games to high level competitive team matches in the Southampton and Dorset leagues. Following the success of the inaugural Ringwood Rapid Play tournament last year (which sold out with 60 entrants) we are hosting the second edition of the tournament at Greyfriars on June 23rd. The club meets at Greyfriars on Mondays from 7pm. Membership fees have been waived for June and July so anyone wanting to come along and play is welcome. You don't need to book in, but if you want to introduce yourself before visiting, you can email club secretary Martin Clancy on [mjclancy999@gmail.com](mailto:mjclancy999@gmail.com). Full details for the club and the 2nd Ringwood Rapid Play can be found at [www.ringwood-chessclub.org.uk](http://www.ringwood-chessclub.org.uk)







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## NEWS

# A Vision for Tomorrow: Introducing Forres Sandle Manor's New STEAM Building

Forres Sandle Manor in Fordingbridge has announced that planning permission has been granted for a new multi-million pound STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) building, which will be completed during the 2024-25 academic year.

Including three purpose built science laboratories, a DT hub complete with CAD suite, two new art studios plus classrooms, this building will provide FSM's pupils with the resources they need to excel in STEM fields while also fostering their artistic talents. It comes as the school expands up to GCSE and in response to a rapid rise in pupil enrolment since the appointment of current Headmaster Mark Howe in 2022.

Commenting on this new development, Mr Howe stated: "At Forres Sandle Manor, we're committed to providing the best education possible for our pupils. In today's fast-paced world, where innovation is key, our pupils need more than just textbook knowledge. They need hands-on experiences that encourage creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration across subjects. Our new STEAM building will be the hub of this transformative learning

experience."

With this new exciting addition to the school's impressive 35 acre campus and FSM already enjoying an outstanding reputation for academic excellence, an extensive co-curricular provision and strong pastoral care, interested families are encouraged to contact the school now to secure their child's place.



# Ringwood Honors the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with Community Events

On Thursday June 6, 2024, Ringwood Town Council will participate in the nationwide tribute to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The town will host a series of events to honour the valiant efforts of the Allied forces who landed on the Normandy beaches. These events aim to unite the community in remembrance and gratitude for those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

**Beacon Lighting Ceremony:** Ringwood Tow Council will light a commemorative beacon at 9:15pm in the War Memorial Gardens, along with hundreds across the country. The community is invited to gather from 8:45pm for music from Ringwood and Burley Band and a reading of the International Tribute. The beacon has been specially made and will be able to be reused for future civic events.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony's:** There will be two wreath laying ceremonies on the 6th June. The first at 10.30am at the Normandy Veterans Memorial in the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ringwood followed by a short service in the War Memorial Gardens at noon. All welcome.

**Fish and Chips Tribute:** In a nod to history, local fish and chip shops and restaurants are encouraged to participate in the D-Day 80 commemorations. During the war, fish and chips were never rationed and served as a secret code among British paratroopers. Shops, restaurants, and pubs are joining the celebration and fundraising for the local Ringwood Veteran's Hub. Grab a portion and bring it to the Beacon Lighting!

**Flag Raising:** A commemorative flag will be raised in Gateway Square at 9am on June 6th and will be displayed for seven days.

**Ring for Peace:** The bells of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul will ring out for peace at 6:30 pm on June 6th.

**Additional Events:**

• **D-Day Discovery Bus:** The D-Day Discovery Bus will tour Forest locations leading up to the anniversary including Carvers Recreation Ground on Saturday 1st June from 10am to noon. This mobile museum offers a rich educational experience with poster displays, videos, and oral histories. Children can dress in period costumes

and engage in interactive activities, all free of charge.

• **D-Day Exhibition:** A special exhibition will be held at Ringwood Meeting House from May 31st to June 2nd, open from 10 am to noon each day.

"We are privileged to commemorate this historic event and pay tribute to the incredible bravery of those who served on D-Day," said Councillor Gareth DeBoos, Town Mayor. "We invite the community to join us in these meaningful activities to honour their legacy."








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- Free unlimited wraparound care for all (including breakfast & supper for our youngest children) from 7:30am until 6pm.

Our school community has grown by over **30%** in the past **18 months**.

Come and see for yourself why so many families are choosing Forres Sandle Manor. We won't invite you to a fancy open day - you will see happy, thriving children and inspirational staff all year round.

Contact our lovely Registrar, Lauren Brown now.



T: 01425 653181



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## WHATS ON



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### May 2024 Events

Ringwood actions  
 climate emergency

Big Bug Hunt - Thursday 30th May 1pm to 3pm  
 Poulner Lakes

Big Bug Hunt - Friday 31st May 1pm to 3pm  
 Jack Wright Field, Crow Hill

For more information visit [www.raceagainststime.org.uk](http://www.raceagainststime.org.uk)



**GREYFRIARS**  
 community centre

### What's on in June 2024!

- 1 June - Ringpex Stamp & Post Card Fair – 10am-4pm**  
Free entry on the day, with a Penny Black Raffle!
- 6 June - Ringwood D-day 80th Anniversary from 6.30pm**  
Ringwood & Burley Band will perform before the lighting of the beacon in the Memorial Gardens at 9.15pm.
- 8 June - Repair Café**  
We are logging repairs now. Contact us on [ringwoodrepaircafeuk@gmail.com](mailto:ringwoodrepaircafeuk@gmail.com)
- 8 June - Ringwood Arts Society Plein Air – 10am-2pm**  
Members and non-members will be welcome. Judging is at 2.30, there will be a small prize if you wish to enter and share your work.
- 15 June - Ringwood & Fordingbridge Labour Women's Group 10.45am.**  
They meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Greyfriars.
- 20 June - Greyfriars AGM - 2pm**  
Please join us to hear more about how Greyfriars supports the local community.
- 27 June - Friends of Greyfriars AGM – 7.30pm**  
Anyone can join 'Friends of Greyfriars', pop into Reception for more details.
- 29 June - Travelling Trends Fashion Show, doors open 2pm prompt!**  
We will be modelling the latest high-street fashion trends; you might snag a few bargains. Tickets £5 from Greyfriars.

**Thursdays 10.30am to 1.30pm**  
**Table Games ~ Jigsaws**  
**Tea/Coffee ~ Light Lunch**  
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Salvation Army Community Hall, Christchurch Road, Ringwood  
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**£1.00 Per Session - Light Lunch £2.00 (optional)**

**For further details telephone**  
**Gillian 07734 679849**



## WHATS ON

### Forest Forge Launches New Opportunities for Creative Writers

Forest Forge, the New Forest's professional theatre company, has this week announced a new programme of activity, including a brand-new course for creative writers.

The company, who are based in Ringwood, specialise in making theatre that finds the extraordinary in the ordinary, and are inspired by their New Forest home to offer creative opportunities to all.

This month the company, who have just announced a new leadership team, are launching Wordsmiths, a brand-new creative writing group. Whether you're a published poet, a novice novelist or a complete beginner – it is a space for everyone to come and play with words.

Led by Forest Forge's Co-Artistic Director and writer Jo Billingham, sessions will be relaxed and include a variety of games, prompts and exercises to get you playing with words. There will be opportunities to share your writing and gain feedback on pieces you're working on outside of the group. Informed by Forest Forge's playful artistic approach, these sessions will help you to unlock your creativity, clear any writers blocks and get your words flowing. Jo Billingham says: "I'm so excited to be getting Wordsmiths off the ground. The theatre we make at Forest Forge is so full of play and irreverence, I am looking forward to playing with words too! The sessions will be really relaxed, with no pressure to share or perform, and a joyous way to spend a couple of creative hours!" Wordsmiths has been funded by Culture in Common, an Arts

Council England funded programme that creates more opportunities for people to take part in creative activities in the New Forest.

Jemma Corbin, Community Producer for Culture in Common says: "We are excited to support Wordsmiths. With their 40 years' experience in delivering high quality cultural activities, I can't think of anyone better than Forest Forge to inspire and support writers of the New Forest. It's important to us that everyone has the opportunity to regularly take part in high-quality creative activity in their community and so we're delighted to be working with Forest Forge to make this wonderful new offer as accessible as possible for everyone, no matter their level of experience, income or age."

Wordsmiths begins on 20th May with a free taster session for school age young people, years 8-13 at 4:30-6pm, and for adults (18+) at 6-8pm.

This will be followed by drop in sessions running from Monday 10th June to Monday 8th July, running again in the autumn and spring terms. Writers will be welcome to join at any point.

Sessions will cost £3 for young people and £5 for adults, payable on the door. All sessions will take place at Forest Forge's base in Duck Island Lane, Ringwood.

Further sessions for children aged 7-11 will run in October half term.

To find out more and to book a space please contact [jo@forestforgetheatre.co.uk](mailto:jo@forestforgetheatre.co.uk)

Wordsmiths is part of the Forest Forge participation programme, which includes the popular Youth Theatre and drama sessions for adults. Find out more about all the creative opportunities available at [www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk](http://www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk)

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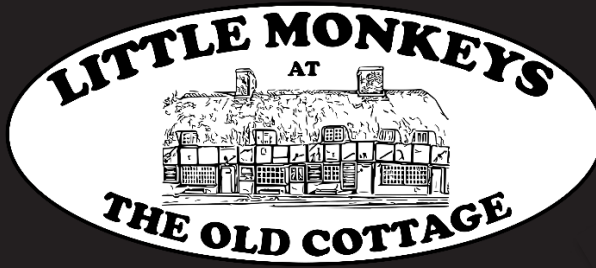
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## Childrens Day Nursery

### Discover Little Monkeys at The Old Cottage

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## Ringwood care home invites local veterans to join their D-Day event

A Ringwood care home is inviting local veterans to join their event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day next month.

St Ives House will be holding an afternoon of reflection and remembrance on Thursday 6 June in honour of 80 years since D-Day, which will see commemorative events take place across the UK and France.

The team at the care home on Horton Road are welcoming local veterans who may be alone on the day to attend their 'Ritz' themed afternoon with live music. It has been organised for the home's residents, and the residents of St Ives Place, the neighbouring assisted-living apartments and cottages, some of whom are armed forces veterans or have family or relations who served.

There is no cost for veterans to attend the event and St Ives House can provide transport for people who are unable to get to the care home. Places must be booked in advance by Monday 3 June.

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, said: "At Care South, we are home to many veterans and relations of those who served in the forces, so we wanted to pay tribute to them and give our thanks to all of those who fought for their country. We would like to welcome any local veterans to enjoy the company of our residents for an afternoon and take in the peaceful surroundings of our care home."

The D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and western Europe.

St Ives House care home, which is run by not-for-profit charity, Care South, provides specialist residential, respite, and dementia care. The care home features individual rooms for residents which benefit from communal lounges overlooking a landscaped garden and patio area. The care home has a dedicated in-house activities team who organise a daily programme of events to bring residents together to socialise and build friendships.

Care South is the leading provider of high quality residential and home care services across the south of England. Care South 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.

To book a place at the D-Day afternoon event on Thursday 6 June, call St Ives House on 01425 481220.



### Ringwood Town Council

#### Town Mayor opens new allotment site at Crow Arch Lane, Ringwood

The Town Mayor Cllr Gareth DeBoos officially opened the new allotment site at Crow Arch Lane, Ringwood on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the presence of fellow Town Councillors, allotment tenants and others.

Ringwood Town Council took ownership of the new and long-awaited allotments at the end of 2023. Since then, it has been working hard to get those on the waiting list signed up as tenants in good time for this year's growing season. Allotments can be hard work, but there are lots of rewards too; from home-grown produce to health benefits.

This site has been laid out to provide 22 single plots (20m x 6m) and 25 mini plots (5m x 5m) and is set in a semi-rural location south of the housing development at Crow Lane (and Crow Arch Lane). This new site is a welcome addition to the other Council allotment sites at Southampton Road and Upper Kingston.

If you would like to join the allotment waiting list, please complete an application form and submit to Ringwood Town Council. Forms can be found on the website [www.ringwood.gov.uk](http://www.ringwood.gov.uk) and are also available from Ringwood Gateway.



## Ringwood Plein Air Event

Ringwood Art Society is hosting a Plein air event on Saturday 8th June 10am – 2pm.

We invite artists to join us and paint in whatever medium they prefer at a location of their choosing. Sign in with us before 10am in the Market Square in front of the church, enjoy a 4 hour painting session then return to the market square by 2.15 to share your work. The committee will award the prize of a years membership to Ringwood Art society to the artist who's painting we select as best on the day. This event is open to all artists not just Society members, we do hope you can join us. More details can be found on [www.ringwoodartsociety.org](http://www.ringwoodartsociety.org)



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## The Case for Salary Transparency: Insights from a Recruitment Expert

With vacancies taking longer to fill and pay gaps widening, employers face a crucial decision: risk missing out on top talent or narrow their applicant pool by not disclosing salaries. As a recruitment expert, I believe that salary transparency is essential in today's competitive job market.

The stats show that stating your salary is critical to job ad success online and any lack of transparency can have significant implications. 48% of millennial aged jobseekers have a negative perception of companies that don't advertise salaries.

Reasons for hiding salaries include giving businesses more negotiating power to finalise a salary later in the process, considering a candidate's expectations and circumstances. Additionally, it provides a competitive edge, allowing companies to outbid for top talent. However, there are substantial downsides to this approach.

Employers may face resentment and demands for pay increases from existing employees if the advertised salary is not comparable to current wages. Furthermore, candidates might feel bitter upon discovering they were offered a lower salary within the pay scale, undermining trust and satisfaction.

At Aspire Jobs, we've found that candidates overwhelmingly prefer roles with disclosed salaries. Transparency around remuneration builds trust within a workforce, leading to higher retention and a more engaged team. Non-disclosure, on the other hand, can massively reduce the number of applications and raise concerns about the employer's motives.

Employers must carefully consider their recruitment strategies. While there may be perceived benefits to keeping salaries hidden, in today's candidate-driven market, transparency is a powerful tool to attract and retain the best talent. Embracing openness about pay not only aligns with modern values but also sets businesses apart as leaders in fairness and trust.

For more information contact Helen Stacey at Aspire Jobs on 07974 429217 or [talk2us@aspirejobs.co.uk](mailto:talk2us@aspirejobs.co.uk)



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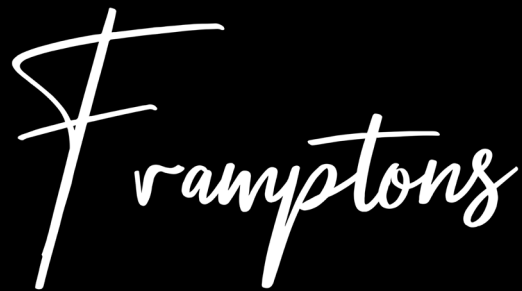
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To apply please email [dan@framptonsbar.co.uk](mailto:dan@framptonsbar.co.uk)



## Community Group Successfully gets the River Avon at Fordingbridge Designated as an Official Bathing Water.

Fordingbridge Avon Bathers (FAB) has been campaigning for the last 14 months to get bathing water designation for the Hampshire Avon at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground to highlight local water quality issues and ensure regulators can hold polluters to account. We are delighted to say we have been successful, and our site was one of 27 new sites announced by DEFRA today.

Now that the site is officially designated, the Environment Agency is responsible for testing the water quality during the bathing season (May to Sept). The site will then receive a classification of Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor at the end of the bathing season as an outcome of the water quality testing. The regulator 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.

Our own testing of E.Coli throughout 2023 bathing water season has shown that the river Avon would fail to meet minimum standards for bathing water, with Fordingbridge, Downton and Salisbury receiving an equivalent of Poor status. The annual classification is based on a statistical analysis of all samples, and generally, during dry summer conditions, levels of E.Coli were low. However, after rainfall or during the winter when combined sewer overflows (CSO) are operating, levels of E.Coli are significantly higher. The river Avon has the highest levels of protection afforded to any river in the country, being both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Unfortunately, despite significant efforts from multiple organisations, the river fails to meet both standards.

Bathing water status isn't just about swimmers; it will help ensure our special river is protected for all who enjoy it, from anglers to children paddling. Rivers are vital ecosystems that people rely on for mental and physical health benefits. A healthy river leads to a healthy community. However, at present, only 14% of the UK's inland waterways are in a good ecological status, partly due to pollution from untreated sewage and agricultural waste.

Supported by Surfers Against Sewage, an environmental charity that has been campaigning to end sewage pollution for over 30 years, FAB is part of a movement of communities UK-wide who are using

bathing water designation as a mechanism to drive up water quality standards.

Who are FAB? - FAB is made up of individuals from Fordingbridge Greener Living (Alison Ayling & Louise Tonkin) and For the Love of Water (FLOW) CIC (Adam Ellis). It has also received significant support from Fordingbridge Town Council, Sir Desmond Swayne MP, the local wild swimmers, and Surfers Against Sewage.

Kirsty Davies, Community Water Quality Officer from Surfers Against Sewage says: "Passionate communities like FAB are leading the way in applying for bathing water status to protect the health of their local waterways, and people's health. We know that inland waterways achieving bathing water designation isn't a silver bullet to improve water quality but it is a vital next step in our plans to lift the lid on polluters, force regulators to act and end sewage pollution for good."

Adam Ellis, Director at For the Love of Water (FLOW) CIC, says, "A healthy river needs lots of clean water and good habitat to thrive, and we are seeing significant pressures with population growth and climate change. Getting a site on the lower Hampshire Avon designated means the Environment Agency can increase their current water quality monitoring in the area. As well as being an important recreational resource, the river Avon is home to threatened species such as the Atlantic Salmon, and I hope that this extra scrutiny will help this struggling population. This is only the first step. We are working with farmers who are testing water on their land and looking at ways we can enhance river habitat. I am grateful for all the support from the community in getting our site designated"

Response from Fordingbridge Town Council

In October 2023 Fordingbridge Town Council formally supported the application for bathing water status on the River Avon at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground. A clear majority agreed that statutory water testing and the management plan required for designation would deliver clear benefits for residents and visitors alike and be a valuable step towards cleaning up our river for its many existing users.

It is hoped that the designation will increase pressure to improve bathing water quality ideally leading to :

- more monitoring of discharges



from sewage works, and reducing or stopping untreated outflows

- More funding and support for Environment Agency and equivalent agencies
- Water companies prioritising investment in improving infrastructure
- Campaigns in which everyone works together – swimmers and other river users, conservationists, authorities etc which could lead to more people getting involved in valuing and caring for their rivers and environment.
- Bathing Water Quality status would help guide swimmers with good relevant information in the summer months on the cleanliness of water in designated spots.





## NEWS

### Local charity launches STARF 20 and STARF Week

STARF (Stronger Together Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge) is a local charity that is focused on supporting families in crisis in Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

Families are identified by the 8 state schools in the area and help is provided through; direct financial support in some cases; a School Citizen’s Advice Hardship Worker (who reviews family circumstances and advises on ways to tackle their finances); and a counselling team for children and young people to heal young minds and reverse damaging behaviours. For more about the work that STARF is doing please see – [www.starf.uk](http://www.starf.uk) and [www.facebook.com/STARFCharity](http://www.facebook.com/STARFCharity).

On Wednesday 15th May at the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community meeting hosted at Moyles Court School, STARF announced its two new initiatives to supplement the existing donations, grants and partner support. The first is STARF WEEK which is from 10th to 17th June – our local schools are planning lots of fundraising activities in this week, and the charity is inviting the business community and individuals to join and do something in that week to raise some funds. Empower Energy, the founding sponsor, has raised £100,000 for STARF but the charity needs more to fund its aims, hence the second initiative is STARF 20 which is the charity’s plan to find 20 businesses prepared to commit to trying to find at least £3,000 per year for STARF through team activities and donations.

At the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community meeting representatives from the local schools (Juliet Wickstead and Barbara Johnson) talked emotionally about the work that the STARF funded School Hardship Worker is doing and how this is making a real difference in people’s lives and the depth of need for counselling for children in local schools. Also, Peter Vandervelde,

newly appointed fund raiser for STARF explained “the work that STARF does is critical and has to be properly delivered by trained professionals. Demand is greater than our capacity at the moment and we want to do more. That means our outgoings are growing and ongoing and we need to have income that is similarly ongoing and reliable; hence our call for businesses (through STARF 20 and STARF Week) and individuals to step forward at this time”.

To have a conversation with Peter about how you can help please email him at [help@starf.uk](mailto:help@starf.uk)



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# Calling all Outdoor Cooking and BBQ Enthusiasts

*You won't want to miss Stewarts Grill Fest!*

Stewarts Garden Centre in Christchurch is getting set to host its inaugural 'Grill Fest', an opportunity to level up your outdoor cooking skills with guidance from the BBQ and pizza oven professionals whilst enjoying some delectable samples from the outdoor cooking brands and many local food and drink companies!

The festival will take place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June, 11-4pm, in the garden centre's back yard event space, and promises to be a fun-packed day of game-changing cooking methods, live music from local bands and musicians, plenty of free samples of sizzling grilled food, delicious drinks, mouth-watering pizzas and feasts cooked on firebowls!

There will be hay bales to lounge on and an atmospheric stretch tent to house the band and bar. The bar will boast a plethora of local drink brands to sample and purchase, including delicious cocktails made by Southbourne based CONKER Distillery, local brews from Hampshire based Pig Beer and Powder Monkey Brewing Co., and Purbeck Cider.

"We are really excited to be launching our Grill Fest and are urging everyone to come along with friends and family to enjoy a superb afternoon out, live music and the many mouth watering options that will be on offer.

"There will be live cooking demonstrations and a chance to 'try before you buy' on some of the current, hottest outdoors brands such as Christchurch based Gozney pizza ovens, and Oni,

Kadai, Weber, Traeger, YETI and more! "If you're wondering which is the perfect pizza oven for you, or looking to move from gas to smoky wood pellet BBQing, Grill Fest is a brilliant opportunity to get involved in the products that you're considering buying and seeing and understanding first-hand how to maximise their potential with an amazing range of cooking accessories. An event not to be missed this summer"

"With something for everyone, including face painting for the kids and an ice cream stall, come along for this fun afternoon out."

**Tickets are Half Price until 22nd June** and are available online at [www.stewarts.co.uk/GrillFest](http://www.stewarts.co.uk/GrillFest) £20 Adult Tickets. £5 Kids Tickets (under 18s). Ticket sales are limited.



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[www.stewarts.co.uk/GrillFest](http://www.stewarts.co.uk/GrillFest) *See you there!*

\*Maximum £40 off. Valid on outdoor cooking product & YETI purchases only. Valid on purchases at the event only, excludes food, drink, and Garden Centre sales.

## BEREAVEMENTS & SMALL ADS

### BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

KNEEN

Brendan Joseph

Much beloved Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather, peacefully passed away on 7th May 2024. Funeral Service to be held at The Sacred Heart RC Church, Ringwood on Friday 14th June at 10.00am followed by burial at Ringwood Cemetery. Family flowers only thank you, but donations if desired for CAFOD or a charity of your choice may be made online at [www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk) or cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper Funeral Service, 29a Southampton Road Ringwood Hampshire BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

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# PROPERTY - MORTGAGE - GARDEN - HOME

## Local sales

### in the New Forest



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New Forest   Sales and prices			Local summary	
<b>Number of sales</b> last 12 months	Houses	698	Flats	223
	<b>Average price achieved</b> last 12 months	£520,327	£210,488	Over the last 12 months the average sales price in New Forest was £420,501, which compares to £308,732 across the South West Region.  The highest value recorded by the Land Registry over the past 12 months was £775,000 for a flat and £2,950,000 for a house.
<b>Average price change</b> per square foot	1 year	-2%	-9.7%	
	5 years	21.7%	-0.7%	
	10 years	62.7%	30.8%	
<b>National market</b>				
<b>House prices</b> The average price for a property in February was £280,660, down -0.2% year-on-year but up 0.4% on the previous month (ONS).				
<b>Transactions</b> The HMRC report that 84,200 sales took place in March, the highest level since September 2023, but down -6.5% on last year's levels.				
<b>% residents who own their home</b>  77.2%	<b>Population</b>  80,763	<b>Average price per square foot</b>  £408 Last 12 months	<b>Average house price change</b>  1 year -1.4% South West	

Source: Dataloft, Land Registry, Census 2021, DLUHC

#### Ringwood & New Forest

- BrightWater, 2 High Street, Ringwood, BH24 1AF
- 01425 478719
- darren@brightwaterproperties.co.uk
- www.brightwaterproperties.co.uk



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MAY 2024

If you have found this informative and would like a more report for your area please let me know and I will email you a copy.

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## PROPERTY - MORTGAGE - GARDEN - HOME

### Recycling Tips

#### CLEAR RECYCLING SACKS, BLACK RUBBISH SACKS, GLASS & GARDEN COLLECTIONS

There are only six types of material that you can put in your **CLEAR RECYCLING SACK**, which are listed below with examples.

**Plastic bottles** including milk, drinks, toiletries and cleaning product bottles (including lids when attached to the bottle)

**Tins** including food, pet food, biscuits, sweets, tea and coffee tins  
Cans including fizzy drinks, beers and lager cans

**Aerosols** including deodorants, furniture polish, shaving foam, hairspray and air freshener

**Paper** including newspapers, magazines, directories, catalogues, junk mail, envelopes and stationery

**Cardboard** including cereal, tea, egg boxes, toilet rolls and cardboard packaging.

If you have items that are not on the above list, put them in your **BLACK RUBBISH SACK** to be collected as household rubbish.

**Do not use black rubbish sacks to dispose of:**

garden waste, electrical items, batteries, hazardous waste (such as asbestos), bulky household items, knives, tins of paint (unless completely empty).

You can recycle garden waste through our or you can take it to the tip. Batteries can be recycled at many retail outlets.

The other items listed above can also be taken to the tip.

You can recycle all of your glass bottles and jars in your

**BLACK GLASS COLLECTION BOX**, or your communal glass bin if you live in flats or communal buildings. Both of these are emptied every four weeks.

**What we collect;** all glass bottles and jars of all colours and sizes, coffee jars, jam jars, wine, spirit and beer bottles, sauce jars.

**What we do not collect;** drinking glasses, window pane glass, glass kitchenware, crockery, broken glass, light bulbs.

If the box contains incorrect items it won't be collected. The collection crew will leave a card explaining what needs to be removed.

Any glass that we cannot collect can be taken to the tip.

**GARDEN WASTE** we collect;

grass cuttings, hedge cuttings, weeds and flowers, small branches up to 75mm diameter, leaves and twigs, prunings, Christmas trees (chopped up).

**We cannot collect:**

food waste/fruit and vegetable peelings, invasive weeds, such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, soil/rubble/concrete/stones animal waste and bedding, plastic bags/pots/trays, branches over 75mm diameter, logs or tree stumps.

We take your garden waste to a composting site in Hampshire. The garden waste is composted using a process known as open windrow composting. The composting results in Pro-Grow, a high-quality soil conditioner that is available to buy at every tip, also known as Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

For further advice visit <https://newforest.gov.uk/rubbish>

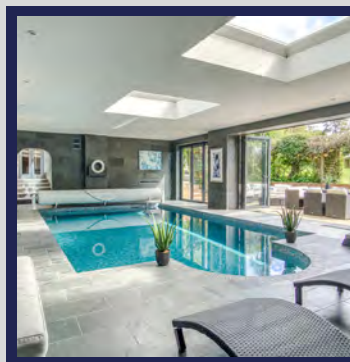
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