









Issue 899 ● January 22nd to February 18th ● 2025

Established 1990

LOCAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE OFSTED VISITS







Burley Primary, Poulner Infant & Nursery and Burgate Schools have all had successfaul Ofsted visits. This is fantastic news for the local residents knowing our future geberation are in good hands. Please see inside for full stories.

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New Year, New Me: **Tax Return Edition**

With the 31 January 2025 tax return Here's our advice: deadline fast approaching, many people are feeling the pressure. If you're still scrambling to file your 2023/24 return, you're not alone – but now's the time to ask yourself: how can next year be different?

Rushing to file in January often means your processes might need a Whether it's paperwork, unclear records, or simply leaving it too late, making small changes in 2025 can make your 2026 return a breeze.

- 1.**Stay organised all year** track your income, expenses, allowances month by month.
- 2. Use helpful tools even simple accounting apps can make managing your finances easier.
- 3. Get advice early the earlier you seek support, the smoother things will be.

If you've found this year stressful, now's the perfect time to put a better plan in place. By working with us in 2025, we can help you build

efficient processes that save you time, money, and the January panic.

We're here to make sure your next tax season is stress-free straightforward - so you can start 2026 with a clear head and a fresh

Get in touch today, and let's make a plan together!

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EDITOR

New Year New Challenges

The New Year has begun with a bang! And we are ready for it!

Recently there were some comments raised on social media about the paper and our dedication to it as a family. It is very difficult not to take comments personally, espcially when so much time and effort is put in to doing what we do. We were, however, so pleased and grateful for the outpouring of support that was received from many of you. This paper is about the community, for the community and it was amazing to hear how you still enjoy it.

For some time now there have been concerns over the financial viability of the paper. As with most other sectors, the costs of producing the paper have increased. This is a community paper, paid for by the advertising that is sold. Without the support of local businesses, the paper is not able to run.

Having run at a loss for a while, we have had to review the situation and consider changes to make sure the paper is able to continue. We've made the decision to trial producing the paper to once a month, with it being published on the third Wednesday of every month. We will review the situa-

tion in June so if you have any comments, suggestions or concerns please call or email us to discuss.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Darren & Naomi





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The next issue will be published on Wednesday 27th November

Editorial copy deadline Wednesday 20th November

Printed by Blackmore LTD, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

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Burley Primary School awarded Outstanding

Burley Primary School is proud to announce the achievement of staff and pupils following a successful Ofsted visit. We have been rated 'Good' across the school and 'Outstanding' in our early years provision. This rating reflects the hard work and determination of the staff, children, and parents of Burley Primary School.

Headteacher Nanette Allies is immensely proud that the team's dedication to fostering a playful, child-centred learning environment while successfully navigating the demands of the current curriculum has been acknowledged. She eagerly anticipates continuing this exciting journey.

Over the last couple of years, the school has been striving to do things differently. The vision has been clear: to provide a warm, safe, and welcoming environment where children of all abilities can excel and thrive.

We are delighted that Ofsted has declared the school's curriculum broad and ambitious. It has been designed to challenge and inspire our children so that they work with focus and confidently engage in class discussions. The skilled teachers who deliver this curriculum provide our children with a wide range of learning opportunities

Nurture is key to Burley Primary School's values focusing on every child's needs and the pastoral support offered is highly effective.

The school is dedicated to supporting all pupils in achieving the best they can in a secure and happy environment. Aspirational



learning begins in early years and continues throughout every year group, ensuring that our year 6's experience a successful transition to secondary school and beyond. Teachers with strong subject knowledge implement classes, and every child is given the opportunity to shine. A love of literature is nurtured throughout the school to create a culture of reading that helps to support children's learning.

The early year's provision has been awarded outstanding, with the inspector declaring it exceptional. Burley's 'highly skilled staff sharply focus on developing children's vocabulary and communication skills.'

Every child brings something unique to Burley, and they are the heart of our school. Ofsted described pupils as happy and proud to be members of our friendly school, appreciating the close community where everyone knows each other. During the visit, pupils were found to respond positively, behaving with consideration and courtesy around school, and we could not be prouder of them.

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Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions grateful for public support at Christmas

Santa and his busy group of elves and cuddly Lion were outside the Meeting House in Ringwood on Saturday 21 December.

Thanks to the help of members of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club to help create some smiles on young faces and to help raise funds for local charities, Love from Lucy (a Ringwood based charity for young adults who suffer from a rare cancer following a transplant) and Naomi House & Jacksplace hospices for children and young adults. Santa was also able to visit local pubs that same weekend. Thanks to the amazing support of the good people of Ringwood they were able to raise £554.97. This sum will be distributed to the charities during January.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions would like to thank all of those who supported their collections including Ringwood Town Council, The Meeting House Trustees, Peter and Bridget Willcox, The Elm Tree, The Inn on the Furlong, The Fish Inn, The Original White Hart and The Alice Lisle Public Houses and the wonderful local community.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions will be back at the Meeting House on 1st February 2025 (but this time inside where it is warmer) as part of an Open Morning for anyone wanting to find out more about the activities of the club, the wider activities of Lions International who have approximately 1.4 million members worldwide, and how anyone locally can help with volunteering in

our wonderful local community. All are welcome.

You can contact the club via their website at www.randflions.org.uk or by phone on 0345 833 5819.









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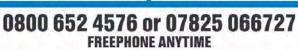












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Understanding Investments: Pension Options at and during Retirement

Retirement can be both exciting and scary and is certainly a huge decision. Understanding the effect of inflation on your future expenditure throughout retirement (at an average 3% inflation your expenditure will double over 24 years) along with other significant capital requirements needs more than a "finger in the air" analysis. At Lonsdale Wealth Management, we utilize cash-flow planning tools to help clients understand whether retirement is affordable and just as importantly, sustainable. Once affordability has been identified, decisions on the most effective way to generate retirement income can be made. There are more choices than you might think!

Retirement Income is divided into secure income and flexible income. Secure income would include Defined Benefit Pension Schemes, the State Pension and Pension Annuities. Flexible income includes Pension Drawdown and income from capital and investments, with rental income classed between the two, as it is secure but can be subject to void periods.

You can currently access your defined contribution pension savings any time after age 55 although the minimum age is increasing to 57 in 2028 and will remain 10 years below state pension age thereafter. You have five broad choices and for each option, 25% of your pension savings can be paid tax-free:

1. Secure Income-Annuity

Exchange your pension savings for an annuity provided by an insurance company which is then guaranteed for the rest of your life (with options including a dependent's annuity). Annuity income is subject to income tax. Annuity rates are linked to life expectancy and interest rates so are now much more attractive than they were for the 14 years of ultra-low interest rates post 2008.

2. Secure Income-Temporary Annuity

Little known but can be very attractive for those who want to retire early. Can provide a higher guaranteed income for a specific

number of years (perhaps until other pensions such as the State Pension commence) to allow the balance of pension funds to remain invested. Annuity income is subject to income tax.

Flexi-Access Drawdown

Take the income you need when you need it. The money remains invested, and you draw a variable level of income for as long as your money lasts. Withdrawals are subject to income tax.

4. Cash Payment

Have all your savings paid as a cash lump sum, with 75% of the fund subject to income tax.

5. Leave it for now

There is no requirement to draw your savings from your pension and the fund can be passed down to a nominated beneficiary (and through different generations). Currently this is often exempt from Inheritance Tax but that is changing in April 2027 following the recent budget announcement. The 25% tax free lump sum is lost if not taken during lifetime, but your funds can be paid tax-free on death before 75 (taxable on death after 75).

As you can see, there are significant choices available and pension savings are another tax advantageous wrapper to consider along-side other tax efficient products including ISAs. Stewart, Harry and I are available for a free initial, no obligation chat to discuss and consider your personal situation, aiming to help achieve the most tax-efficient and sustainable outcome.

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Get fired up for a Fire Walk - we dare you!

Ringwood Rotary CIO are challenging the local community to walk on fire for charity?

On Saturday 22 March 2025 at the Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Football Club they are daring anyone over the age of 12 to take on the epic feat of walking barefoot over red-hot embers in a thrilling Fire Walk! There's also an option for adults and younger children to show their bravery too by conquering a colourful LEGO® Walk. These exciting challenges, run by UK Fire Walk, empower participants to discover and channel their inner strength and conquer their fears.

What to expect: -

Training Session: An inspiring safety and motivational training session led by a professional fire walking instructor to prepare participants mentally and physically.







The Fire Walk: Experience the exhilarating moment of walking across a bed of hot coals. It's not just a walk; it's a powerful statement of bravery and commitment to help others.

Celebration: After completing the walk, join a celebratory gathering with music, refreshments, and a chance to connect with other daring participants.

Fundraising: Two charities will equally benefit from this event – **PLANETS Cancer Charity and Motor Neurone Disease Association**

For more information on this event and to register follow this link https://bit.ly/3Zqc0zW







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Separating parents urged to avoid courtroom conflict as Family Mediation Week kicks off

Parents who have decided to separate or divorce in 2025 are being urged to find out how to avoid courtroom confrontation to settle money and parenting arrangements, with the launch of Family Mediation Week, 27 – 31 January.

January usually sees a rise in the number of parents deciding to live apart as the various pressures that go hand-in-hand with the Christmas period act as a final straw for relationships.

Naomi Loose, Solicitor and Mediator from Loose Legal, says Family Mediation Week is designed to raise awareness of the benefits of family mediation, a process that can help ex-partners agree what works for them, whilst avoiding the court process with all the stress, delay and cost it can bring.

She says: "Many parents emerge from the festive period feeling defeated by the pressures on relationships and finances that have been highlighted during the holiday period.

"We find parents in this position simply don't know which way to turn. Their life-changing decision to separate brings with it so many tough questions:

- · Who lives where?
- · Where will the children live, and how will we make sure we each spend time with them?
- · How will we sort money?
- · What about debts and pensions?
- · And even the family dog?

"Family Mediation Week shines a helpful spotlight on these tricky issues, offering separating parents information about their options as they look to make arrangements for parenting, property and finance

"Family mediation is a process where an independent, professionally-trained mediator helps you work these things out, enabling you to avoid courtroom confrontation. Professional mediators help empower you to create long-term solutions for your particular circumstances, rather than leaving it to a court to make decisions for your family."

Anyone wanting to know more about the benefits of family mediation can visit www.looselegal.co.uk or call 01425 536046 to find out more.







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Ringwood Parish Church

The local bell ringers are giving a presentation on Sunday 2nd February at 1230 after the morning service. It is to inform the parish of the work which is to be carried out on the refurbishment of the bells and the augmentation from 8 to 10 bells. Will last for about 45 minutes. All are welcome.









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SPORT

Ringwood Judo Club

During the 60's Ringwood Judo Club was the brainchild of P.C. Ramsier the local bobby and Mrs Holman the doctor's wife they approached Jim Loney - the only black belt within a 40-mile radius who had a club in his back garden at Christchurch, he said "judo clubs and instructors in the provinces were very few".

Jim could not help as he already had commitments but suggested a member of his club Dave Phillips that lived in Ringwood may be able to and to ask him, if he would accept, I will be happy to advise him. The club was given an upstairs room at Greyfriars with a second-hand mattress! the juniors tried it but it was found to be inadequate as the ceilings were too low. Harry Sharpe (who at that time was the principal of Further education at Ringwood Secondary School) gave the opportunity to start a club at the school with juniors, enquires then came from Ferndown, West Moors, Verwood and Burley.

The juniors soon realised that judo wasn't some magical skill you were taught but came with hard work, concentration started to wain, so it was decided to make if for Male and Female, it then took off with some very keen and dedicated members with Jim Loney's support and backing the Judo Club met for two sessions a week of two hours and so the club was now established. At the time Dave was establishing a dental lab so it became more difficult to commit to the club regularly, fortunately they had a new member Keith Adams who had joined the club after moving to Ringwood. Keith was experienced and Dave was able to hand over to him, he then started a junior class that took the club forward to make it what it is today. Dave didn't look to progress beyond first dan owing to work and

Ellingham & Ringwood Women's Rugby Team Announces
New Kit Sponsor

Vissensa, a leading provider of IT solutions and services, is proud to announce its new sponsorship of the Ellingham & Ringwood RFC Women's Rugby Team. This partnership highlights
Vissensa's commitment to supporting local communities, promoting women's

sport, and fostering teamwork, resilience, and growth.

The sponsorship includes full kit support for the Women's Team, covering matchday shirts, shorts, training gear, and team bags. This comprehensive support ensures the players are equipped for success, both on and off the pitch, as they continue their rugby journey.

With the Rugby World Cup fast approaching in 2025 and set to take place in England, the spotlight on women's rugby has never



family commitments, he will always be remembered as one of Matsumachi JC's finest judoka.

Following an article on social media celebrating Dave's 90th birthday The British Judo Association came forward to offer Dave promotion to third dan due to Dave's commitment to both teaching and competing.



been brighter. Vissensa sees this as a prime opportunity to contribute to the sport's growth and empower more women and girls to participate.

Ellingham & Ringwood RFC has long been a cornerstone of the local community, promoting inclusivity and excellence at every level of play. The Women's Team represents the power of sport to unite people, build confidence, and enhance physical and mental wellbeing - values that align perfectly with those of Vissensa. By providing the team with practical tools like a new kit, Vissensa aims to inspire pride, togetherness, and determination as the players represent their club and community. Vissensa encourages the local community to come out and support the Ellingham & Ringwood RFC Women's Team at their matches. Local backing is critical for growing the sport and celebrating the hard work and achievements of athletes who dedicate themselves to the game.



Burgate School celebrates comprehensively positive Ofsted report

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we are thrilled to share the outcome and report which recognises our considerable efforts to ensure we provide students with a fantastic education within a happy and dynamic environment.

Burgate School and Sixth Form, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. 7 January 2025.

The Burgate was inspected by Ofsted on 26 and 27 November 2024 to determine whether effective action had been taken to maintain standards identified at the last outstanding/good inspection in May 2019. The new report published on 20 December 2024 highlights not only how these standards have advanced but also how The Burgate's dedication to excellence and continuous improvement benefit its students and the wider community. This report comes after the publication of the school's excellent GCSE examination data which is well above the national average with 85% of students passing both Maths and English.

Headteacher, David Pover shares his thoughts:

"I am particularly pleased that the report begins by stating that, "Pupils thrive at this welcoming and happy school." and "The school's relational and inclusive approaches are at the heart of all it does." Our positive and engaging school culture is something we have worked particularly hard at over the past few years and the commitment of our staff to it has led to The Burgate's wide recognition for its innovative approach to modern education. In my meetings with the inspectors, they praised teachers' high expectations and our broad, ambitious and inter-connected curriculum, which goes far beyond the focus of 'passing examinations'. It was gratifying to learn that 'Parents value the balance struck between striving for high academic standards and the personal development of each pupil.'

The inspectors remarked on the 'calm and lovely atmosphere' of our classrooms, where learning is the priority for our focussed students whose behaviour is 'exemplary' (frequently repeated by the inspectors). As you would undoubtedly expect, the students made us feel most proud of them – their kindness, courtesy and positivity really shone through, whether it was with a warm smile or holding a door open for the inspectors. Also, that our students willingly shared their achievements and aspirations with the inspectors was especially impressive.

Our trustees 'know the school very well' and provide strong support for our staff who work closely together with a collegiate team spirit that is a real strength of The Burgate. The inspectors were really impressed by our rich and varied extra-curricular programme which develops character and nurtures pupils' talents and interests. They noted that, 'Staff ensure that the activities are open to all.' and that, 'Pupils value these and participate widely in them.' Another area of excellence is our sixth form, where students are committed to being successful and demonstrate an independence more akin to a higher education ethos rather than a sixth form. Moreover, the influence of our sixth form students as positive and supportive role models for the rest of the school is significant. Above all, it is the strong sense of belonging that our school has, with everyone proud to be involved: staff, students, parents, and trustees given the recognition that they richly deserve. Looking back over reports since the early 1990s, I believe this to be the best Ofsted report that the school has ever received.



The support for the school from parents and what we are striving to achieve together is invaluable: inspectors said that parental feedback was especially appreciative, with very high satisfaction rates based on strong collaboration between school and home. For me the most gratifying aspect is that an extremely high proportion of parents would wholeheartedly recommend The Burgate."

We encourage parents and students considering either Year 7 or Year 12 school places for this September to contact us to discuss the possibilities of becoming part of Team Burgate.

HOPe - Celebrating our success

One of the services offered at HOPe is our FREE support service. Over the last 12 months HOPe has taken on over 220 new



clients, offering home visits. These clients are better off by more than £180,000 from benefits received or savings made thanks to our help. Without HOPe, there would be nobody else to do what we do! Demand continues to grow & we are regularly looking for volunteers and seeking donations. For more details of the support offered or to get involved visit hopenewforest.org/support or call Shirley on 07842 204 829.



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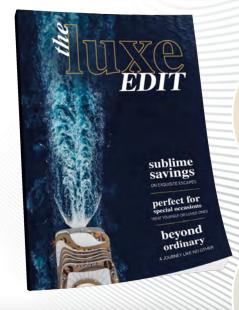


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WHATS ON





WOMEN TOGETHER in RINGWOOD PRESENTS: Breakfast, an Empowering Talk, Worship & a Time to Build Community with Kemi Koleoso.

Date: Saturday, 8th February 2025

Location: Poulner Baptist Chapel, Linford Road, BH24 3HZ Time: Breakfast starts at 9:00 AM; event concludes around 1:00 PM

Tickets: £10

Women Together in Ringwood (WTiR), a community of passionate women from local churches, warmly invite all women - of faith or no faith - to join an empowering morning filled with inspiration, fellowship, and personal growth. The event will feature a captivating talk by **Kemi Koleoso**, an international speaker and Head of Women & Children's Ministry at Jubilee Church, London.



Kemi will share her wisdom in a session title **REAL HOPE** from her extensive background in pastoral care, and her passion for women's ministry. Don't miss this opportunity to be **encouraged**, empowered, and equipped for the journey ahead with REAL HOPE.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Tickets cost £10 and can be booked by phoning 01425 473388 or scanning the QR

HAMPSHIRE MOVIOLA GREYFRIARS COMMUNITY CENTRE "REVENGE HAS **NEVER BEEN** SWEETER" -THELMA-A FEISTY 93-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER GETS CONNED BY A PHONE SCAMMER PRETENDING TO BE HER GRANDSON (FRED HECHINGER). SHE SETS OUT ON A TREACHEROUS QUEST ACROSS LOS ANGELES, ACCOMPANIED BY AN AGING FRIEND (RICHARD ROUNDTREE) ON HIS MOTORIZED SCOOTER, TO RECLAIM WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM HER SATURDAY 25 JANUARY



tickets available at greyfriars

and ticketsource

The Board of Trustees of New Forest Disability request the pleasure of your company to our **OPEN DAY**

to celebrate our lottery ILTA (Independent Living Through Advice) grant, awarded through the Access to Justice Fund to run this very worthy

<u>Date:</u> Thursday 6th February 2025 from 10am to 3pm.

<u>Venue:</u> New Forest Disability, 6 Osborne Road, New Milton, BH25 6AD

Followed by light refreshments

RSVP <u>elizabeth@newforestdis.org.uk</u> or 01425 628750



WHATS ON



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15 ELOVE THE 80s
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27 # A KNOCKOUT EVENING WITH RICKY HATTON MEET AND GREET TICKETS AVAILABLE! FROM £40

28 # JETHRO - 'WHAT HAPPENED WAS...'

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15 HOMETOWN GLORY CANDLELIT CONCERT

22 WOCALIZE LIVE!

29 THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE COASTAL COMEDY SHOW WITH GARY DELANEY!

26 STARRING THE INCREDIBLE ROB KINGSLEY

P ED SHEERAN EXPERIENCE
WITH JACK SHEPHERD

AN EVENING WITH JIMMY TARBUCK

TARBY LIVE ON STAGE!

AN EVENING WITH MARTIN FRY
A LEXICON OF LOVE
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HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

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Please email your article to editor@rfnews.uk



We are thrilled to announce the Greyfriars Hall name change in memory of our beloved president Gillian Habbin, which will in future be known as the Gillian Habbin Hall.

What's on at Greyfriars!

25 January – Greyfriars Study Day – The Romantics Ian Lowes explores the marriage of voice and orchestra through the works of Berlioz, Strauss, Mahler Elgar, Sibelius and Korngold. 100.00-345pm, £30 inc coffee & lunch. Tickets available at Greyfriars and Ticketsource.

Every Thursday - Little Kickers

The world's biggest pre-school football academy providing classes for children from as young as 18 months. Offering children a positive introduction to the sport through our fun and interactive classes. 9.30-10.30. Contact Claire Osmond for details 07300 011360.

Every Monday - New Forest Disability

Drop-in sessions between 1030-1230. and pre-booked appointments between 12.45-4.30pm. Free impartial disability-related information, advice and support. Contact Greyfriars for further information.

8 February - Craft De-Stash (and re-stash)

Come and restock your wool, fabric, ribbon and more. 10-1230 in Anne Rose Hall, Greyfriars.



A feisty Grandma who was conned!
Saturday 25 January 2025 – 2.00 for 2.30 start £6.00

New Forest Disability

will be at Greyfriars Activity Centre every Monday morning 10.30-12.30pm for drop-in sessions and the Greyfriars Community Centre every Monday from 12.45pm to 4.30pm for pre booked appointments. We give free impartial disability related information, advice and support throughout the New Forest and surrounding areas. Our skilled advisors can help with completing your Attendance Allowance, Personal Independent Payment and Chid Disability Living Allowance forms etc. We can also help with Carers Support, Independent Living Support, Mobility and accessibility Equipment. Please phone 01425 628750 for more information.

Ringwood Christmas Window Decoration Winners Announced

The votes have been counted, verified, and the results are in! The annual Christmas Window Decoration competition, part of the popular Ringwood Winter Wanderland programme, saw over 800 votes cast this year.

Ringwood Fabrics has been crowned the overall winner, edging out 34 local businesses, shops, and community organisations taking part. The winners were presented with the prestigious trophy by Town Mayor, Cllr Rae Frederick.

Queen Nails claimed second place, while Little Monkeys Children's Day Nursery at The Old Cottage came in third. BrightWater Independent Estate Agents and Champions Barbers rounded out the top five.

Angela Cork, owner of Ringwood Fabrics, was thrilled to accept the honour, especially with the shop celebrating 50 years of trading in the heart of Ringwood High Street in 2025. Angela shared the story behind their winning display: "We wanted to ensure our display involved our customers and benefited the community. We put out a call for people to knit or crochet bobble hats in shades of green with a colourful bobble on top to create a bobble hat Christmas tree. We expected around 25 hats, but we received 186, making it a truly magical and festive display!"

The hats are now being distributed to local charities, including Ringwood Foodbank, to support those in need. Any funds raised from the sale of these hats will be donated to STARF (Stronger Together Across Ringwood & Fordingbridge), which helps local families.

Cllr Rae Frederick praised the competition and Ringwood Fabrics' efforts, saying, "Once again, Ringwood Winter Wanderland has been a huge success in supporting our wonderful local shops, businesses, and community organisations. Congratulations to Ringwood Fabrics for showcasing the incredible community spirit that defines Ringwood. I want to thank everyone who participated for their time, creativity, and hard work in making this year's event a truly festive experience."

In addition to the window competition, Ringwood Town Council also ran the Reindeer Ramble Trail, where local families helped Santa find his hidden reindeer in shop windows around town. Over 70 completed activity sheets were returned, with random winners receiving vouchers donated by local businesses, including Fred. Olsen Travel Agents, Prices Fish & Chips, Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre, and Lunn's Art Shop.

Copyright photos Trevor Pogson











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Spot Santa Competition WINNER

We were overwhelmed with the amount of entries we received, but sadly we can have only one winner. Picked at random the winner was:

Gerri Shutler

Congratulations - we will be in touch as we have a prize kindly

sponsored by BrightWater Estate Agency.

Avon Valley Churches present "The Greatest Gift"

Avon Valley Churches have taken the Christmas story out into the community by putting on special performances at Fordingbridge Town Hall last weekend. The play entitled "The Greatest Gift" was part of the church's outreach programme, encouraging people to see the nativity and the epiphany in a new way.

The story was told with the use of film, drama, songs and carols, with elaborate costumes and was free to all the community. An abridged version of the play is also being taken into two local church schools later this month.

It was written by Jeremy Houghton Brown who attends Hyde Church. He said "I felt the church needed to come out to the people. We do carols on the common, which is popular. We have a big tea tent and service at Frogham Fair. So, we try to think outside the box and push the boundaries out and that's what we've been doing. We hope that the performance will intrigue people and put the Christmas story into a better context. We're just people with a good tale to tell that actually can really affect their lives."

The play began with creation, then touching on Abraham and Isaac, followed by the appearance of the Angel to Mary and

Joseph and their trip to Bethlehem, the visit by the shepherds and the wise men. It finished with the threat from King Herod and the family's escape to Egypt as refugees. Jeremy Houghton-Brown has written several previous plays for the local community including "The Easter Story" and "Astonishing Acts".

Work on the production started in the Summer with a cast made



up of more than a dozen members from different churches across the Fordingbridge area. A collection was taken at the end of the performance for the charity Avon Valley Community Matters, which supports local people in need. Leaflets were also available with more information about the Christmas message and the forthcoming Alpha course

Reverend Luke Wickings, Rector of the Avon Valley Group of Churches said "I think it's part of our job as the church to communicate the good news of Jesus to our community and, of course, to celebrate it. By putting a play on like this, I think it's something that anybody can come to and can understand what the message is, what the story is, and relate to it. I think everybody who's seen the show has been impressed by it, has enjoyed it, and has found it something that strengthens and encourages their faith."











HISTORY & NEWS

Winning the Battle, but.. The War?



Plans to add another floor to a building in Ringwood's Market Place have been refused after hard lobbying by The Ringwood Society and Ringwood Town Council, but The Society is bemused by the lack of a refusal on the grounds of bulk, scale, mass and design.

New House in the Market Place dates back to c.1961, as pictured above under construction. Plans to add a further floor to the building, labelled "the most existential threat to the conservation

area, ever" by The Society, were lodged in 2023 and reached New Forest District Council planning committee last Wednesday. The application was recommended for refusal but only on grounds of lack of a flood risk assessment and signature of a legal agreement.

No mention was made of the significant increase in height, poor quality design or the overpowering nature of the scheme, which would have irredeemably changed the character of the Ringwood's historic town centre. Despite a proposal from a planning committee member to include these points as reasons for refusal, this did not come to pass.

"Whilst the refusal is good news, where that leaves an alternative proposal in the future is very unclear. We could yet see an extra floor on this building, something we will strongly resist, but I guess for now we wait and see" said a Society spokesperson.

The Society always welcomes new members to support their work, with projects. 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 website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



The Ringwood Society

News From Bickerley Green

Ringwood's Bickerley Green holds an inhouse monthly coffee and chat club. Recently, we had the honour and privilege of welcoming Cllr. Rae Frederick, Ringwood's superb Mayor, to come and talk to us about what it is to be the town's mayor and to tell us about the history and structure of Ringwood's local government. Thank you Cllr. Frederick for giving up your time and for all the support you and Town Council give to Bickerley Green's residents.

One Resident, Derek, said how he found it fascinating to learn all about how the town council linked up with so many other organisations within Ringwood." Julie, another resident from Lymington, suggested that Rae might want to form an annual mayoral get together with the other town mayors from within the New Forest District.

A very informative and enjoyable time was had by everyone, and we hope Cllr Frederick will be returning to see us soon. Pictured with the Mayor is Bickerley Green resident Norman, who turns 99 this year. The quest is now on to see if there is another Ringwoodian who can beat Norman's record of being born and continuously living in Ringwood for all of their life! (Norman's only break from living at Hightown Hill was to serve for 'King and Country' in the Royal Navy during the later stages of WWII.) Do let the R&F Newspaper know if anyone else has such a claim to fame!

Thank you so much Rae, for your visit and for all your valued support. It was interesting to note that you attend the Repair Cafe, an excellent project. Norman, has a watch he'd dearly like to have repaired, if at all possible. It was the watch his parents paid for upon his 21st Birthday. All was well with the watch until he came to live at Bickerley Green and he left it in a pocket and

sadly, the watch was damaged while having a nice wash in one of our washing machines. A nice note was that Norman was going to purchase his watch from Hext the Jeweller, but some friend had a nice little sideline in selling 'hot' watches from his coat!!! Shades of Dellboy come to mind. We wondered if Darren and Naomi and all at Brightwater, now using Mr. Hext's old shop, might fund any replacement parts etc.? This would be a fabulous news feature, and it would be lovely if Norman could have the watch working by his birthday - 24th June - Let me know your thoughts.

Also, we would be happy to host the French quests when they visit Ringwood this May. Would this be something that the guests might enjoy? We can have a selection of BG residents having a nice slice of cake and a cup of tea, hopefully in the garden, if the weather is kind.

Thank you so much for your support - keep flying the flag for TEAM BG! Phil and all The BG Family





HISTORY & NEWS

Volunteers help residents to save energy

For New Forest residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm this winter, or who are keen to cut their energy bills, a new project is now able to help.

Last summer, the New Forest HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team) Project was launched by New Forest Transition CIC, in partnership with Community Energy South, with the aid of funds from the New Forest District Council and the government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

After training a team of over 50 volunteers during the autumn, the New Forest HEAT Project is now offering home energy advice visits and thermal imaging surveys free of charge to anyone living within the NFDC boundary.

Cathy Cook, of the New Forest HEAT Project, said, "We have a really great team of volunteers spread right across the Forest. They are now trained up and this winter they are keen to help as many local people as possible with staying warm and saving energy. They have already started doing thermal imaging surveys of people's homes as this cold weather is perfect for spotting where the heat is leaking out - it is really obvious on the camera screen."

If you're interested to find out more or to book a home visit and

thermal imaging survey, please go to the New Forest HEAT Project website at www.theheatproject. org.uk and fill out the form on the Energy Surveys page - or call 02380 283491.



Home Energy Advice Team









Home Energy Advice Team

Save Energy & Money

FREE HOME VISITS & THERMAL IMAGING SURVEYS

Do you live within the New Forest District Council area? With current grant funding, we can offer you free home thermal imaging surveys and provide you with energy advice!

Contact us via our website www.theheatproject.org.uk or Call 02380 283491







CAN YOU HELP US?

The Ringwood Mens Shed have been using the 'old Scout hut' in Strides Lane as their workshop since forming the charity in 2020, but unfortunately we now have to find somewhere new as the building and land is being redeveloped, we are grateful to our landlord for his provision and generosity.

Since our formation the shed has provided a meeting place for over 60 men & women who have had time on their hands, it's been somewhere that they were able to be creative, build stuff, learn new skills, repair things and best of all 'socialise' which many have found to be fundamental to their own wellbeing, and with today's focus on mental health it has become more important than ever.

"It has been really comforting to know that while I'm so far away, Dad has somewhere like this to go to every week, he really looks forward to being part of the Ringwood Mens shed, he especially liked supporting the community events." - This was a message we received from the son of one of our former members, who has sadly now gone onto that 'big shed' in the sky.

At our heart being community focused we've completed many projects mainly using recycled materials for organisations such as the Ringwood Council, the Carnival Committee, Local Care Homes, Primary/ Junior & Senior Schools, Pre-School Nurseries, the Community Centre, the Library, Community Farm, Community Allotment, RACE, Greening Ringwood along with many individuals.

We don't want to see the end of our 'shed' group, which would be upsetting for so many, and a real hammer blow to all the things we have achieved, so if you know of anywhere or anyone who can assist us in our desire to find another home, then please do get in contact, all options will be welcomed and considered.

Please contact Gordon Maxwell on -

Tel: 07999 789125 or Email: mensshedringwood@gmail.com





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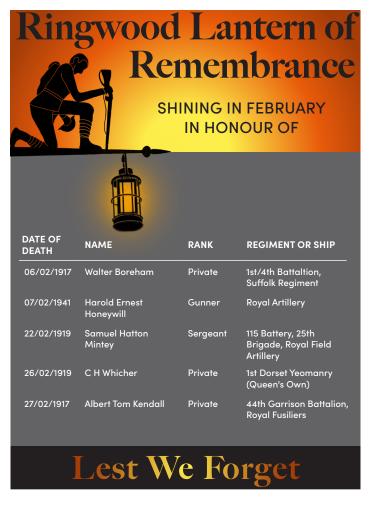
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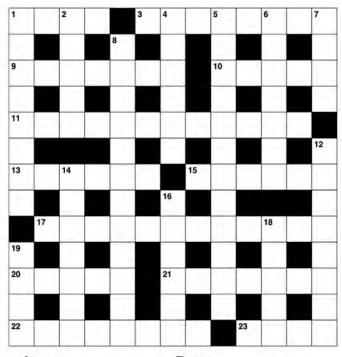


Puzzle Corner

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Crossword



Sudoku

	6	3					5	
7			2		8			3
			1			9		3 5
		5	9	8	3	2		
4		1			2			
4 8			5		4			6
	2					8	1	

Across

- 1 Large bag (4)
- 3 Access code (8)
- 9 Doing as one is told (7)
- 10 Quoted (5)
- 11 Pertaining to letters (12)
- 13 Excessive self-confidence (6)
- 15 Lure (6)
- 17 Unfriendly (12)
- 20 Capital of Vietnam (5)
- 21 Living in water (7)
- 22 Tidiness (8)
- 23 Merriment (4)

Down

- 1 Puts up with (8)
- 2 Inexpensive (5)
- 4 Presented the case for (6)
- 5 Blasphemous (12)
- 6 Remote districts of Australia (7)
- 7 Fathers (4)
- 8 State of being in disrepair (12)
- 12 Vehicle with one wheel (8)
- 14 A rich mine; big prize (7)
- 16 Manors (anag) (6) 18 - Sum; add up (5)
- A. 17-20-20-2

19 -	Opposite	of	thick	(4
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9

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ENGEGÅRD PIANO TRIO

Arvid Engegård, violin; Laura Custodio Sabas, violin;

Juliet Joplin, viola; Jan Clemens Carlsen, cello

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Canon John Turpin, Chairman of Avon Valley Concerts for many years. He is sorely missed.



Formed under the midnight sun in Lofoten in 2005, the Engegård Quartet have rapidly become one of Norway's most sought-after ensembles. Consisting of an international mix of highly professional musicians - Arvid (Norwegian) violin, Laura (Spanish) violin, Juliet (English) viola and Jan Clemens (Austrian) on cello - they will be performing their second concert for us on February 14th, 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Trinity Centre, Ringwood BH24 1DH.

Their bold, fresh interpretations of the classical repertoire combined with a deep attachment to their Scandinavian roots has attracted international acclaim and their debut CD was praised as 'breath-taking' in the Strad while their second release won Pizzicato magazine's 'Supersonic Award'.

They last performed for us in 2015, together with Emma Johnson, on clarinet. We are delighted that they have formed part of our 40th anniversary season.

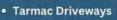
Tickets cost £18 for an adult, under 25s free.

Please note that the venue has changed to the Trinity Centre from the United Reformed Church in Fordingbridge, which has now unfortunately closed.

Website: www.avonvalleyconcerts.com for further information and tickets or call Bob Maddock on 01202 487402.

Box offices: Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood, Grants Estate Agents, The Furlong, Ringwood, Fordingbridge Bookshop and on the door.







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AVCM's Empty Shop Windows Project Helps Revive Fordingbridge

Avon Valley Community Matters (AVCM), a community outreach charity, and many other members of the community have been busy helping to revive Fordingbridge town centre by brightening up the empty shop windows.

Receiving the green light from Fordingbridge Town Council to help visually improve the town centre, and in turn increase footfall in the town, the Empty Windows Project has been supported by estate agents, landlords, businesses, schools, artists and many more, including:

Caxton Decor for donating the wood; the Avon Valley Shed team who put the frames together; Avon Valley Community Matters Charity Shop for gifting the material; the creative talents of the children, staff and volunteers of 1st Fordingbridge Scout Group: Salvation Army Fordingbridge Youth Group; Stepping Stones Preschool Fordingbridge; Forest Edge Learning Federation (Breamore Church of England Primary School; Hyde Church of England Primary School; Hale Primary School); Fordingbridge Junior School; Forres Sandle Manor; the ladies of Sew Friendly for the collages; The Mayor, Fordingbridge Town Council; Goadsby Estate Agents and landlord for their support as well as AVCM volunteer Claire Godson for coordinating the project.

AVCM's Andy Wilson, said: "Initially, the screens featured panels showcasing scenes related to Fordingbridge and the New Forest. Currently, they display festive Christmas artwork created by local school children and youth groups. The long-term goal of the project is to replace all empty shop windows with vibrant collages,

artwork, and other creative displays, transforming the town centre into a more inviting and visually appealing space."

If you are a local artist and want to display your work or help design the panels, or can offer sewing skills to help bring them to life, please email Andy at avcommunitymatters@gmail.com with the heading Shop Windows.

AVCM raises funds locally through fundraising as well as running a charity shop on Fordingbridge High Street to support its work in the community. The charity funds Bereavement Support, a Miscarriage Support Group a local Friendship Group for the lonely and vulnerable as well as free holiday activity programmes for local families. The AVCM team also runs an inclusive playgroup, Superstars, each Friday morning from 9.30-11.30am at St Mary's Church Hall in Fordingbridge.

Photo credits: Andy Wilson



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Local Student wins her place at the national finals of Lions International Art Competition

Nearly 200 local students from Burgate School, Forres Sandle Manor School and Moyles Court School aged between 11 and 13 entered this years Lions International Peace Poster Competition sponsored by Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club. Pictured below are the 3 winning entries from each School (from left to right):

- Lorelei from Forres Sandle Manor School in Fordingbridge
- Carina from Burgate School in Fordingbridge
- Jayden from Moyles Court School in Ringwood

The final two photos are the Club President, Alastair Ward with the Headmaster and team at Burgate School showcasing their finalists for the competition with the last photo being the presentation of the winners certificate and prize to Lorelei at Forres Sandle Manor School with Art Teacher. Clare Dixon-Clarke.

Each Year Lions International invite young people from around the world to create their visions of Peace in a 2D Poster form. This year's theme was "Peace without limits" and creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. Club President Alastair Ward commented "We are so lucky that 3 local schools were able to participate in this amazing competition and



thrilled that Lorelei's poster has been judged to be the best in our District and progressed onto the national finals of this international art competition. She is now one of eight students in the country whose work can potentially reach the international finals. We wish her well. None of this would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the art departments at all 3 schools and we would like to praise them for all the hard work they do". Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club is one of 48000 clubs worldwide and it is notable that annually over half a million students worldwide participate in this prestigious art competition.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions will be at the Meeting House on 1st February 2025 as part of an Open Morning for anyone wanting to find out more about the activities of the club, the wider activities of Lions International who have approximately 1.4 million members worldwide, and how anyone locally can help with volunteering in our wonderful local community. All are welcome. You can contact the club via their website at www.randflions.org. uk or by phone on 0345 833 5819.











Poulner Infant School and Nursery - Ofsted News

Poulner Infant School and Nursery in Ringwood is proud to announce the results of its latest Ofsted inspection conducted in October 2024. It was an ungraded inspection that confirmed the school has taken effective action to maintain the standards since its last inspection in 2019 which was Good. The report affirms that the school is ambitious for all pupils to achieve well.

"Pupils have a real thirst for Knowledge. They are excited to learn new information"

The inspectors highlighted the school's dedication to creating an ambitious curriculum where the school prioritises teaching pupils to read. It was recognised that children in the early years have a positive start to their education, "strong nurturing relationships help children feel safe and secure".

The Inspector praised the leadership team under Headteacher Jo Conner for their effective management. The report also commended the enthusiastic teaching staff for engaging pupils and supporting their academic and personal development.

The school continues to prioritise inclusivity and early childhood development, as demonstrated by its thriving nursery provision. Mrs. Conner expressed her gratitude to the staff, parents, and pupils, saying, "This report reflects the collective effort and passion of our school community. We remain dedicated to ensuring every child thrives in their learning journey."







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RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



Issue 002 January 2025

As we welcome 2025, we wish all our residents a happy and healthy year ahead. This year, we reflect on past achievements while focusing on key priorities: bidding farewell to retiring colleagues, welcoming new team members, navigating local government reorganisation, implementing the Carvers Masterplan, providing new facilities, and hosting more community events.

Your continued support and engagement make Ringwood a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve this vibrant town and look forward to working together to enhance our shared spaces and enrich community life. Here's to a bright and prosperous 2025 for everyone!

New Trees - Bringing Majestic Elms back to Hampshire

Exciting changes are underway at Carvers Recreation Ground. The first two of ten trees in a new 'avenue of trees' have been planted alongside the footpath as part of the Carvers Masterplan. This project aims to enhance the area with natural, eco-friendly features for all to enjoy.

In total, six disease-resistant elm trees have been planted on Town Council land, with two at Carvers and four elsewhere, thanks to the Hampshire Forest Partnership Tree Planting Program. These elms bring back a piece of Hampshire's heritage, support biodiversity, and help combat climate change.





The Importance of Reporting Flooding

Reporting flooding incidents is essential for building the evidence needed to help authorities understand the extent of flooding, take action to prevent further damage, and secure future funding for improvements.

Please report as much information as possible, such as photos or videos, dates and times, the depth of the floodwater, and how long the flooding lasted.

Your input can make a significant difference in improving flood management and protecting our community. To report flooding, visit https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/report-flooding.

Exciting News for Carvers Recreation Ground

We are thrilled to announce a generous grant from Veolia Environmental Trust. This funding will create a multi-use games area and support environmental improvements at Carvers Recreation Ground.

The new games area will provide a space for various sports, promoting health and well-being, while the improvements will enhance the park's natural beauty for everyone to enjoy.

We thank Veolia Environmental Trust for their support and look forward to seeing the positive impact of this project. Stay tuned for updates!



Interested in Volunteering or Working with us at Carvers Clubhouse?

Work: Sunday Centre Supervisor to oversee the kiosk, lead staff and maintain a welcoming space **Volunteer:** Help with our Under 1s Club on Thursdays from 10 to 11.30am Get in touch if you're interested in either opportunity, or see our website for details: carversclubhouse.co.uk



Ringwood Town Council is now an accredited Living Wage Employer. We're proud to support our staff with fair wages that meet the cost of living. This commitment helps create a more equitable and motivated community.









Photographic Exhibition at The George







though TDI charity. The exhibition will take place at The George Pub, Fordingbridge on 22nd March 2025.

Jolly Good Company at Greyfriars

I have photographed horses in the New

Forest people have asked me to hold in

exhibition of my work,

We were delighted to have Dave and the Tuesdays choir for our xmas party for everyone at Jolly Good Company everyone so enjoyed the day singing along with the choir thank you Dave and the Tuesdays for a lovely afternoon, from all of us Jolly Good Company at Greyfiars activity Centre.





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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

BRITTON

Leslie Frank

Sadly passed away at home on Saturday 4th January 2025, aged 79 years. Beloved husband of Ann, father to Louise, Kate and the late Rachel and will be missed by all the family.

Funeral service to be held at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 7th February 2025 at 2.30pm. Please no flowers but donations if desired to Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSPA) c/o I N Newman Ltd, 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AX, Tel 01425 656286

GOOD Victoria

It is with profound sadness that we announce her passing on 24th December 2024 aged 41 years. Victoria was a strong and kind-hearted woman, whose unwavering dedication to her family and her craft as a newborn photographer touched the lives of many. Her love of her two young adults Harvey and Madison shone brightly through every moment they shared. Victoria leaves behind a legacy of compassion, creativity and endless love, she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her Funeral Service has taken place, but donations in memory of her for Macmillan Caring Locally may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk (01425 472104)

NICHOLLS

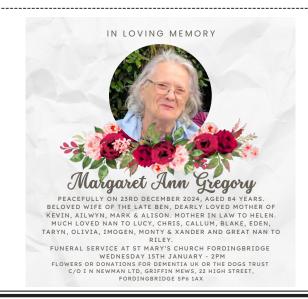
Sylvia

"Sylvia Nicholls, formerly of Crowe, died peacefully on 16th December 2024 in Essex surrounded by family. Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Crowe Methodist Church on 19 February at 2pm."

NELSON

Edna Joyce nee Challenger

Passed away peacefully 6th January at OakMount Care Home aged 98 years Beloved Mum, Nanny and Great Grandmother Always in our hearts, never to be forgotten Private Cremation with any donations in memory to Cancer Research



PROPERTY



Handy tips to make your renovation project a success

Have a Clear Vision: Create a vision board with your favourite looks and styles, and keep it updated as you come across new ideas.

Know What's Achievable: Understand what can be achieved for your property, considering planning permissions, Building Regulations, and any specific rules for listed buildings or Conservation Areas.

Call in the Professionals: Consult with architects, designers, builders, and structural engineers to ensure your project is feasible and meets all requirements.

Get the Council on Your Side: Keep in touch with the local council for guidance on planning applications and building regulations approval.

Set a Realistic Budget: Plan your budget realistically, including a contingency fund for unexpected costs that may arise during the renovation.

Appoint the Right Team: Choose experienced and reliable tradespeople who understand your vision and can work within your budget and timeframe.

Establish a Realistic Timescale: Work with your team to determine a realistic timeline for the project, allowing for unexpected delays.

Communicate with Your Builders: Regular meetings with your contractor or project manager will help ensure that deadlines are being met and progress is on track.

Ask Questions: Don't hesitate to ask questions and seek clarification on any aspect of the renovation process.

Be Prepared for the Unexpected: Anticipate unforeseen incidents and be ready to make decisions quickly to keep the project moving forward.

Stay Focused on Your Dream: Try to avoid making major design changes once construction has started, as this can lead to additional costs and delays.

Enjoy the Process: Remember that all the planning and hard work will pay off as you see your dream home taking shape. Stay patient and focused on the end goal.

By following these tips, you can navigate your renovation project smoothly and achieve the results you desire. Good luck with your renovation journey.

If it's all too overwhelming for you, give us a call and ask for some professional advice from us here at Northfield, we have been established for over 30 years, working throughout Hampshire, Dorset, and the surrounding areas, building a solid reputable reputation within this time.

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RINGWOOD **PRICE GUIDE** £950,000

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RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £155,000 L/H

Well proportioned 2 bedroom park home, level walk to amenities, age 45 plus, lounge/dining rm, modern kitchen, shower room/w.c., gas ch, parking for 1 small vehicle, gardens,no chain.



RINGWOOD - PRICE £385,000 L/H

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RINGWOOD PRICE GUIDE

£330.000

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RINGWOOD OIRO - £625,000

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ASHLEY HEATH - PRICE GUIDE - £750,000

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