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It's official! The New Forest is a very creative place to live!

School children in Ringwood and Fordingbridge, are participating in an exciting *CreateTogether* project. They have been busy drawing pictures and writing poems to say thank you for everything in their lives that they are grateful for.

Some of the children's work will be displayed in shop windows and Council Offices in Ringwood and Fordingbridge. Their work will also feature in a *CreateTogether* Exhibition celebrating many different forms of creativity including painting and poetry, quilt making, Lego building and photography!

continues on page 28

INSIDE

Page 4 - Talking News
Page 10 - Investments
Page 15 - Puzzles
Page 16 - Sport
Page 24 - History
Page 20 - Whats On
Page 24 - History
Page 34 - Small Ads
Page 38 - Property

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Spring - is that you?

The evenings are getting longer, the daffs are coming out, and the first bumblebee has been spotted!

That's right - Spring is here!

Spring represents a new beginning, and with the new tax year approaching quickly - April 6th for those who don't know - we're squeezing in some last minute tax planning for the 2024/25 tax year.

But, what does that look like for most people?

Maximise your ISA allowance

You lose your remaining ISA allowance for 2024/25 on 6th April. Use it or lose it!

Top up your Pension Contributions

Extend your Basic Rate tax band with some pension contributions - this might keep you out of a higher tax bracket, or save you from the dreaded hidden 60% bracket!

Utilise your Capital Gains Allowance

The annual exemption is just £3,000 this year (2024/25), so if you're selling assets, timing is crucial!

Start bringing your business records up to date

If you're a sole trader there are some changes coming to how you need to record and report your income and expenses to HMRC - more on that next month. For now, build good habits, gather your receipts and invoices and summarise them for your accountant.

A little planning can mean big savings later. Need a hand making sense of it all?

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EDITOR

Celebrating Mother's Day

As Mother's Day approaches, the charming towns of Ringwood and Fordingbridge come alive with love and gratitude for the wonderful mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures who make our communities so special. This cherished occasion, observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent, is a time to reflect on the immeasurable contributions of mothers and show appreciation for the care, wisdom, and strength they provide every day.

Both Ringwood and Fordingbridge offer the perfect setting for a heartfelt celebration. From picturesque walks along the Avon Valley Path to cosy afternoon teas in our delightful cafes, there are countless ways to make this Mother's Day a memorable one. Many of our local businesses are offering special gifts, floral arrangements, and dining experiences tailored for the occasion, ensuring that every mother feels truly valued.

Beyond the personal celebrations, this day is also a reminder of the importance of supporting those mothers who may be

facing difficulties. Local charities and support groups, such as Ringwood Foodbank, work tirelessly to assist families in need. This Mother's Day, consider extending kindness by donating or volunteering, helping to ensure that all mothers in our community feel appreciated and supported.



As we mark this special day, let us not only celebrate the mothers in our own lives but also recognise the incredible role they play in shaping our community. Whether through a simple 'thank you', a handwritten note, or a day spent together, let's make this Mother's Day one filled with warmth, appreciation, and love.

Darren & Naomi

Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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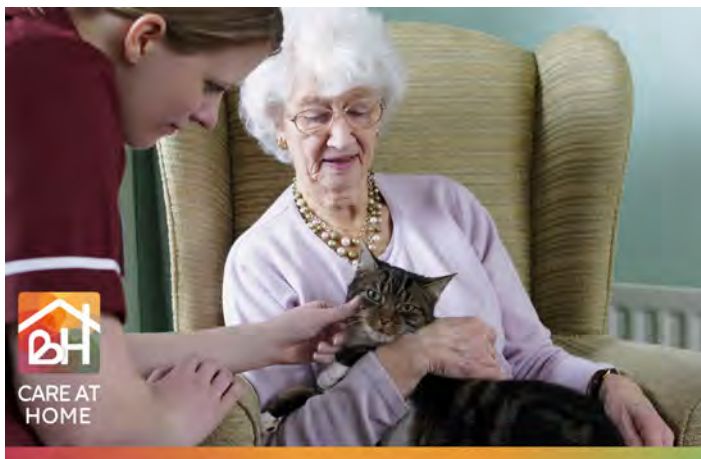
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NEWS

Readers and Engineer Prepare to Record the 800th Edition of The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News.

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News was established some thirty years ago reading and recording the local news extracted from local newspapers for the benefit of the Blind or Visually Impaired working out of a unit at St Leonards Hospital.

Over the years it moved to the old Council Offices in Christchurch Road then to Ringwood Medical Centre and most recently to the library in St Ives Care Home. Every fortnight a round-up of the local news is distributed on CD, Memory Stick or can be accessed by any one on line at bit.ly/3Tx2dDv.

Although primarily distributing the News to individuals an increasing number are going into Care Homes in the area where they are listened to in groups or by residents in their own rooms. This is a completely free service with the tasks of editor, reader or engineer carried out by volunteers.

If you would like to know more about volunteering for Talking News please phone Peter on 07801 539516 or if you have a friend or relative who might appreciate receiving The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Talking News you can find Peter on the same number or email peteransell@onetel.com.



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River Avon Bathing Water Status

Fordingbridge Greener Living along with FLOW (For the Love of Water) CIC welcomed over 40 people to Avonway in Fordingbridge to hear an update on the quality of the water in the River Avon in Fordingbridge which is a designated Bathing Area.

Guest speakers Jim Flory, Area Environment Manager from the Environment Agency, and Matt Wheeldon, Director of Infrastructure Development at Wessex Water, presented results of tests by their respective organisations over the last bathing season.

Environment Agency

Jim Flory began by explaining that statutory testing is for faecal bacteria only, specifically E-Coli and Intestinal E..... Overall, the testing for the season has resulted in a classification of 'Poor' water quality. The next step is for the Environment Agency to investigate the sources of the pollution and then to work on reducing it. They are clear that the pollution is most likely to be human sewage, the main sources of which are likely to be Salisbury and Downton, although there are small amounts from most of the villages. Private septic tanks can be source of pollution. There is a direct correlation between high rainfall and sewage pollution and the Environment Agency is developing models to help become more predictive of water quality.

Wessex Water

Matt Wheeldon explained that Wessex Water deals with a very large Avon catchment area with many rivers feeding into the Avon before it gets to Fordingbridge. The main issue affecting sewage outflows is the high groundwater levels. This can fill sewage pipes leading them to overflow into the river. Again, there is a very high correlation with high rainfall, which not only leads to short term pollution events but also longer term as the groundwater struggles



to seep away.

Wessex Water's investment in the next 5 years will include:

- Sealing drains and sewers where they can
- Nature based solutions for the treatment plants (reed beds) which will clean the water more thoroughly before it goes into the river
- Storage to hold rainfall
- Continuous monitoring to better understand correlation and causations
- Phosphorus removal

A continuous monitoring probe has been installed at The George pub which will use AI to learn about river conditions, test the water and eventually become predictive of conditions and be able to give very accurate real time monitoring of pollution levels. This will help anyone using the river to make an informed decision about whether to enter the water or not.

Adam Ellis of FLOW CIC commented that it is 'inspiring to see so many people interested in the river's health'.

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NEWS

Ringwood Rotary Club Schools Photographic Competition

The presentation of certificates and winners' prizes for the Rotary Club of Ringwood Interschools Photographic Competition took place in The Barn, Ringwood School on 11th March 2025. Initiated in 2011 and organised jointly with Ringwood School, the competition has expanded to this year receiving over 900 entries from 35 schools invited across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. This year's theme was **LAYERS**.

Judging was carried out by a team drawn from the Rotary Club of Ringwood, Ringwood School Art Department, The Royal Photographic Society Digital Imaging Group, Ringwood Camera Club and the Arts University Bournemouth. A short list of some 50 images were selected within the four classes – Adult, Primary, Years 7-10 and Years 11-13.

The Winners in Student categories were, Emmeline Hall, St. Marks Junior School (Primary), Billy Dixon-Clarke, Trafalgar School (Y 7-10) and Freddie Serle, Ringwood School (Y 11-13). In 2022, Rotarian Michael Lingam-Willgoss, a founder member of the competition team and a major fund raiser died. In his memory the award for the overall Best in Show, the MLW Prize for the Young Photographer of the Year, was presented to Billy Dickson-Clarke. The Arts University Bournemouth Prize went to Lily Cunningham-Davis King Edward 7th School (Y11-13) and was presented by Josh Read (Course Leader, Foundation Diploma in Art, Design and Media).

Mr. Max Cheshire, an alumnus of Ringwood School's Photographic Course, now an established Professional Photographer, was Guest Speaker.

The winning entries and the short-listed images will be on display at the Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood during the latter part of March 2025.

(Attached: the Winning Image of the MLW Prize for the Young Photographer of the Year, Winner Billy Dixon-Clarke, Trafalgar School (Y 7-10). Title: "Life is like an onion" and the AUB winning image, Lily Cunningham-Davis, King Edward 7th School (Y11-13). Title: "Silent Layers of Life".)





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NEWS

"The show must go on" or "An Evening to Remember"

A large audience were in their seats ready to enjoy a concert by superb musicians from Cologne. Behind the scenes the Committee anxiously watched the clock.

An earlier text message from the players had read "travel problems - expected arrival 7.15 p.m". 7.15 arrived, but the performers didn't! Where were they? Another text message came through "Expected arrival now 7.50-8.00 p.m ". The concert was supposed to start at 7.30! What should we do?

We decided to serve the interval refreshments!

The audience were told that the musicians were experiencing travel problems. Everyone enjoyed coffee, wine, nibbles and conversation and the evening became very sociable. At 7.50pm a phone call confirmed that the musicians, known as Kammerphilharmonie Europa, were now at Cadnam and just leaving the M27! The audience gave a collective sigh of relief and decided unanimously to wait. We now drew the Raffle!

The social aspects of the evening became more and more enjoyable and eventually at 8.15, to a great cheer, the players arrived. 8 musicians quickly changed into formal dress, tuned their instruments and entertained a happy, relaxed and expectant audience with superb playing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed an

evening to remember. The music was varied and lively – ranging from Vivaldi through Piazzolla to Gershwin with a wonderful trumpet concerto thrown in too!

We are now looking forward to the final concert of the Avon Valley Concerts 40th season. It will be on Friday 16th May at 7.30 p.m. in Trinity Church, Ringwood. Our President, the internationally-renowned concert pianist, and President of our Society, Leon McCawley will play a programme of works by Beethoven, Chopin and others. Do come along - you will not be disappointed.

Tickets in Fordingbridge will now be available from Caxton Décor, 26-30 Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AF, and no longer from the Fordingbridge Bookshop.



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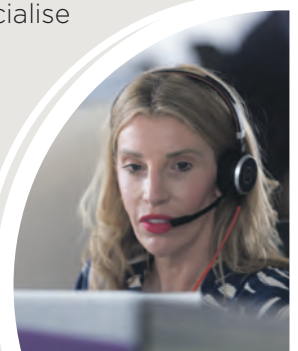
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NEWS

Understanding Investments-The importance of tax wrappers

Investments returns are primarily driven by investments markets, asset allocation and charges. Ensuring whoever is managing your investments are making sensible, well researched choices and are charging you a fair fee for doing so is job No1.

What many people don't understand is that the tax wrapper you then hold the investments in will also affect the financial outcome as tax can be a drag on performance. Therefore it's important that you own your investments in the optimal tax wrapper for your personal circumstances.

ISAs and Pensions are usually the first wrappers to consider as any growth within these are capital gains tax and income tax free. Pensions have more complex rules around contributions and withdrawals but for the purposes of this article the important thing to understand is that the underlying investment content of both ISAs and Pensions are tax free.

If a client has more money to invest then there are 3 main alternative wrappers; General Investment Account, Onshore Bond or Offshore Bond. What are the main features and considerations of each?

1-General Investment Account (GIA):

Returns are subject to income tax and capital gains tax. Dividends are taxed at 8.75% and interest at 20% for basic rate tax-payers but these increase to 33.75% and 40% for higher rate tax-payers and 39.35% and 45% for additional rate tax-payers. Capital gains tax is now at 18% or 24% (basic rate and higher/additional rate) and the annual capital gains tax exemption is £3,000.

The increase in the rate of capital gains tax and the reduction in the annual exemption means higher and additional rate tax-payers need to carefully consider whether a GIA is still the most suitable wrapper within which to hold their investments.

2-Onshore Investment Bond:

The underlying investment growth is taxed as corporation tax equating to 20%. Interest is taxed at 20% and dividends are tax-free. Onshore Bonds are subject to the "chargeable event regime" which means that on surrender or death a tax event occurs which calculates the total return on the bond and any gains are subject

to income tax. However a 20% tax credit is applied. Depending on the bond-holder's tax position in the year of the event, there may be no further tax to pay or there may be a further 20% or 25% tax to pay on any growth of the investments. These bonds also allow up to 5% per annum of capital withdrawals for up to 20 years with no immediate tax charge.

Higher rate tax-payers now who will become basic rate tax-payers in retirement may be able to benefit from lower taxation on growth than a GIA but the key is mitigating a tax charge on exit which requires careful consideration.

3-Offshore Investment Bond:

The underlying investment growth is tax free so these benefit from "gross roll-up". However they are also subject to the same "chargeable event regime" as Onshore Bonds and the same tax rules on surrender or exit but without the 20% tax credit. Therefore all returns are taxed at 20%, 40% or 45%.

It is important that there is an exit plan for these bonds. It is possible to assign segments of the bond (this is also possible with Onshore Bonds) so we often see these being assigned to a family member who is a none or basic rate tax-payer such as a grandchild to fund university fees or for a deposit for a house.

Tax rules are subject to change and are more detailed than a short-article can cover. Therefore it's important you take personal, financial advice before making any decisions on which wrapper works best for your circumstances.

Stewart, Harry and I are available for a free initial, no obligation chat to discuss and consider your personal situation.

Howard Goodship is an Independent Financial Adviser with Lonsdale Wealth Management, 5 Friday's Court, Ringwood Tel: 01425 208490, www.lonsdaleservices.co.uk.

The value of an investment and the income from it could go down as well as up. The return at the end of the investment period is not guaranteed and you may get back less than you originally invested. The contents of this article are for information purposes only and do not constitute individual advice. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate Cash-flow planning or tax advice.

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Greening Ringwood has two Energy Events coming up in March!

1. Home Energy Online Event - Wednesday 26 March 7 pm – in the comfort of your own Home!

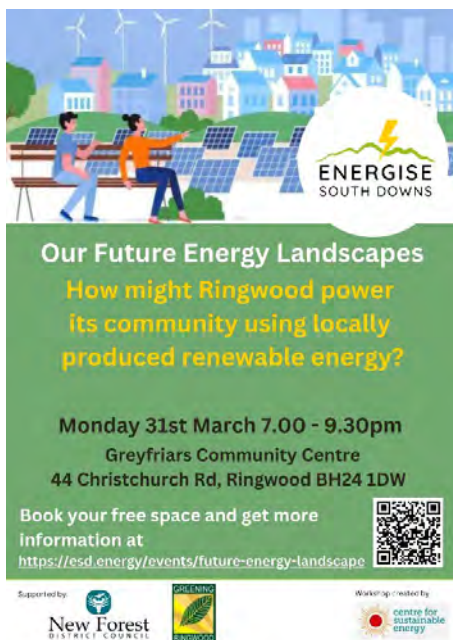


What will you learn?

- An overview of the energy systems in the UK - by Bean Beanland (the Heat Pump Federation)
- Interpreting thermal images that may have been taken by our volunteers, of your home showing where heat is escaping, plus small home hacks to keep your energy costs down – by Terena Plowright (The Greening Campaign)
- The new hub for FREE advice on grants, getting the right advice for RETROFIT, and how to understand what your home needs to reduce bills - by Stuart Mills (The Environment Centre (tEC) Southampton)

Here is the online meeting link <https://msteams.link/81G1>

2. Our Future Energy Landscapes Workshop - Monday 31 March 7 pm – Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood



Greening Ringwood is hosting a Future Energy Landscapes Workshop with Energise South Downs – we want to come together as a Ringwood Community and explore the question....

'How might Ringwood power its community using locally generated renewable energy?'

Come and join us for this interactive workshop to learn together about different renewable energy technologies, and discuss how acceptable they are in our local Ringwood landscape and what difference they can make to meet our energy needs

More info and to book <https://esd.energy/events/future-energy-landscapes/>

For more info on both of these events email greeningringwood@gmail.com

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The Importance of Regular Toenail Cutting for Better Foot Health and Fall Prevention

Regular toenail cutting and foot checks are vital for maintaining foot health, especially for older people. Age Concern Hampshire is committed to making these essential services accessible and affordable, with Foot Care clinics located throughout the county. Offering affordable 6-weekly appointments helping prevent discomfort, improve balance, and reduce the risk of falls, ensures older people can maintain their mobility and live more comfortably. In addition to reducing pain, regular toenail cutting is essential for maintaining good posture, balance, and coordination. Healthy feet with properly trimmed toenails help ensure that toes remain straight and aligned, providing a solid foundation for walking. Misalignment or pressure from improperly maintained toenails can cause unbalanced movement, increasing the risk of falls. Ensuring toenails are trimmed regularly as part of a foot health check helps keep walking safe and stable.

Each appointment is conducted by a fully qualified foot health practitioner, who performs routine foot health checks as part of the service. These checkups provide an opportunity to identify early signs of other foot issues, such as fungal infections, ingrown toenails, and other conditions. Early detection enables prompt treatment, helping to prevent these problems from escalating and promoting better overall foot health.

Age Concern Hampshire offers foot health clinics throughout the county, ensuring that essential services are easily accessible to older people in various communities. With locations across Hampshire, and new clinics coming soon, these services provide regular toenail cutting and comprehensive foot checks, helping individuals maintain their mobility and comfort. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/our-services-hampshire/footcare/> or book an appointment by calling 01962 868545.



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NEWS

Aesthetica

Your Luxury Skin Clinic in Avon Castle, Ringwood

Introducing Aesthetica, Ringwood's brand new skin clinic offering bespoke treatments designed to help you achieve radiant, youthful skin. Nestled in the serene surroundings of Avon Castle, the clinic blends luxury with cutting-edge skincare technology and also has free parking right outside the entrance.

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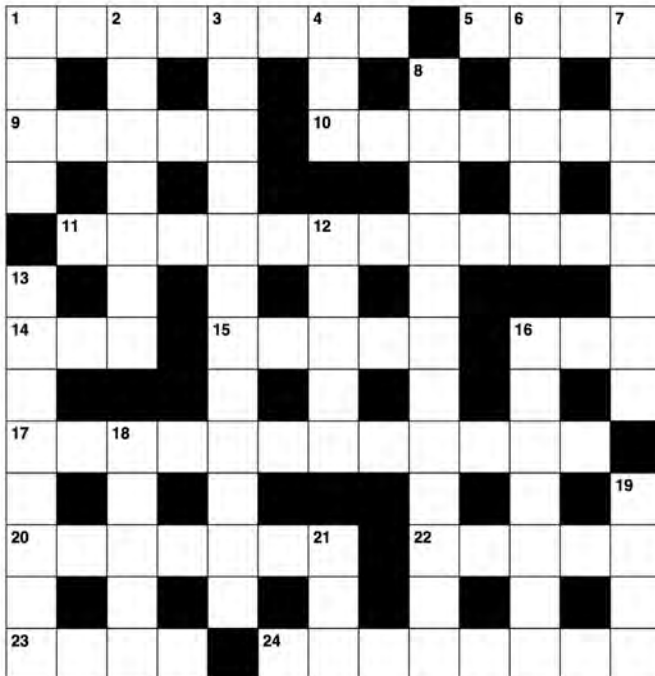
Puzzle Corner

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Crossword



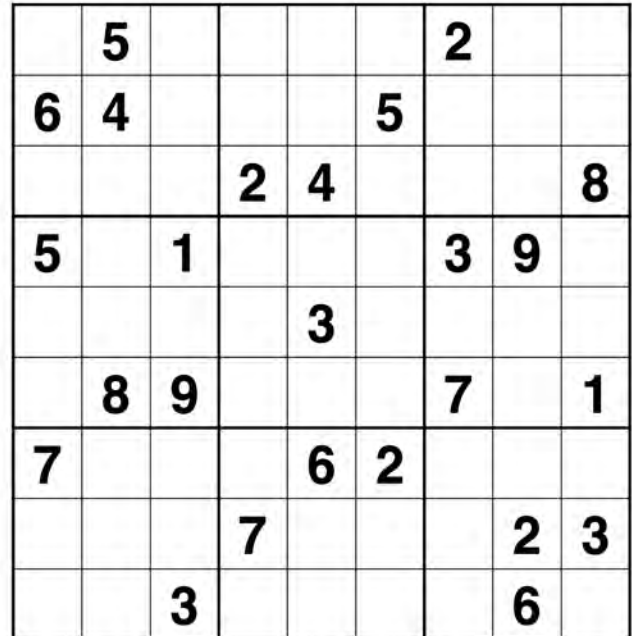
Across

- 1 - Lofty peak (8)
- 5 - Pairs (4)
- 9 - Top degree mark (5)
- 10 - Stalk joining a leaf to a stem (7)
- 11 - Cheated someone financially (5-7)
- 14 - Be ill (3)
- 15 - Pointed part of a fork (5)
- 16 - Tack (3)
- 17 - Remembrance (12)
- 20 - Vessel that cleans rivers (7)
- 22 - Spin around (5)
- 23 - Rodents (4)
- 24 - Infancy (8)

Down

- 1 - Light blast of wind (4)
- 2 - Small Arctic whale (7)
- 3 - Study of human societies (12)
- 4 - One circuit of a track (3)
- 6 - Mistaken (5)
- 7 - Paying out money to buy goods (8)
- 8 - Immediately (12)
- 12 - Identical copy (5)
- 13 - Breed of retriever (8)
- 16 - Precondition (7)
- 18 - Thorax (5)
- 19 - Lump of earth (4)
- 21 - Long narrow inlet (3)

Sudoku



ANSWERS FOR THE LAST ISSUE



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SPORT

Ellingham & Ringwood RFC Ladies team

Ellingham & Ringwood Women edged out a hard-fought 24-21 victory over Amesbury Women in a dramatic and physical encounter at Amesbury RFC. Both teams battled fiercely, with momentum swinging throughout the match in a contest that kept spectators on the edge of their seats.

The game began with nerves evident on both sides, but it was Ellingham who struck first. Just six minutes in, CH powered through to score the opening try, though the conversion was missed, leaving the score at 0-5.

Amesbury responded immediately after the restart, showing strong possession and attacking intent. Their persistence paid off in the 9th minute, as they crossed the whitewash, with their ever-reliable fly-half adding the conversion to take the lead at 7-5.

Despite Amesbury's attacking threat, Ellingham dominated in the scrums, showcasing their strength up front. However, an early setback saw Emily leave the field with an injury, replaced by Nina, making her return to the team.

Momentum swung back to Ellingham in the 19th minute, when captain Alice muscled her way over the line, and Smithy added the extras, regaining the lead at 7-12. Ellingham's defensive resilience shone through as they successfully held up a potential Amesbury try, denying their opponents a crucial score.

The game's physicality intensified, with Ellingham stealing a line-out at the 30-minute mark and making good ground. In a bizarre moment, Holly's kick found an unfortunate target – the face of an Amesbury player (again!), causing a brief pause.

Just before halftime, drama unfolded. A blistering breakaway run from AF on the wing had fans on their feet, only for the referee to mistakenly signal a try—only to realize she had been stopped at the 22-meter line. With confusion reigning, Ellingham regained composure as PW picked and went from the scrum, dummied the defence, and crashed over for a stunning try, converted by CS, extending the lead to 7-19 at the break.

The second half saw CB come on for her debut, and she nearly made it a dream start, but her first-ever try was denied. Amesbury, refusing to back down, found their footing and hit back in the scrum battle, eventually scoring from a 5-meter scrum, closing the gap to 14-19.

As the game became scrappy, Amesbury attempted an ambitious



Back of the match: Charlotte Harvey & Forward of the match: Anja Dixon - (pictured together after the game)

penalty kick from halfway, but it fell short.

A lengthy stoppage in the 65th minute due to injury seemed to benefit Amesbury, who re-grouped and struck immediately upon the restart, scoring a try and conversion to take the lead for the first time at 21-19.

With time running out, Ellingham pushed forward relent-

lessly. As the 79th minute approached, they won a crucial penalty deep in Amesbury territory. Showing quick thinking, CS took a tap, drawing in the defence, while EB came charging in from deep. The Amesbury defence had no answer as EB bulldozed her way through, bouncing off tackles to score the decisive try. The whistle blew moments later, sealing a thrilling 24-21 victory for Ellingham!

Second-placed Ellingham & Ringwood Women will travel to take on Reading Kites next Sunday before their final game of the season at home against Supermarine Ladies on the 13th of April.

Ellingham & Ringwood: Anna Fogel, Elvira Berninger, Anja Dixon, Franki Ridsdale, Lauryn Thurlow, Alice Elgar, Maria East, Paige White, Charlotte Smith, Holly Veneroso, Bryony Thompson, Kimberley Riolo, Charlotte Harvey, Emily Snowball, Ellie Dolbear. Subs: E. Watling, C. Baltazar, F. Howcroft, N. Hoadley, H. Sinclair.



Ellingham & Ringwood RFC Mens team defeat Bognor to solidify 2nd place position

Ellingham and Ringwood 1st XV welcomed Bognor to the Raymond Brown Memorial Ground that was bathed in early spring sunshine to see if they could overcome the side that beat the home teams closest rivals for the second spot and promotion (Gosport & Fareham) last week. Es had to make some changes to the team that had won against Eastleigh following some injuries sustained in a full contact session on Thursday night, but the depth in squad proved to be beneficial to Ellingham in a hard fought game.

The opening exchanges of the game were fast and brutal, Bognor came out of the blocks spinning the ball wide and really testing the home teams defence, but it was Ellingham that were the first team to get the score board moving when following an infringement by Bognor, winger Chris Frost stepped up and slotted over the penalty kick to give the home team an early three point lead in the 5th minute. Bognor did not deter from their flowing attack rugby and in the 13th minute they were awarded a penalty for several infringement's the last of which earned Frost a yellow card for a high tackle and the resulting penalty was slotted over to level the scores. Then in the 27th minute of the game following sustained pressure from the Ellingham forwards scrum half and captain Sammy Veneroso darted and sniped his way through Bognor's defence to score the first try of the game, Frost was able to slot the conversion to add the extra two points.

Ill discipline by the home team led to them giving another penalty away in the 30th minute from a kickable distance and the visitors duly slotted over the kick for another three points, remarkably this was to be their last score of the game for Bognor despite their efforts for the remainder of the game. In the 34 minute number eight George Randall who like many Ellingham players had a fine game powered his way over to extend the home teams lead and Frost was able to add the two points. This was to be the last score of the first half with the score being Ellingham & Ringwood 17 - Bognor 6 at half time.

Ellingham and Ringwood came out of the blocks in the first half

SPORT

with replacement Daniel Jackson jiggling and muscling his way over in the 40th minute to score the home teams 3rd try of the game and Frost was able to convert the for the extra two points. Then in the 44th minute Frost got a try in the far left hand corner of the SPECSAVERS end of the ground in front of a delighted home crowd following some swift handling from full back Chris Jeffes, giving the home team their try bonus point. Leading from the front yet again which has been a familiar, but welcomed pattern throughout this season Sammy Veneroso once again found a gap in Bognor's defence exploiting it perfectly to score the home teams fifth try, Frost was having a good game with his place kicks and duly slotted over

for another two points. The game was very hard fought throughout with some big tackles going in from both sides leaving man of the match Adam Higgins (pictured) a conundrum with who to give the hit/meat of the week to. Surprisingly the last score of the game came in the 58th minute with hooker Pat Fraser using his power to force his way over the line to score the last points of the game.

Despite Bognor's efforts they could not breach the home teams defence, there is now a rest week and then for the penultimate game of the season Ellingham & Ringwood travel to Gosport & Fareham that could decide who goes up with runaway leaders Havant.



Poulner Junior School children Design New Sports Kit

Celebrations were underway at Poulner Junior School for the launch of the NEW sports kit, after Zacks idea was chosen as the best design.

At Poulner Junior school a very kind parent Mr Murphy offered his help through a work scheme by donating some much-needed funds to support the purchase of a new sports kit. We decided it would be a great fun to involve all the children in a design competition to come up with their own ideas for the new sports kit.

The competition ran across all the year groups and they excitedly sketched out their own ideas, only restricted by the colours they could choose. Over a number of weeks with many great entries, the drawings were then whittled down to the top 3. Finally, a vote was cast by all the children and staff for the design of their choice.

On 27th February the school held a special assembly to celebrate the winner, Zach Santus, where his parents and grandparents, Ringwood town Mayor, Cllr. Rae Frederick and Mr Murphy came along for the unveiling of the NEW sports kit and the presentation to Zack for his very own set of kit. Look out for the teams in the new kit!!



NEWS



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NEWS

Ringwood Royal British Legion

An update from the Ringwood and District Royal British Legion.

The Legion is perhaps best known for its Poppy Appeal which takes place in the weeks leading up to Remembrance in November, but fund raising go on year round to support the work of the Legion with serving and ex military families and individuals. Ringwood, the people and businesses have been generous supporters over the years and might be interested to know that this year (October 2024 to September 2025) South Hampshire has raised £986,922 to date not far short of £1 million a record and fundraising doesn't stop till the end of September.

Thank You.

The next Branch Meeting of the Ringwood and District British Legion will be held on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Carlton Room of Club 22.

The Guest speaker will be Tim, the County Recruitment Officer. Everyone is welcome to join us. More information from our Chairman, Brian Mansi ringwood.chairman@rbl.community



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WHATS ON



**THE BIGGEST
RACE OF
THE YEAR IS
BACK!**

SUNDAY 13TH JULY

RINGWOOD TOWN CENTRE

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WHATS ON**BRINGING QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT TO RINGWOOD**

View all upcoming events and book tickets on our website

www.thebarnringwood.co.uk**25 APRIL** THE COASTAL COMEDY SHOW **18**
WITH GARY DELANEY!**26 APRIL** A VISION OF ELVIS
STARRING THE INCREDIBLE ROB KINGSLEY**2 MAY** ED SHEERAN EXPERIENCE
WITH FULL LIVE BAND**3 MAY** AN EVENING WITH JIMMY TARBUCK
TARBY LIVE ON STAGE**28 MAY** ABC - AN EVENING WITH MARTIN FRY
MEET & GREET TICKETS AVAILABLE**29 MAY** THE MANFREDs
KEEPING IT LIVE IN '25 TOUR**30 MAY** FAST LOVE
THE TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL**31 MAY** TOTALLY TINA
ALL THE HITS OF TINA TURNER**18 JULY** CHRIS STAPLETON UK TRIBUTE
STARRING DARREN HODSON**19 JULY** JIVE TALKIN'
THE ORIGINAL AND VERY BEST BEE GEES TRIBUTE SHOW**26 JULY** SERIOUSLY COLLINS
THE PHIL COLLINS & GENESIS TRIBUTE SHOW**GREYFRIARS**
community centre**What's on at Greyfriars!****22 March – Moviola - Conclave**

Ralph Fiennes is Cardinal Lawrence who is tasked with running the Papal election after the death of the beloved Pope. The Cardinal uncovers a trail of deep secrets. 2pm for 2.30pm start, tickets available at Greyfriars or via Ticketsource

22 March – Flipping Fashion Roadshow

Top quality pre-owned Ladies Fashion to buy or sell. Can't bear the thought of uploading everything to an online reseller? Come and visit the Greyfriars Activity Centre from 12noon – 3pm.

2 April – The Ringwood Society

Ken Chatfield delivers an entertaining talk about an alarming 1950's plan to turn Ringwood into a mega-town. 7.30pm, tickets for £6 are available at Greyfriars or via Ticketsource.

5 April – Greyfriars Spring Book Sale

We have a huge range of books of every genre and for every age group ready for you to peruse, along with an enormous variety of jigsaw puzzles. As usual doors open at 9am and we close at 1pm. Refreshments also available.

12 April – Murder Mystery 'Bring out your dead'

The Burley plays present our next murder mystery evening. £20 with Church Supper. Bring your own drinks/nibbles. Arrival time 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets available from office@greyfriarsringwood.org.uk or call 01425 472613.

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WHATS ON

GREYFRIARS SPRING BOOK SALE



SATURDAY 5 APRIL
9.00 - 1.00



An evening of music and dance



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Tickets £10
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New Forest Rhythmix

Friday 23rd May
7.30 - 9.30pm
At Greyfriars

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Bar provided - bring a picnic
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Saturday 24 May
2.00 for 2.30pm



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PRESENTS



-CONCLAVE-

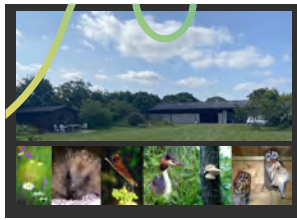
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FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHURCH.

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
2.00 FOR 2.30 START
TICKETS £6.50

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WHATS ON



Community Animal Rehab and Education Center

JOIN US AND HELP CREATE A
THRIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR
FORDINGBRIDGE

Join Us at Animals Voice: Become a Part of Our Mission

Animals Voice is on a mission to create a rescue center for our beloved wildlife and an educational hub for the community. We are reaching out to ask for your support as we embark on this exciting journey. We need Members, Volunteers, and Trustees to help us establish a community animal rehab and education center.

Our Vision

In 2019, Animals Voice purchased Butts Lawn Farm, marking the beginning of our dream to create a refuge for sick and injured wildlife. Our goal is not only to care for these animals but also to empower you with the knowledge to do the same.

Animals Voice has been working to safeguard our animals and environment for the last 60 years but now we're the ones needing the help.

Theresa, our Vice Chairman says

"We've had an amazing team of people around us for the last 60 years and we've done some great work but now it's time for us to move to a more educational role so the people of Fordingbridge can benefit from this great charity for the next 60 years. We've got a great opportunity to benefit not only the animals that live around us but also our community. I can't wait to see it get started!"

Community Meeting Invitation

We cordially invite you to our community meeting, where we'd love to share our vision and hear how your thoughts, skills, and expertise can make a real difference. The meeting will be held on **April 3rd from 3pm at Fordingbridge Town Hall**. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to a cause that truly matters and have a direct impact on the people around you. We welcome any and all skills—there's a job for everyone!



Our Future Energy Landscapes

How might Ringwood power its community using locally produced renewable energy?

Monday 31st March 7.00 - 9.30pm

**Greyfriars Community Centre
44 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 1DW**

Book your free space and get more information at

<https://esd.energy/events/future-energy-landscape>



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All welcome

You are invited for tea and biscuits after the meeting when the band will play a short programme, time permitting

HISTORY & NEWS

Lessons for the Future, or a Warning from the Past?



In 1954, proposals to build a new town adjacent to Ringwood for a population of 40,000 people were made. Now, the story of how our town was nearly subsumed is to be recalled in a talk hosted by The Ringwood Society.

The talk, by Society member, Ken Chatfield examines the proposal by the London County Council, which was barely known about at the time and has since slipped further into obscurity. "I came across this story completely by chance whilst doing some family history research" Ken explains. "Immediately I was intrigued because, despite having a keen interest in local history, I had never

heard anything about it. That was enough to hook me in, and then as the story slowly emerged, I was struck by just what a 'near-miss' it had been, and how it would have impacted almost everything about my entire lifetime experience of my home town." Ken's talk will cover how the scheme arose, what was planned and how it was stopped. Hightown resident; Major Colin Ziegler, was heavily involved in trying to stop the plans and this set him on the course of becoming the founding President of The Ringwood Society in 1962.

Tickets, which are on sale through the Society website at www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk/events or at Greyfriars, are free for members of The Ringwood Society, or £6 for non-members. The talk will take place in the Ann Rose Hall at Greyfriars Community Centre at 7.30pm on 2nd April 2025, all are welcome.

Since 1962, The Ringwood Society has championed our historic market town through a variety of endeavours, and always welcomes new members to support their work with projects and by joining the executive committee. The more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved! Membership is only £10 a year for a single membership, only £18 per year for a couple, and students receive free membership. Further details can be found on their website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



The Ringwood Society

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Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

The two Charlie Buckets starring in Poulner Players' recent production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory presented a cheque for £500, after the final performance, to Peter Vandervelde and Jo Russell from STARF, Stronger Together Across Ringwood & Fordingbridge.

This 50th Anniversary Show played to packed houses the February half term at the Waldorf School Theatre. Peter on behalf of STARF, thanked the Players for their generous donation and expressed his delight in organising the raffle and thanked local businesses for the provision of valuable prizes.

He also thanked everyone who bought tickets which resulted in over £1000 for STARFF, saying the money raised will make a real difference to families in need in our local community.



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RINGWOOD NEW TOWN



The Ringwood Society

An entertaining talk by Ken Chatfield about an alarming 1950's plan to turn Ringwood into a mega-town.

April 02, 2025 7:30pm at Greyfriars

Tickets available at Greyfriars & Ticketsource £6
Free entry with membership of The Ringwood Society (£10)



NEWS

Fears for wildlife and further flooding if “absurd” house building plans go ahead on a New Forest floodplain.

Hundreds of people are asking New Forest District Council to reject a planning application for 140 new houses to be built on a local floodplain, next to the protected Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve.

Blashford Wet Meadows' Location

The proposed site – locally known as **Blashford Wet Meadows** – is at Blashford, a small community of c.65 properties about one mile north of Ringwood. The Blashford Wet Meadows site is bordered by the River Avon to its west, Linbrook spate stream to its south, and the New Forest National Park, just a few hundred metres to its east.

The land is situated at the southern side of the ecologically-significant Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve (managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust). Much of the area's 500 acres has protected status, with Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation being just a few metres away from the proposed development land.

Importance of Blashford

The Blashford Lakes and Avon Valley area is internationally recognised as an important site for thousands of birds, mammals, reptiles and plants, and its importance is recognised by much of the area having protection status:

- i) SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest
- ii) Ramsar Wetlands Convention
- iii) SPA - Special Protection Area
- iv) SINCE - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

The proposed development site at Blashford Wet Meadows borders these protections and, unsurprisingly, many of the Nature Reserve's species use Blashford Wet Meadows for nesting, breeding, feeding and/or roosting; the two are symbiotically linked.

Outside of the environmental and hydrological objections, other serious objections include:

- Lack of capacity at all the local schools and GP surgeries
- The generation of yet more traffic on the A338 and neighbouring Gorley Road, and the currently single track gravel lane being used as a 'rat run'.
- The impact on other local infrastructure and services, including the sewage treatment plant near Kingston which was declared “very close to capacity” five years ago.

A previous planning application was **REJECTED** by New Forest District Council in June 2021 because of extreme susceptibility to flooding. In the latest application, there are hundreds of documents to read through and, so far, the only flooding mitigation measures that have been found would potentially endanger the proposed development itself, local water courses, and neighbouring properties.

Clearly, the District Council needs to contribute towards the Government's target of building 1.5 million new homes within their five-year tenure but, as Chris Packham says, **“Come on New Forest District Council ... can we have a rethink here?”**

Anyone wanting to comment on the proposal can do so at bit.ly/Blashford



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NEWS



continued from page 1



Adam Skirton, Pastor of Poulner Baptist Chapel said, 'It's well known that creativity and gratitude are really helpful for our mental and emotional wellbeing, and we trust that people will be blessed by seeing all the amazing objects that have been created'.

CreateTogether project organiser, Susan Baker added, 'It's wonderful to be able to showcase the variety of skills and talents people have! The Exhibition promises to be a joyful and uplifting experience!'

Churches Together in Fordingbridge commented, "We are delighted to support this important project in partnership with our local community, helping people to reflect on all that is good in the world."

All are welcome to the *CreateTogether* Exhibition Opening with free tea and cakes on Mothering Sunday 4pm at Poulner Baptist Chapel, Linford Road BH24 3HZ.

RINGWOOD - Exhibition Schedule (free entry)

- * Poulner Baptist Chapel: Monday 31st March to Thursday 3rd April. 9am to 5pm (additional opening hours till 7pm on Tuesday)
- * Trinity United Church, Ringwood: Monday 7th to Thursday 10th April. 10am to 3pm
- * St Peter's and St Paul's, Ringwood: Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th April. 9am to 5pm

FORDINGBRIDGE - Exhibition Schedule (free entry)

- * Work from the children in Fordingbridge schools will be displayed in various venues in and around Fordingbridge.

The Branch - Town Hall Offices - Salvation Amy Hall - St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge.

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INTERIOR DESIGN & LUXURY FURNISHINGS

Fordingbridge Town Council are saying goodbye to one of its longest ever serving Councillors.

Councillor Brian Perkins is standing down from the Town Council after many years of loyal service. Councillor Perkins initially joined as a member of the Fordingbridge Parish Council and continued as a Councillor when this later became Fordingbridge Town Council. Brian's broad understanding and experience of the role of a Town Councillor will be greatly missed in the future as will his knowledge of the Town.

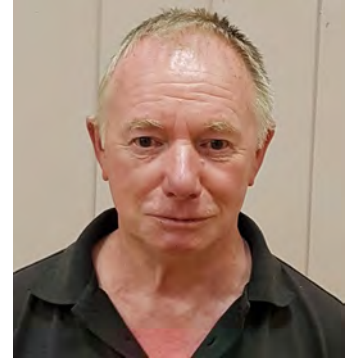
Alongside being a member of the Town Council for such an impressive period of time Brian has also run a successful business in Provost Street for many years where 'Perkins Motor Accessories' has assisted many locals and visitors alike with vehicle and bicycle spares and repairs.

Brian was also a member of Fordingbridge Fire Station as a retained Fireman from 1974 to 1982. He experienced first-hand the incredibly hot and busy Summer of 1976 when Fordingbridge crews dealt with many forest fires across the area. This is still one of the busiest years for the fire service on record. At the end of 1976 Brian and the rest of the team at Fordingbridge Fire Station were personally thanked for all their hard work and efforts during a reception at the Ashburn Hotel hosted by Fordingbridge Parish Council.

In 2004 Brian again became part of another group of local volunteers supporting the Town. He joined the then newly formed

Community First Responders who provided initial assistance at medical emergencies prior to the arrival of an Ambulance. Brian carried out this role for several years.

Fordingbridge Town Council would like to thank Brian for all the hard work and achievements he has been involved in for our Town and community over the last 50 years."



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Revival of Historic Church Clock to Mark Milestone Anniversary

The iconic church clock in Ringwood marketplace is in urgent need of restoration in time for its 250th anniversary next year, as well as the 800th anniversary of the market. The clock's original 1776 mechanism, a rare and valuable piece of history, remains in repairable condition, but it needs significant funding for restoration, this can be achieved through grant funding.

The clock's face, which was damaged by gales a few years ago, has been refurbished with a stainless-steel backing and newly re-gilded numerals, thanks to the skill of a rope access team and the expertise of the Cumbria Clock Company. While the clock's face has been restored, it has been powered for over 50 years by an electric mechanism, which became unreliable and now finally failed. The original clockwork movement remains in place in the tower.

Dating back to 1776, the clock's original mechanism is the largest of its kind in the country. With pagoda-shape frames, such clocks are incredibly rare, with only around 35 remaining nationwide, all built in the second half of the 18th century by a pair of clockmakers in Moorfields, London. Ringwood's was made by Charles Penton and stands as a remarkable piece of historical craftsmanship.

Last summer, Jonathan Betts, former Curator of Clocks at the National Maritime Museum, inspected the clock and confirmed that it is complete and even retains its original paint. The Cumbria Clock Company has provided a quote for its restoration, but £14,000 must be raised to make this historic repair possible. Unlike the electric clock, which would cost £6,000-7,000 to repair with no chance of grant funding, restoring the antique mechanism offers the potential for grants that could support the project.

The clock's restoration is not just about preserving history but ensuring it continues to serve as a symbol of the market's enduring

legacy at the centre of the town. Local support and assistance with making grant applications and fundraising efforts would be invaluable. If you would like to contribute or learn more, please contact clock@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk by email.

Let's work together to see this historic timepiece fully restored for future generations to enjoy!



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NEWS

Prostate Cancer Screening Day at Unity Hall 12th April 2025

The Lodge of Unity 132 and Freemasons in Ringwood and the surrounding area are supporting the Prostate Cancer Support Organisation (PCaSO) in their charitable work of screening Men over the age of 50 to combat Prostate Cancer. This pernicious and insidious cancer is diagnosed in over 45,000 men a year in the UK (NHS England).

Left undiagnosed and untreated it ruins the lives of men and their families.

We want to play a small part in combatting this cancer by encouraging Men in our local community to book on-line for a Prostate cancer screening Test. It is a simple blood sample taken from your arm, to measure the amount of prostate specific antigen (PSA) to be found in your bloodstream. The booking details are on the adjacent information sheet.

A small donation (£15-20) is always welcome to defray costs, all donations go to PCaSO.

Local Freemasons will be supporting PCaSO on the day; tea, coffee and biscuits will be freely available, and we would be pleased to explain to visitors the Charitable work we do for our Local communities to support many other Clubs, Associations, Groups and Charities.

The Lodge of Unity 132 began in 1764 and has been in Ringwood since 1774, it remains the oldest not for profit charitable Organisation in the town.

Help us help you help others.



Prostate Cancer Support Organisation
In association with
Ringwood Masonic Lodge
are hosting a



PSA* Blood Test Event

For men aged between 50 – 80

Saturday 12th April 2025 1000 – 1500 hrs.

Unity Hall 2 Southampton Road

Ringwood BH24 1HY

It is recommended that any man over 50 or over 40 if there is history of Prostate Cancer be checked regularly.

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By appointment only. Book online using the
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We do not charge for the service Donations are welcome to defra costs

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www.pcaso.org. Reg Charity No. 1170536

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NOTICE OF TENDER

ICE CREAM

PITCH

CONCESSION

Tenders are invited to sell ice cream,
hot and cold non-alcoholic drinks
from a mobile ice cream van parked
on a designated parking area at the
Moyle Court Ford, Rockford,
Ringwood.

The concession is to operate from
01 April 2025 to 31 March 2028.

The Parish Council reserves the
right to accept or reject any tender.

The tender application forms and
details of the conditions of
operation are obtainable from the
Parish Clerk, Ellingham,
Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council,
PO Box 9710, Ringwood, Hants,
BH24 9HF Tel: 07840 146506

Email:

Clerk@ellinghamharbridgeibbsley-pc.gov.uk

Offers in a sealed envelope marked
"Ice Cream Pitch Concession" to be
received at the above address by
5.00pm on Sunday 23 March 2025.

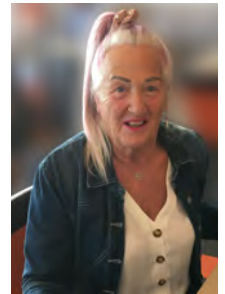
Late applications will not be
considered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CASTLE (nee Phillips)

Sandra

With great sadness, we announce that
Sandra Castle passed away peacefully on
23rd February 2025. A much-loved mum,
grandma, sister, auntie, cousin, and dear
friend, Sandra will be deeply missed by all
who knew her. Her funeral service will
take place at New Forest Crematorium,
Stem Lane, New Milton, BH25 5FH on
Friday, 21st March at 1:00 pm. To honour
Sandra's memory, please feel free to wear a splash of pink, her
favourite colour. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu
of flowers for Salisbury Hospice can be made online at
www.funeraldirector.co.uk/sandra-castle or sent c/o Ives &
Shand Funeral Service, 568 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole,
Dorset BH14 0AG Tel: 01202 716500



GAUDION

Ellen Margaret (Nellie)

Beloved Sister of Nichola and Anna, friend to many, loved by
many. died at home on 22nd February 2025.

Funeral Service to be held at Ringwood Parish Church on
Thursday 27th March at 11.00am. Family flowers only thank
you, but donations if desired for The Stable Family Home Trust
may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or
cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper Funeral Service, 29a
Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire,
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PROPERTY

BRIGHTWATER

SALES | LETTINGS | BUY-TO-LETS



Ringwood £529,950

Extended detached Bungalow located in Ringwood. Three Bedrooms | Large Open Plan Kitchen Diner | Separate Living Room | Bi-fold Doors to Rear Garden | Driveway Parking | Cul-De-Sac Position | Close to Local Schools and Amenities.



Fordingbridge £210,000

First Floor Apartment located in a Gated Development in Fordingbridge Town Centre. Two Double Bedrooms | Open Plan Kitchen Living Room | Allocated Parking | Views Over River Avon | Leasehold | No Onward Chain | Excellent Transport Links.



Ringwood £249,950

First Floor Apartment located in Ringwood Town Centre | Two Double Bedrooms | Bathroom and En-Suite Shower Room | Allocated Parking | New 999 Year Lease Granted | No Onward Chain | Walking Distance to Local Schools and Amenities.



Ringwood OIE £299,950



First-Floor Apartment located in a modern block in Ringwood. Two Double Bedrooms | Large Reception Room | Bathroom and En-Suite Shower Room | Balcony with Views Over Marshland Accessed by Main Bedroom and Living Room | Allocated and Visitor Parking | Share of Freehold | Within Walking Distance to Town Centre | Excellent Transport Links |

**Landlords:
A Guide to
Setting the
Perfect Rent**

BRIGHTWATER



1. Market Research
2. Property Condition
3. Local Amenities and Connectivity
4. Economic Conditions
5. Legal Requirements
6. Tax Implications

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Jason as our new Commercial Director and Harry in his new role as Commercial Property Consultant. We're excited to have them on board and look forward to the journey ahead. With their leadership and insight, BrightWater Commercial is poised for an exciting future.

We're eager to get started – and we want to work with you! If you have commercial property needs, opportunities, or projects in mind, get in touch. Let's make things happen together!



Ringwood For Sale By Tender



Bournemouth £1,419,000



Ringwood £399,000

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The property consists of two storeys which have been split in to an office on the ground floor and a one bedroom self-contained flat on the first floor which is rented on a Assured Shorthold Tenancy. Current Yield: 7.14%

If you have any questions in regard to commercial, development, land or new homes , please contact our Commercial Director Jason Lewis at jason@brightwaterproperties.co.uk, or our Commercial Property Consultant Harry Loose at harry@brightwaterproperties.co.uk.

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RINGWOOD PRICE GUIDE £850,000

Impressive 3/4 bedroom house, superb 'park-like' gardens ¼ of an acre, level walk to town, kitchen/family rm, sitting rm, dining/garden rm, study/bed 4, gf luxury shower/cloakrm, en-suite shower rm/w.c. & dressing room to main bed, dble garage, parking. Epc band C



POULNER - PRICE £390,000

Extremely well presented 3 double bedroom semi-detached house, lounge/dining room, modern kitchen, bathroom/w.c., separate w.c., garage, parking, gas ch, dble glazing, garden, no chain. Epc band C



RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £175,000

Ground floor flat, patio garden, level walk to town, hall, kitchen/living room, double bedroom, bathroom/w.c., gas ch, double glazing, no chain. Epc band C



RINGWOOD PRICE GUIDE £275,000

Spacious 3 bedroom townhouse, small open plan garden, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, gf cloakroom/utility, shower room/w.c. on ff, gas ch, double glazing, no chain. Epc band E



RINGWOOD TOWN CENTRE - PRICE GUIDE £435,000

Superbly presented modern (2022) 2 bedroom end of terrace town house, cloakroom, open plan kitchen/living/dining room, en-suite shower room, bathroom/w.c., garden, covered parking. Epc band B



RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £685,000

Delightful detached 4/5 bedroom, (2000 sqft) multi-generational family home offering versatile & flexible accommodation, large kitchen/breakfast room, craft room/home office, private gardens, extensive off road parking, walking distance of town. Epc band E

The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1AT
www.grantsofringwood.co.uk
sales@grantsestateagents.co.uk

team
teamprop.co.uk