

Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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THE BRITISH PEDAL CAR GRAND PRIX
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2008 - Coupe Class
2016 - Traffic!
1987 - First Race
1989 - Police Team
1990 - Admiring Cars
2014 - Serious faces!
2022 - A Hot Day!
2023 - Under way!

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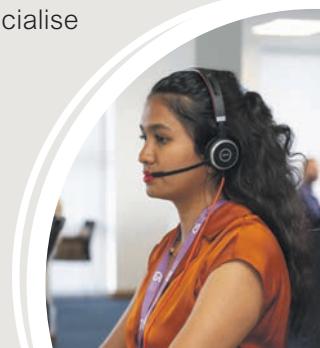
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Game, Set & Match

It's our favourite event of the year, Wimbledon!

Playing tennis is a great way to stay active and enjoy the outdoors, especially during Wimbledon season. Whether you're hitting the courts with friends or practicing your serve, it's a fun way to exercise.

Wimbledon, one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments takes place during late June to early July. It's known for its prestigious history, grass courts, and unique traditions, such as the all-white dress code for players and the consumption of strawberries and cream by fans. The tournament features both men's and women's singles and doubles events, attracting top players from around the world. Legendary athletes like Roger Federer, Serena Williams, and Martina Navratilova have made their mark at Wimbledon, each contributing to the tournament's rich history. Beyond the matches, the atmosphere at Wimbledon is electric, with fans enjoying picnics, live music, and the excitement of watching world-class tennis. It's a great time to engage in your own tennis games, whether at local courts or just for fun in the park. If you're planning to play, consider practicing your skills, joining a local club, or even just rallying with friends. It's a perfect way to embrace the spirit of Wimbledon



while staying fit and enjoying the beautiful weather!

Wimbledon is one of the premier sporting events that BBC broadcasts, making it accessible to a wide audience. The coverage typically includes live matches, highlights, and expert commentary, allowing fans to enjoy the action from home without any cost.

Why not invite a friend round and feel a part of the action by ordering a Wimbledon Cream Tea to enjoy whilst watching from home (available on the Wimbledon website).

Darren & Naomi

Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP

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NEWS

Ringwood Community Fridge – Share in a taste of our Summertime favourites

Did you know that the Ringwood Community Fridge has successfully saved over 200 tonnes of food from waste?

We don't only save food, we also like to share ideas and recipes to inspire people. What better way to do that than coming together to share some summer food. Our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to run the Community Fridge will be conjuring up some magical food for everyone to enjoy. There will be picnic ideas, superfood salads, dips and dressings and dreamy desserts.

If you'd like to sample some tasty treats, then please join us from 12 noon on Saturday 21st June in the Ann Rose Hall at Greyfriars Community Centre.

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Not only do you get a free lunch, it's also a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Ringwood Community Fridge and how you can get involved. We are always welcoming new volunteers, and if you have a few hours to spare, especially for our evening collections, we'd love to hear from you!

Plus, there will be a raffle and recipe cards available too.

Ringwood RACE Against Time runs the fridge and is a registered charity – charity number

1189272, more information can be found at www.raceagainsttime.org.uk or for fridge specific questions email ringwoodcommunityfridge@gmail.com



New Skate Ramp Officially Opens at North Poulner Play Area

Ringwood Town Council is delighted to announce the official opening of the much-anticipated new skate ramp at North Poulner Play Area.

The facility was officially opened on 29 May by Town Mayor, Cllr Rae Frederick, in a community event celebrating the teamwork and dedication that brought the project to life.

The first skate on the new ramp was carried out by Fin McCall, a local young person who first proposed the idea and played a significant role in fundraising efforts. Fin's passion and perseverance helped turn a simple idea into a fantastic new facility for everyone to enjoy.

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Following the opening, local group Ringwood Riders treated attendees to an exciting demonstration, showcasing the ramp's potential and the talent within the community.

Town Mayor Cllr Rae Frederick commented:

"It's wonderful to see this project completed, and even more special to see young people like Fin leading the way. This new ramp is a great addition to the North Poulner Play Area and a real example of what can be achieved when the community comes together. I'd like to thank everyone involved, especially our funders and supporters."

The project was made possible through generous funding and support from several local organisations, including Ringwood Town Council; Ringwood & District Round Table; Ringwood Carnival; Rotary Club of Ringwood; and Donaldson Ross & Co, along with contributions from members of the community and Cllr Philip Day, and a generous grant from New Forest District Council.

The ramp itself was manufactured locally by Ringwood-based company New Forest Metalwork, further adding to the project's strong community connections.

Ringwood Town Council extends its thanks to all who supported the project and looks forward to seeing the new skate ramp enjoyed for years to come.



from L-R Cllr Dan Poole (Portfolio Holder – Community, Safety and Wellbeing, New Forest District Council), Cllr Rae Frederick (Town Mayor), Fin McCoul, Jamie Burton (Health & Partnership Manager, New Forest District Council) and Tim Iles (Ringwood & District Round Table)



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NEWS

Fordingbridge Twinning Association

What an amazing “Victory in Europe weekend”.

Fordingbridge Twinning Association invited over 40 French people from Fordingbridge's twinned town of Vimoutiers, Normandy, who all arrived on Thursday 8th May (the actual VE Day), and were immediately treated to a Civic Reception with speeches from the Mayor of Fordingbridge (Cllr Pete White) and leaders of the two twinning associations.

There was handbell ringing to celebrate the National VE Day events, followed by lighting of the beacon, the Tribute of Remembrance read by the Town Crier, singing of 'I Vow to the My Country' finishing with national anthems played by Hyde Band. The French guests enjoyed these formal events and were pleased to join in.

On Friday they were taken for a guided tour of Breamore House, its museum and bluebell woods, and its famous "miz-maze". (see attached photo of the French visitors outside Breamore House). The day ended with a rip-roaring Ceilidh, featuring local band "Murphy's Lore". Everyone joined in with the dancing along with much laughter!

The VE Day celebrations, organised by Fordingbridge Town Council, and assisted by organisations like the Avon-Valley Shed and Fordingbridge Rotary, concluded on Saturday, 10th May with a Picnic in the Park. Preceded by a guided walk of the local New Forest, by Fordingbridge Twinning Association, the French visitors were treated to a fish'n'chips lunch, much music in the afternoon, numerous stalls and entertainments before an evening dinner with local dance music.



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The weekend ended for the French, with a "brunch" on Sunday morning, with music provided by local 8-piece band "New Forest Rhythmix", before they caught their coach home, via Portsmouth Ferry. The next Twinning event will be when they return our hospitality, and local "twinnings" will attend the "Foire de la Pomme" over the weekend of 17th - 19th October, in Vimoutiers, just an hour's drive from the ferry at Caen.

The weather was fantastic over the whole 4 day visit which caused much amusement with people returning to France with suntans! They don't usually expect that when they visit the UK!

For further details on how to join the Twinning Association, &/or the Avon-Valley Shed, &/or indeed, Fordingbridge Rotary, do contact Derek Ayling, on 01425 650770, or by email, on Hippotrain@BTInternet.com



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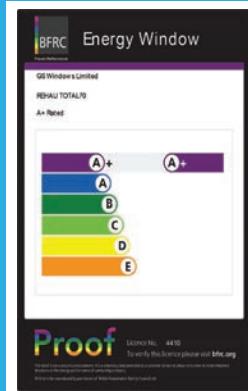
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NEWS

From strength to strength: Northfield House earns full 'Good' CQC rating across all areas

Achieve together celebrates consistent, person-centred care and inclusive leadership at its Northfield House home in Ringwood, Hampshire.

Achieve together is proud to announce that Northfield House, a residential care home in Ringwood, Hampshire, has been rated 'Good' in all five inspection areas by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following its latest full assessment in April–May 2025. The report highlights safe, responsive, person-centred support and strong, inclusive leadership – delivered with warmth, consistency and care.

Northfield House supports people with learning disabilities, autism, sensory needs and physical disabilities. CQC inspectors noted that people feel safe, respected and involved in shaping their support, and that family members view the team as trusted partners.

One person told inspectors:

"I like living here. The team are friendly, helpful and good at listening. The food is delicious. I can choose what I want to eat. I feel safe. They take me to the seaside, the pub, sailing – I love it."

Another relative added:

"My relative leads a fulfilling life with so many activities. All my interactions with the team have been positive, giving me peace of mind. They're doing a fantastic job."

Inspectors praised Northfield House for:

- Tailored support that promotes independence, dignity and choice
- Clear, accessible health plans and timely referrals
- Skilled, consistent team members who know people well
- An inclusive, open culture of leadership and learning

"This result demonstrates the consistency of the team's standards and the quality of care they provide day after day to people we support at Northfield," said Zak Houlahan, CEO, Achieve together. "It's not easy getting to 'Good' – and it's even harder maintaining it. Well done and thank you."

Victoria Brown, Head of Area Operations, added:

"Northfield is a home where people feel truly seen, heard and supported to live their best lives. This result reflects not just a moment in time, but a culture that's been built through trust, teamwork and ambition."

Netty, Registered Manager, Northfield House, shared:

"We're incredibly proud of this outcome. The report reflects the teamwork, consistency and genuine care shown every day – not just for inspection, but for people we support. This was a real team effort, and I'd especially like to thank everyone across Achieve together who stepped in, helped prepare, responded quickly, or simply had our backs. It's been a shared success – and we're all so thankful."

The CQC report confirms Northfield House is not only meeting all regulatory expectations but is also delivering care and support aligned with the 'Right Support, Right Care, Right Culture' framework. Families, professionals and people supported consistently describe the home as a place where people thrive.



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If your income is over £30,000, you'll need to follow the same rules in 2027. And from 2028, that drops to £20,000.

It's all part of **Making Tax Digital**, HMRC's plan to modernise the tax system. It might sound like a headache, but getting set up early will actually make things easier in the long run.

Using digital tools can help you:

- Stay on top of your finances with **less stress**
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- Make sure you're **claiming everything you should**

At **Donaldson Ross & Co**, we're already working with local landlords

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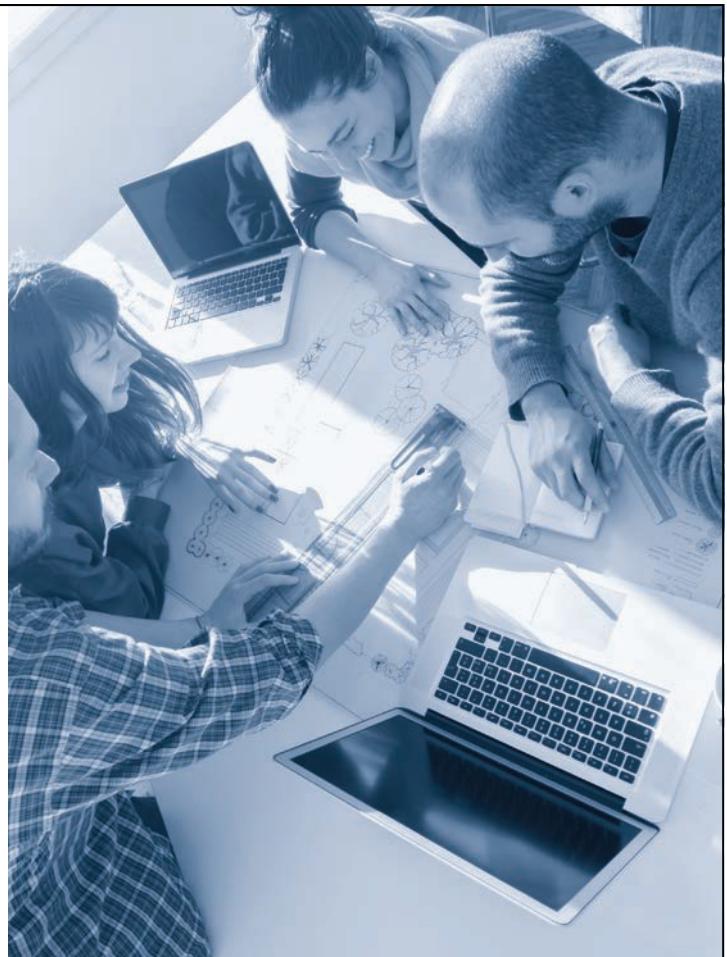
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NEWS

Understanding Investments - Hoping to retire within the next 5 years?

We work with many clients in their 50's who start to think about reducing their working hours or retiring. They realise that there are a finite number of working years ahead and want to save tax and maximise their savings during their peak earning years.

Often we see people paying more tax than they need, with the subsequent tax savings we identify helping them build their own retirement fund. Many people have pensions and investments but are invested in default funds with no idea of what the funds invest in and whether they are suitable for their own retirement needs. They often hold a number of pension plans built up over the years and don't know what they are paying in charges or whether the plans include any guaranteed benefits, which could be very valuable at retirement.

Realising there is less than 5 years to accumulate sufficient capital on which to live once retired, clients want to know "how much will we need?". This is one of the most important questions which cannot easily be answered unless you have specific, financial planning tools and software (which we do!).

I've listed below some of the key information required to help create a plan.

1 - Understand what loans (including mortgage) are outstanding, what interest is being charged and when they are due to be repaid. It is important to be debt free at retirement, albeit there are number of ways to achieve that depending on your personal tax situation.

2 - Obtain a state pension projection to understand what you will be entitled to and when. This can be obtained online via the Government website and will be a valuable source of inflation-protected income at the state pension age. It is possible to top this up with lump sum or regular payments if you haven't been credited with the full 35 years of National Insurance contributions.

3 - Obtain projections from any Defined Benefit Pensions. These can also provide future inflation-protected income and the date they are due to commence will vary depending on scheme rules.

4 - Quantify your personal assets which include cash, investments and property. Understand what your investments such as ISAS and Pensions are invested in, what you are paying in charges and to what level of risk they are exposed. Is this too low or too high or just right, based on when you plan to retire? Do your pension plans allow full pension freedom flexibility in the way you can access income in retirement (Flexi-Access Drawdown, UFPLS, Annuities)?

It's possible to switch between pension and ISA providers if it is identified there is a financial advantage (lower charges, wider investment choice or more flexible ways to draw income in retirement). It's also possible to consolidate multiple plans with the aim to reduce charges and simplify.

We utilise specialist cash-flow tools which help clients identify "how much is enough?". Once in retirement, we help them maximise their lifestyles by showing them whether their retirement "wish-list" is affordable and if so, encouraging them to do things whilst they are fit and able.

If you'd like to learn more or discuss your personal situation, we would be delighted to meet for a free, no obligation initial chat.

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 Plans or Cash Flow Modelling.

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RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE LIONS HELP GET UKRAINE AID READY FROM THE NEW FOREST

10th May 2025 saw the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions Club bring aid for Ukraine to New Forest for Ukraine's Aid Hub at Ampress Lane, Lymington. Bringing donations also from Ringwood residents who wanted to contribute to supporting Ukraine but who could not attend, the Lions then packed and prepared aid for transport. They had collected and brought vital items which are in short supply in Ukraine including pasta and other long life foods, toiletries, hygiene and sanitary products. The team then worked alongside NFFU volunteers to pack all this ready for transport, received donations and saw in other donors as they arrived and helped to pack and prepare everything ready for despatch.

Lions Club President Alastair Ward said:

"It is wonderful to do something for Ukraine. This is our third visit as a group to New Forest for Ukraine and it is wonderful to see and be involved in so much good that is being done from so close to us in the New Forest. We love doing something where we can get involved and do whatever we can to make someone else's life better."

Lions Club Membership Officer and former Club President Steve Sherring said:



www.newforestforukraine.org

Charity Registration No. 1208709

"We do a lot of fundraising and we support local and wider communities through a variety of humanitarian and community projects. But it's always great to be able to get involved hands on and see the results as we have today where we can see the donations brought by us and others packed and ready to go to Ukraine to people who need it. A lot of people will see what has happened and what is happening in Ukraine and share the view that it is terrible. But it is terrific to be part of doing something about it."

John Allison, Head of New Forest for Ukraine said:

"Huge thanks to the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions Club and everyone who has contributed to the donations they brought. It is terrific to see them roaring back here at our Aid Hub in Lymington. On behalf of the Ukrainian people we support, many of whom are displaced and vulnerable, this means a lot."

The donations they brought represented much of the priority items we are getting asked for at the moment by the groups we directly support in Ukraine. Much of these goods they need would be basics for us in the UK which we may take for granted. That includes items such as long-life, ambient, tinned and dried foods, baby food and products, first aid and hygiene and sanitary items.



If any other groups of people or organisations would like to do something similar, we will welcome them with open arms and contact us via our website at <https://www.newforestforukraine.org>.

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Christchurch, BH23 1QA

NEWS



Crown House

Lettings and Property Management

Crown House Lettings are absolutely thrilled to share some exciting news with our local community: Crown House Lettings has just won Gold in the Regional Tier for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight at this year's National Property Awards!

This comes hot on the heels of our second consecutive Gold win at the local level earlier this year, and we couldn't be prouder.

For us, these awards aren't just about shiny plaques or industry titles — they're a reflection of the relationships we've built with our landlords, tenants, and neighbours across Ringwood, Fordingbridge, and beyond. Being recognised at a regional level is a real honour, especially when we know how many great agents are out there doing brilliant work.

At Crown House, we've always said that lettings is about people first — listening, caring, and going the extra mile to make sure everyone feels looked after. This award tells us we're on the right track, and it means the world to know that our work is being noticed and appreciated.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who's supported us — whether you've trusted us with your property, recommended us to a friend, or simply cheered us on. We truly couldn't have done this without you. Here's to continuing to serve our community with the same friendly, down-to-earth service we've always believed in — and to whatever golden moments come next!

The team at Crown House would like to wish all the competitors good luck for the Pedal Car Grand Prix



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Ringwood Twinning Association Host Pont Audemer Guests

Ringwood's enduring partnership with its French twin town, Pont Audemer, was celebrated in style on Saturday 10th May at a civic reception hosted at Greyfriars Community Centre. The event brought together visiting guests from Normandy and their local hosts as part of the annual exchange organised by the Ringwood Twinning Association.

Since the official twinning in 1986, the two towns have maintained a close relationship, strengthened by regular reciprocal visits that foster cultural understanding and long-lasting friendships. This year's gathering held particular meaning, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of VE Day—an occasion that underscores the importance of international unity and remembrance.

Guests enjoyed a sociable lunch accompanied by live music from Richard Pearce, creating a lively atmosphere that soon gave way to spontaneous dancing. The joyful celebration was a testament to the warm bond between the two communities.

Ringwood mayor Rae Frederick welcomed the visitors and offered her appreciation for the continued spirit of camaraderie that the twinning represents.

Photo by Derek Maidment



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SPORT

Are you ready for the biggest race of the year Ringwood?

It's only a few weeks until the British Pedal Car Grand Prix returns to Ringwood Town Centre on Sunday 13th July, bringing you the thrills, spills & excitement of the Monaco Grand Prix but with human power in place of horse power, and a carnival atmosphere without the super yachts as up to 30 teams race around our Street Circuit for 2 solid hours in their pedal-powered hotrods!

Join crowds of thousands to cheer on our teams, and help us to raise money to support the incredible work of our chosen charity - Macmillan Local Care. The race itself gets going at 3pm, with our teams competing to log as many laps as possible before the chequered flag waves at 5pm. But there's so much more going on alongside the main race! We've got a huge range of Food & Drink concessions dotted around the course, whether it's in our Food & Drink village up at Gateway Square, in the Market Place or down at Fridays Cross. So whether you're fancying a beer, a burger or an ice cream, or something else - We've got you covered! We won't just keep you fed & watered though! We've got the fantastic Bournemouth Carnival Band joining the team to keep you entertained between Open Practice and the main event itself.

After the race finishes, make sure that you stick around in the Market Place where we'll be awarding the trophies & medals to our teams before Frampton's kicks off the evenings entertainment at the Official Pedal Car After-Party! Join our competitors, volunteers & spectators to celebrate their hard work, share your favourite bits & dance the night away with 2 live bands to round off the day!

The British Pedal Car Grand Prix couldn't survive without our amazing sponsors, and we're really lucky so have so many local & regional businesses wanting to help us this year to deliver what is shaping up to be the biggest race yet!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHEN?

8.30	ROADS CLOSED
12.2	OPEN PRACTICE
2.15	BOURNEMOUTH CARNIVAL BAND
3PM	RACE STARTS
5PM	RACE FINISHES
5.15	PRESENTATIONS
6PM	OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY



Fordingbridge Bowling Club Supports Local Charity AVCM

Proceeds from Fordingbridge Bowling Club's recent Joint Captains' Day have been donated to local community outreach charity Avon Valley Community Matters (AVCM). Led by the Ladies' Team Captain Val Lundin, Men's Team Captain John Bundy and ably supported by Vice Captain Prue Churchill, during Captains' Day the club members enjoyed a game, followed by a barbecue and raffle. Thanks to generous donations from more than 60 club members who attended, £803.10 was raised.

AVCM's Chair, Sue Ledger, said: "We are so grateful to the Bowling Club for this generous donation which will enable us to support our outreach program for local children and their families during the summer holidays, providing a much-needed service for our community."

Special thanks to The George in Fordingbridge, Woodfalls Inn, Bowls Direct, Justin Scriven and members of Fordingbridge Bowling Club for generously donating raffle prizes.

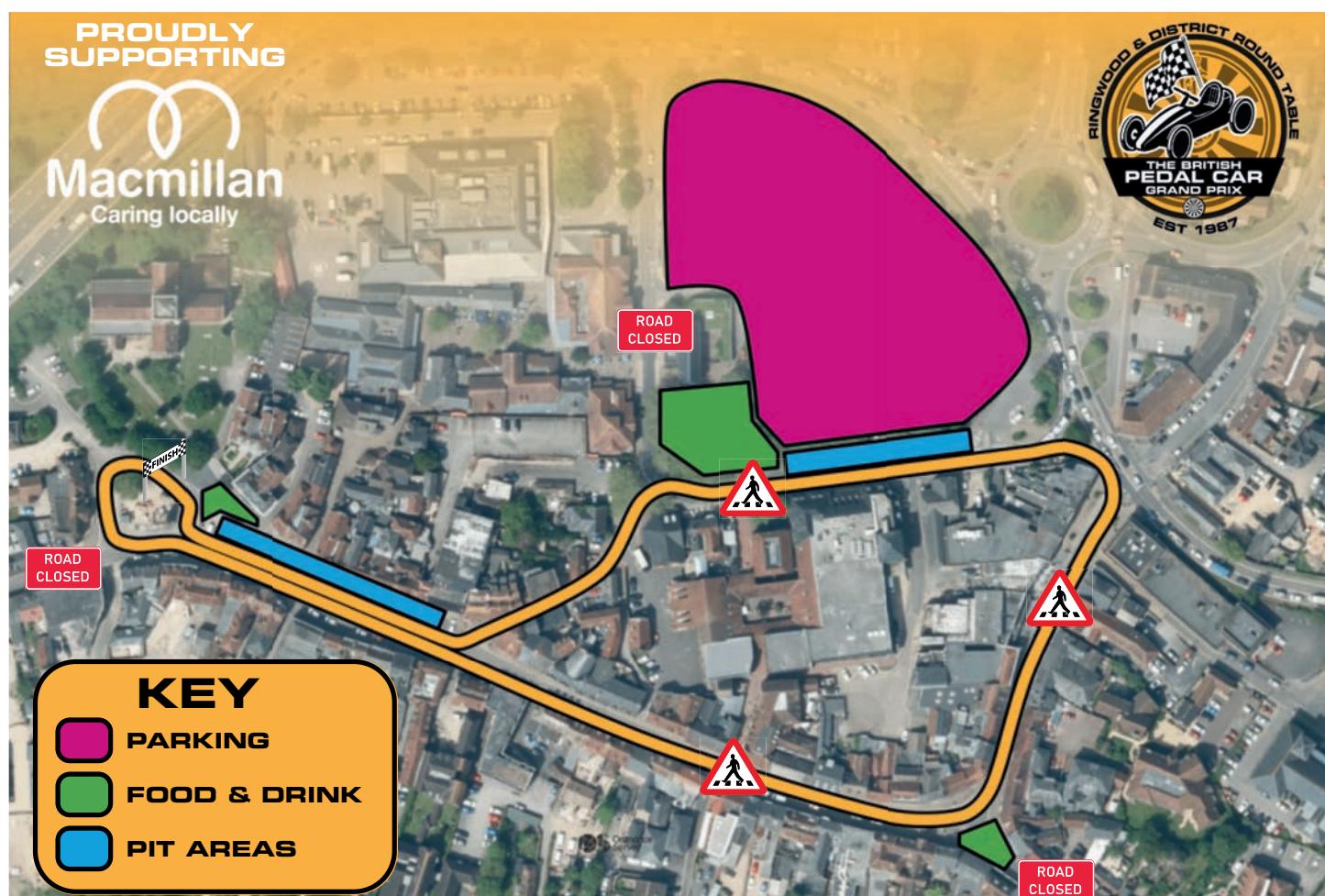
Established in 1927, Fordingbridge Bowling Club, to the east of the town in Stuckton, celebrates its 100th anniversary in two years' time. Membership has grown over the century as well as the club's reputation as a sociable hub for bowlers of all standards. New members are most welcome - contact www.fordingbridgebc.com for more information.

AVCM Trustees and volunteers raise funds locally as well as running a charity shop on Fordingbridge High Street to support outreach work in the community. The charity funds Bereavement Support, a local Friendship Group for the lonely and vulnerable,



Care Home visits, an inclusive Playgroup (Superstars) as well as free holiday activity programmes for local families. This generous donation from Fordingbridge Bowling Club will help fund the charity's half termly Families Together and Summer Picnics programme which funds free activities and meals for families. For more information about AVCM's projects, to get involved or make a donation, please visit www.avcmatters.org.

Photo credit: Laura Cowdery



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Local toad patrol receives community award

A prestigious Community Award has been given to Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol by Ringwood Town Council.

The only such Community Award given out by the Council this year, it recognises the importance of the local toad population and the efforts of the patrol to help them survive migration.

The award was presented at the Annual Town Assembly on May 14th at Ringwood Town Council's Gateway offices. It was given by the Town Mayor, Councillor Rae Frederick to Nicola Yorke, the manager of Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol, and to Teresa Baker who first set up the patrol in 1989.

"We're incredibly proud that our efforts have been recognised in this way by the Town Council," said Nicola Yorke. "It's a great tribute to our fantastic fifty-strong team of volunteers who are ready to take turns every evening from mid January to well into April to help toads safely across a busy rural road as they migrate down to Blashford Lakes to breed and lay their eggs."

"I have been lucky to see first-hand the wonderful work the Toad Patrol volunteers do, helping toads safely reach the lakes," said Councillor Frederick. "It's a touching reminder of the care and commitment people in this town show – not just to each other, but to our local wildlife and the environment too."

Populations of common toads are declining across the UK, and they face great dangers when they crawl slowly across busy roads in the breeding season.



Registered with the wildlife charity Froglife who coordinate toad patrolling throughout the UK, the Ringwood patrol has been going for 36 years. Volunteers take turns to drive slowly along the road from dusk until 11pm, stopping to pick up toads and carry them across the road so they can safely continue their journey down to the water's edge. The patrol route runs from the North Poulner crossroads up to the Moyles Court ford below Rockford Common.

"Loss of habitat and changing weather patterns are affecting amphibian populations badly," said Nicola Yorke. "But the particular route we look after can be especially dangerous for toads, newts and frogs where they risk being killed under the wheels of cars and vans. So it's more important than ever that we do all we can to help them, and we hope that this community award from the Council will help to increase local understanding and support still further."

Anyone interested in volunteering can get in touch via email rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com



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Table Top Sale

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WHAT'S ON

FORDINGBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY

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Excerpts from
Karl Jenkins ★ Stella Natalis
Josef Rheinberger - Stabat Mater

June 28th 2025 10.30am - 4pm

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Registered Charity No 1199533

Chamber Maids
Musical Director: Ivy Tan
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Maid for Summer

Ringwood Parish Church
Saturday, 9th August 2025
7.30pm

Tickets: £15
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Fordingbridge Open Gardens

weekend - Save the dates!

On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July indulge yourself in some of St Mary's Church congregation's gardens (along with a few of their friends).

Explore gardens large and small, in and around Fordingbridge. None are professional gardeners but enjoy the activity and want to support the church to be able to reach out to everyone when they need it. Some gardens will also be offering refreshments as well as an extra riverside location in the heart of Fordingbridge, and some may have plants and other produce.

For details of times and venues across the weekend please visit:
<https://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/open-gardens-25>



WHATS ON



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19 JULY JIVE TALKIN'
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24 JULY SWEET & SOUR
THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO SABRINA CARPENTER AND OLIVIA RODRIGO

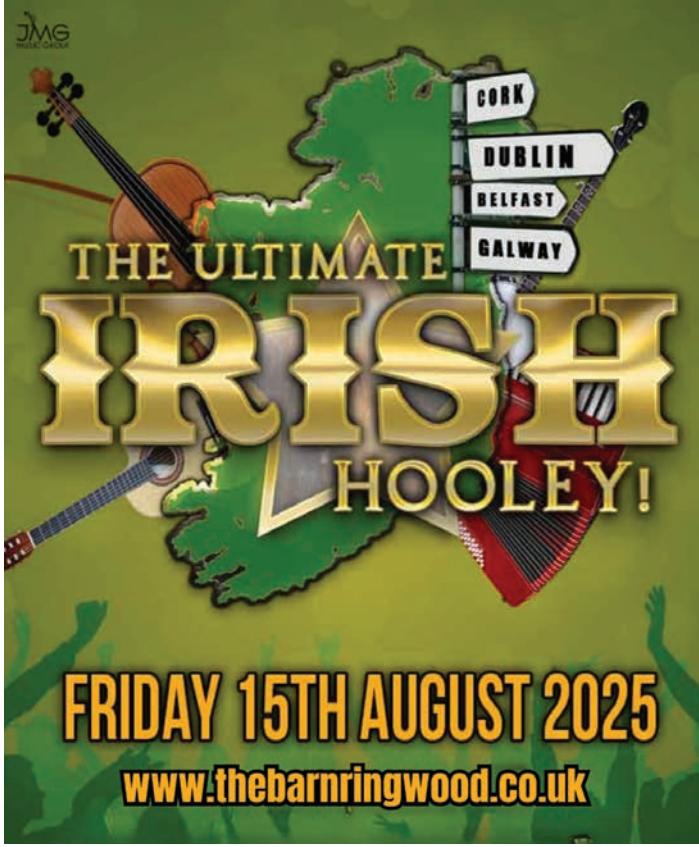
26 JULY SERIOUSLY COLLINS
THE PHIL COLLINS & GENESIS TRIBUTE SHOW

15 AUG THE ULTIMATE IRISH HOOLEY!
WITH IRELAND'S NO.1 FOLK AND ROCK BAND KELTIC STORM

6 SEPT ELO AGAIN
CELEBRATING JEFF LYNNE AND THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA

12 SEPT THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
THE LONGEST RUNNING CELEBRATION OF JOHNNY CASH

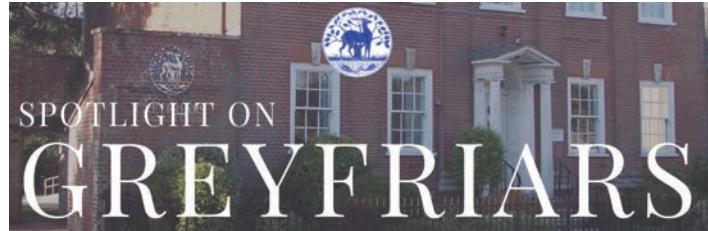
13 SEPT FEVER - THE ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW
LIVE VOCALS, STUNNING MUSICIANSHIP AND AUTHENTIC COSTUME!



HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

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15 June - Ringwood & Fordingbridge Labour Women's Group 10.45am.

They meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Greyfriars.

20 June - Greyfriars AGM - 2pm

Please join us to hear more about how Greyfriars supports the local community.

27 June - Friends of Greyfriars AGM - 7.30pm

Anyone can join 'Friends of Greyfriars', pop into Reception for more details.

28 June - Wolf Mindset presents...

Your mindset reset with a side of jam! Visit Greyfriars from 9am-1pm for a Stress free and Cream Tea event.

4 July - Summer Party with Ray Foster 7pm

Come and boogie with Ray to support Greyfriars. Grab a hotdog, burger and an American beer whilst you're there. Tickets available for £10 at Greyfriars or via TicketSource.

22-26 July - RMDS Summer Show

Join RMDS for their fun night of entertainment with their uniquely formatted 3 cornered show! 3 mini shows of ~35 mins each with delicious free nibbles and a cash bar. Show tickets are on sale via Greyfriars (cash/cheque) or TicketSource.

2 August - Summer Book Sale & Craft Fayre

Take advantage to brose our huge range of books to increase your personal library! Grab a book; a puzzle or a something from the Craft Fayre. Doors open at 9am and we close at 1pm. Refreshments also available.



Ringwood and Burley Band

DATES FOR YOU DIARY:

Sunday 1st June - SPRING CONCERT , TRINITY CHURCH, RINGWOOD BH24 1DH 3.00pm

Saturday 12th July - ROTARY SENIOR CITIZENS TEA PARTY, GREYFRIARS, RINGWOOD, 2pm

Saturday 2nd August - BURLEY VILLAGE SHOW, BURLEY 12.30pm

Saturday 3rd August - CARAVAN CLUB RALLY , AM and AFTERNOON

NEWS

Ringwood School Set to Burst with Colour for Fundraising Event

Thursday 17th July 2025 – Get ready for a vibrant spectacle as Ringwood School prepares to host its much-anticipated Colour Run to raise vital funds for brand new student changing rooms.

Nearly 1,000 students and 200 staff members will hit the 3.5-mile route around Ringwood, running, walking, and laughing their way through five dazzling colour stations where they'll be showered with bursts of brightly coloured powder. Each colour station adds to the fun, leaving participants covered head to toe in a rainbow of happiness by the finish line. The Colour Run promises not just excitement, but also safety and environmental care. The powder used is non-toxic, eco-friendly, and easily brushed off or washed away by rain - although the school hope much of it will stay on the participants as colourful mementos of the day. A dedicated clean-up team will ensure that the event leaves behind nothing but "colourful footprints".

"Following the success of our event in 2022, we're thrilled to bring the Colour Run back to Ringwood this year," said Sam Coombes, Operations Manager at Ringwood School. "It's a fantastic way to unite our school community, promote fitness and fun, and raise funds for much-needed improvements to changing facilities for our students." As the school has grown, the original 1950 changing rooms built to suit 300 students, are in desperate need of expansion. With close to 1600 students now on role, the school is planning an additional set of changing rooms, toilets, and showers, including a fully accessible changing area, to cope with the huge demand from a very popular subject.

This year's event is proudly supported by Anytime Fitness, who will provide finisher medals for all participants and help to lead high-energy warm-up sessions before each wave of runners takes off. Elliot Burton, Club Manager said "We are delighted to be involved in this



fantastic event for the community in Ringwood. Promoting physical activity and healthy well-being is the cornerstone of our ethos at Anytime Fitness Ringwood and we can't wait to see everyone take part."

The school is calling on the wider community for support in the form of marshals to help line the route, ensuring the safety of students and cheering them on along the way. Those interested in volunteering can contact scoombes@ringwood.hants.sch.uk for more information.

Join us as we turn Ringwood into a festival of colour, spirit, and school pride - all for a great cause.



Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

SHINING IN JULY IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
01/07/1916	William James Cummings	Private	1 st Bn, Hampshire Regt.
01/07/1916	Ethelbert Young	Private	1 st Bn Hampshire Regt.
02/07/1944	Arthur Ernest Steele	Driver	234 FCE, Royal Engineers
04/07/1943	Roy Ernest Debben	Flight Sergeant	51 Sqdn, RAFVR
07/07/1915	Herbert Street	Private	2 nd Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/07/1944	Henry Roy Herbert	Corporal	7 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
13/07/1915	Frederick EV Willcox	Corporal	Royal Marine Light Infantry
14/07/1942	Arthur Dennis Meech	Sergeant	18 Sqdn, RAFVR
15/07/1916	Harold Jerrold Spurgin	Corporal	9 th Bn, Royal Sussex Regt.
21/07/1916	George Seymour	Private	12 th Bn, Devonshire Regt.
21/07/1943	Donald Lawford	Private	2 nd Bn, Wiltshire Regt.
25/07/1916	Edward Patrick Healy	Private	2 nd Bn, Royal Scots
28/07/1916	Ernest George Brown	Gunner	14 th Div. Royal Field Artillery
31/07/1944	John Grimes Champion	Flight Lieutenant	198 Sqdn, RAFVR

Lest We Forget



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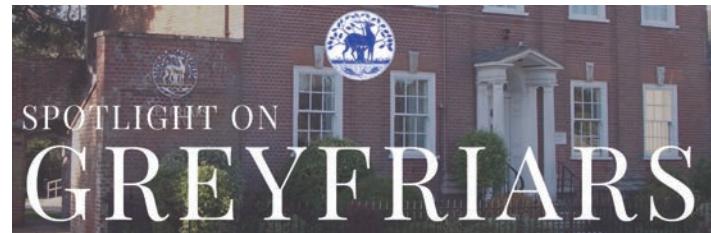


Squirrels litter pick

On Monday June 2nd, the 1st Fordingbridge Scouts Squirrels undertook a litter pick around Fordingbridge, as part of working towards their Community Action badge.

Armed with litter pickers and bin bags, 10 young people went on a hunt to clean up our town. They really enjoyed being out and helping, although they were shocked at what people drop rather than recycle or bin.

Squirrels are the youngest branch of the Scouting movement, aged 4 to 6 years old, carrying out a variety of fun, age appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. 1st Fordingbridge Scouts opened their drey in October 2023, and have had a great reaction and attendance since inception. To find out more about Scouting, and to get in contact with us, go to www.fordingbridgescouts.org.uk



Ringwood & District Community Association Short Council Meeting and AGM 10 July 2025.

Council Meeting 10 July 2025 at 7pm and AGM at 7:30pm.

To confirm the following resolution, and other AGM business, including the approval of the Accounts to the year end 31 August 2024.

The Association's Council, having decided at its meeting on 6 March 2025 that dissolution of Ringwood & District Community Association is in its best interest with such dissolution being accompanied by the creation of the **Greyfriars Community Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** to take the Association's place including ownership of all its assets, this meeting agrees that the Ringwood & District Community Association shall be dissolved on a date to be agreed by the Association's Executive Committee.

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MEET THE TEAM

Darren	Jo	Amelia	Jason
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HISTORY & NEWS

Lost Buildings of Ringwood – Exhibition and Talk



If you walked around Ringwood, you'd be forgiven for thinking not very much has changed over the years, there is still much which is recognisable, barring a few exceptions. In fact many things have changed and much has been lost over the decades, and the stories of some of those losses are the subject of a forthcoming exhibition and talk by The Ringwood Society, entitled Lost Buildings of Ringwood.

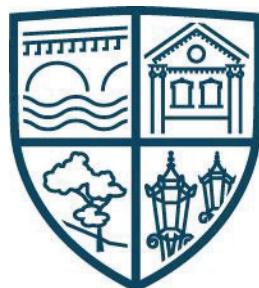
The exhibition will be on display throughout July 2025 at Ringwood Meeting House and History Centre and will give people an opportunity to look back at how the town has evolved. Subjects include the Town Mill, the livestock market and buildings lost to

the A31. With a selection of never publicly seen images, it is hoped that visitors to the exhibition will find this trip down memory lane illuminating and thought provoking about the natural change of market towns throughout the country.

An accompanying talk will take a deeper dive into the subject and look at some of the stories behind buildings in the exhibition, as well as some buildings which didn't quite make the cut. The talk will be delivered by Alex Bancroft, Chair of The Ringwood Society.

Tickets for the talk, which are on sale through the Society website at www.ringwoodsociey.org.uk/events, are free for members of The Ringwood Society, or £6 for non-members. The talk will take place at Ringwood Meeting House and History Centre at 7.30pm on 1st July 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.ringwoodsociey.org.uk



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Fordingbridge Town Council Welcomes Two New Councillors

Fordingbridge Town Council is delighted to have co-opted two new members at the Annual Council meeting last month: Cllr Gareth Johnston and Cllr Stephen Brown.

Cllr Gareth Johnston is a local business owner and long-term resident of Fordingbridge. As the owner of both The Gourmet Grocer and the new cheese and wine bar Juniper & Vine, he has a deep connection to the local economy giving him valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by both residents and businesses. Beyond his business experience, he has been actively involved in the Fordingbridge Events Group, helping to organise events that bring the community together and promote local businesses. He is committed to helping Fordingbridge remain a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and visit and is passionate about supporting our town and ensuring it continues to thrive.

After living on the High Street, Cllr Stephen Brown purchased and restored a previously neglected property in Fordingbridge, and contributes to the local community fund to help preserve the character and appeal of the area. Stephen has worked in the automotive industry all his life and is now a local business owner of Forest Edge Motor Company; in addition to running a successful business, he is passionate about supporting local shops and small businesses. Stephen hopes to act as a voice for struggling local enterprises and is already working on initiatives to bring them together and give back to the community.

Their shared commitment to the town of Fordingbridge make them both invaluable additions to the Council.



Cllr Gareth Johnston



Cllr Stephen Brown

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NEWS

Damerham Fair - Saturday 26th July

The Damerham Fair will take place on Saturday 26th July, with fun for all the family. This is a traditional countryside fair, something that the village is very proud of.

This year's Fair will feature a demonstration from The Dorset Axe-men, the annual dog show, children's activities, a BBQ, bar and an array of Craft & Trade stalls.

The most unique part of the Fair is the 'Damerham Derby', a horse race but not as you know it! 'Jockeys' wear horse costumes and compete in a race, jumps included, around the sports field. Highly entertaining for both those competing and spectating.

This year's Fair is particularly special as it coincides with the Damerham and District Horticultural Society's 100th Anniversary. The society will host its annual show, full of a variety classes, open to all, including best flowers, cakes, jam and even eggs!

The fair starts at 11am and finishes at 4:30pm and will take place at the Damerham Sportsfield, SP6 3HQ. Entry fee is £5 for adults and under 16s go free.

There will be free parking and free bus service from Fordingbridge, Ashford & Sandleheath.

Following the Fair, there will be an evening event which will take place in the main marquee from 8pm. There will be live music performed by local band 'Firestar' and guests are encouraged to dress for the 'Glitz and Glamour' theme.



For more information, visit www.damerhamfair.co.uk



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New short term support services for local carers

Carers of adults with dementia in Ringwood and Fordingbridge will now be able to access different types of support offered by Oak Mount Care Home and Make Memories Matter day centre.

Dominic Foot, Director at Oak Mount Care Home in Ringwood attended the monthly Make Memories Matter carers support meeting organised by Louise Kelly, which takes place on the third Friday of the month 2-3pm at Bridges Café in Fordingbridge.

Make Memories Matter is a charity that holds a weekly day centre on Fridays at Avonway in Fordingbridge for adults with dementia, allowing their carers to get a well-deserved break.

At Oak Mount Care Home, we understand how challenging it can be to look after someone with dementia. At the carers meeting, Dominic met some of the unsung heroes who look after their loved ones 24/7 and was impressed by how stoic and dedicated they were. It was an emotional get-together where it became clear that some of the carers were tired but were finding it difficult to step back to look after themselves. Some of the carers spoke quite candidly about how difficult it had been when they first started visiting Louise's day centre with their, sometimes reluctant, loved one. However, now that Louise has got to know them and settled them in, everyone is benefiting from a little break. After all, you can't pour from an empty cup.

As a result of this meeting, and our discussions with Louise, we have changed our thinking on the type of respite stays we offer. Respite stays at Oak Mount Care Home are mini-holidays for a variety of



reasons, not least to give carers a break. We will now offer shorter stays for as little as 1 week. This can be a one-off stay or regular breaks in the future, for as long or short as needed.

Our respite package includes a full care plan developed between our Manager Debbie and the primary care giver to ensure needs are fully met.

A bit like Make Memories Matter, we have a very friendly and relaxed environment where a week will fly by allowing carers to recharge. Josie, our Activities Coordinator organises a variety of fun and engaging activities that are tailored to individual preferences, which include anything from music, exercise, quizzes etc to keep the mind and body active.

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NEWS

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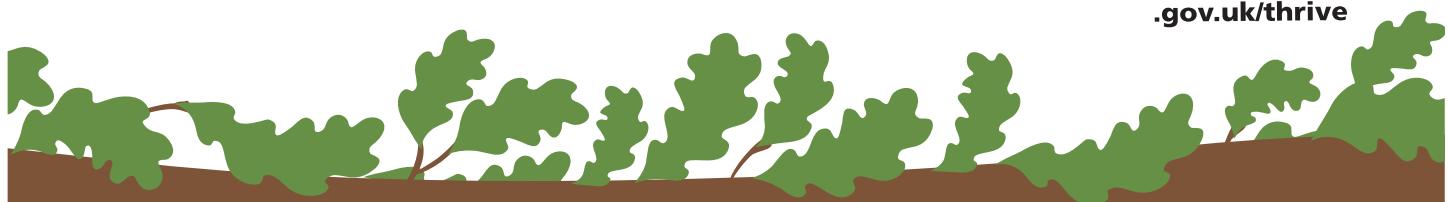
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Ringwood care home celebrates raising over £3,400 for Alzheimer's Society

Residents and staff at a Ringwood care home have raised over £3,400 for a charity supporting people living with dementia. Over the past year, residents and the team at St Ives House care home, on Horton Road in Ashley Heath, have hosted a number of events for their families, loved ones and the local community to attend. All donations from the events have gone to Alzheimer's Society, which is marking Dementia Action Week from 19 to 25 May, which raises awareness of the importance of an early diagnosis for people affected by dementia.

These events at St Ives House have included summer and Christmas fayres, fundraising open days, staff dressing up for Elf Day at Christmas and a spring coffee morning. Residents have also made forget-me-not flower badges to sell in the reception area.

Chloe, whose grandmother received care while living at St Ives House for four years, decided to complete a skydive from 15,000 feet for Alzheimer's Society in her honour. She originally set a target of £600, but she ended up raising £2,545 for the charity. She said: "I've always wanted to do a skydive and Alzheimer's Society is a cause close to my family, so it was very rewarding to raise so much money for them."

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, said: "We are so proud of the incredible fundraising efforts of our residents, staff, their families, loved ones, and the local community. It's such a fantastic cause which supports people at a challenging time in their lives, and we're so pleased to be able to support Alzheimer's Society's incredible work. At Care South, our residents love engaging with the local community, so our fundraising mission was the perfect combination of hosting fun events while also fundraising for the charity."

Ross Boon, Regional Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Society, said that there are currently over 101,590 people living with dementia in the Southwest of England. He added: "We simply can't reach everyone



without the continued support of our incredible fundraisers like St Ives House. It's wonderful that they have given so much time to support Alzheimer's Society. Each hour people generously give to fundraise for us, every event they take part in, every pound they donate, they're making a life-changing difference to people living with dementia."

St Ives House, part of the Care South family, provides residential, respite, and dementia care. Residents enjoy a daily programme of events organised by the dedicated activities team to enable residents to socialise and build friendships. The home features a choice of small and large communal lounges overlooking landscaped gardens which play host to events, as well as offering peaceful spaces for socialising and enjoying the warmer weather.

Care South is a not-for-profit provider of high-quality residential care homes across the south of England, with homes in Dorset, north Devon and Somerset, and home care offices across Dorset and Somerset.

Each Care South home has Dementia Care Coaches who have completed an intensive in-house training programme to enable them to further support the wellbeing of people living with dementia, as well as providing additional assistance to their families and loved ones. For more information about the care services available at St Ives House, visit care-south.co.uk or call 01425 209464 to book a tour.

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NEWS

Western Downland Community Builds New Outdoor Classroom in Holiday Volunteer Effort

Parents, children, and the Friends of Western Downland unite to create inspiring new learning space.

The Western Downland School community has come together in a remarkable show of teamwork and generosity to construct a brand-new outdoor classroom. This amazing project was undertaken entirely by volunteers over eight days during the school Easter holidays and May half term.

For the eight days, parents, children, some school staff, and members of the Friends of Western Downland (the school's PTA) volunteered their time and talents to bring the outdoor classroom to life. The project, a vision for enhancing outdoor learning, was made possible thanks to a collective effort of practical skill-sharing and incredible community spirit.

The success of the project is largely down to Kathryn Manning, a parent and architect, whose professional expertise and unwavering commitment guided the project from start to finish. Kathryn supported every stage, from initial planning and navigating regulations, to coordinating the build and leading volunteers on-site. She dedicated countless hours in the build-up, during the holidays and beyond. The finished classroom stands as a testament to her leadership, skill, and generosity.

The team was also supported by Paul from Avon Valley Men's Shed, who generously contributed his time and skills throughout the build. His hands-on involvement and experience were invaluable, and his support was warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated by the entire community.

Further support came from several local businesses whose backing helped bring Kathryn's vision to life. James Burton Construction kindly donated skilled manpower, while Elliotts and R & W Langley also offered valued support that contributed to the smooth delivery of the project. The school also wishes to acknowledge the support of the New Forest District Council, whose contribution helped make the project a reality, along with the support of Whitsbury and Damerham villages who have supported the school with their generosity.

"This project truly brought people together," said one parent volunteer. "It was brilliant to see everyone pitch in, from children helping with painting, to parents digging, drilling, and carrying timber. It wasn't just about building a structure, it felt like we were building something much bigger together."

The outdoor classroom offers a truly inspiring, nature-connected space for children to learn and play. More than just a new facility, it will help to embody the school's values of love, righteousness, and fellowship and will be enjoyed by pupils for many years to come.

Jessica, a Year 2 school council member, said:

"I handed out screws and bolts, did lots of digging, and even climbed on the metal thing to help with hammering! I helped dig the really big slope which is the amphitheatre. I'm really hoping to do book club under there. That's when we all read our books together. I really want to have some of our lessons and craft time outside too!"

Mrs Jenny Trewin, who leads the school's Forest School provision, commented:

"This new outdoor classroom will be a huge asset to our Forest School sessions. I was honestly quite emotional seeing it all come together. The space is just beautiful. It's been crafted with such care and thought and it's clear how much love and effort the whole community has poured into it. It's more than just a structure; it's a space where children will connect with nature, find calm, and grow in confidence. This will transform our Forest School provision and create opportunities for meaningful outdoor learning in all weathers. I can't thank everyone enough."

Head Teacher, Mrs Alice Tubbs added: "This project is a great example of our Christian theology 'And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations' (Revelations 22:2) outlived. The uplifting experience has given children and their families opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others, enhance their own well-being, and foster a stronger sense of connection within the community. I feel truly blessed to be part of the project and extremely grateful to those that been the driving force behind its success."

The Friends of Western Downland led a successful fundraising campaign to cover the cost of materials. Donations would be welcomed from anyone who would like to contribute to future outdoor learning projects, projects which will enrich the school children's lives.



Accredited Specialist Family Solicitor joins local law firm Loose Legal

Loose Legal is pleased to welcome Law Society Accredited Family Law Solicitor, Rob Price to the firm. Rob is an experienced family law practitioner, with a strong track record in resolving complex family matters. He brings a wealth of experience and a compassionate approach to clients navigating sensitive legal issues.

Rob joins the firm as a Consultant Solicitor. He has over 26 years of experience, providing advice on a range of issues including divorce, financial settlements, child arrangements, and domestic abuse cases. Prior to joining Loose Legal Rob practiced at a local firm where he developed a reputation for clear advice, practical solutions, and a client-focused mindset.

Rob is now accepting new clients and will be based at the firm's Ringwood office. He can, however, act for clients nationwide, focusing his practice mainly in the New Forest, Hampshire and Dorset area.

For more information or to schedule a consultation with Rob Price please contact rob@looselegal.co.uk or call 01425 536046.

You can also visit the website at www.looselegal.co.uk



Chamber Maids - Maid for Summer

Summer is here and the Chamber Maids are ready to celebrate the sunshine with their concert under the direction of their wonderful MD Ivy Tan.

The programme of music incorporates a variety of works: from opera, pop, gospel, traditional folk songs and modern pieces from composers both traditional and modern. An eclectic selection which should appeal to all tastes.

The ladies demonstrate their talents by singing not only a variety of styles of music but also their ability to sing in different languages, namely English, French, Italian, German and even Thai!!

The Chamber Maids will be accompanied by their brilliant accompanist Jo Kent.

The concert will take place at Ringwood Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul at 7.30 on Saturday 9th August. Tickets are £15 and can be obtained from trybooking.com or on the door.

The Chamber Maids choir is a friendly group who would welcome similarly talented ladies to join the ensemble. An ability to read music and some experience of choral singing would be an advantage. So if you think that you would like to join them please contact Ivy Tan on 07949127016 or email ivylilianguy@gmail.com



Bourne2Sing Male Voice Choir Sings for Charity in Ringwood

The Bourne2Sing Male Voice Choir practices at All Saints Church, St Ives and sings for Charities and Good Causes. They have raised in excess of £35,000. Their ethos is to have fun from music by singing tunes that are familiar and pleasing.

The Choir has offered to support fundraising for Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency (RACE) with a concert planned for Saturday 12th July at 2pm in Trinity Church. Songs include well known numbers such as Bridge over Troubled Water, Always on my Mind, Wonderful World, Sweet Caroline, The Rose and My Way. The event will be accompanied at the interval by a cream tea. Angela Winson, RACE Trustee, said "We were delighted when the choir approached us and really hope that the event will be a success. We are always amazed by the support we get from the Ringwood

Community. We would love to raise enough money to continue our pollinator friendly planting around the town."

Bob Bailey from Bourne2Sing added "It gives us great pleasure to support local charities, we get to use our hobby and skills to generate much needed funds locally."

Angela added "We are particularly excited by the fact that the young musical director Anatole Myint has recently joined the choir." Tickets are available via this QR code or by emailing Ringwood-raceagainsttime@gmail.com.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARVEY

Peggy

The peaceful death is announced of Peggy on Sunday 8th June 2025 at Yarnley House in Ringwood. Peggy reached 103 only a few days earlier. Her Daughter, Margaret, was at her bedside and her brother Tom, who both thank the whole Yarnley team for their exemplary kindness, care and professionalism throughout the past five months.

During the war Peggy served as a Met. Officer in the WAAF.

In 1947 she married RAF Wing Commander Derek Harvey, with whom she travelled to Canada and Malaysia. They moved to the New Forest in 1966. Peggy taught for many years at Moyles Court and St Andrews CoE school in Laverstock, near Salisbury. Derek predeceased Peggy at the age of 101. Peggy was effortlessly elegant; unfailingly tolerant and considerate; a person of few words; but the mistress of many skills, from home renovation – including brick-laying – to pottery, art, upholstery and clothes making. Possessed of a keenly critical eye for improvement, but always with a tactful word, she will be remembered with so much love by her whole family - which included four grandchildren and six great grandchildren - for her gentle challenge, "Wouldn't it be better if..."

Funeral Service to be held at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday 4th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only or donations if desired for Cancer Research UK may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper 29a Southampton Road Ringwood Hampshire BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

GUY

Rita Jean

Sadly passed away on 23rd May 2025 aged 90 years. Much loved Mum of Robert and Sandra, Mother-in-law to Amanda, Nan of Mark, Lucas, Peter, Katie and Nicola and 10 Great-Grandchildren. Funeral Service to be held at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday 27th June at 2pm. Flowers welcome and may be sent to Barrow & Tapper 29a Southampton Road Ringwood Hampshire BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

WHITE

Majorie (Marge)

Passed away peacefully, aged 91 after a long illness on 8th June 2025 in Poole Hospital. Much loved Wife of Norman and Mum to Gary. Marge will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at Ringwood Parish Church on Friday 18th July at 1pm. No flowers by request thank you, but donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation may be made online at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk or cheques may be sent to Barrow & Tapper 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood Hampshire BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

LIGHT

Betty

Sadly passed away on 28th May 2025 aged 87 years with her family around her. Betty will be greatly missed by her Husband Norman and all the family. A Private Cremation has taken place. Barrow & Tapper Funeral Service, 29a Southampton Road Ringwood BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

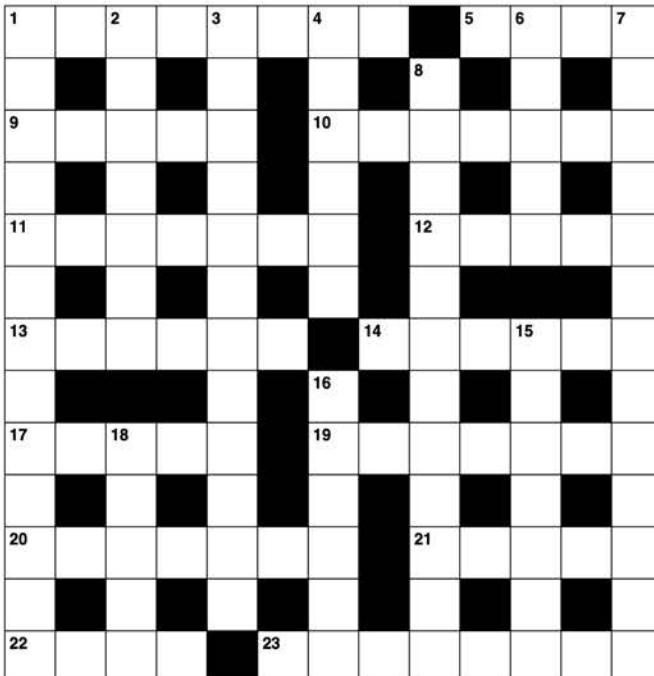
Puzzle Corner

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Crossword



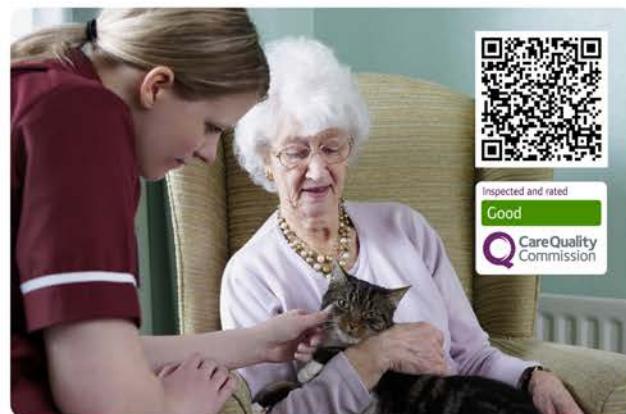
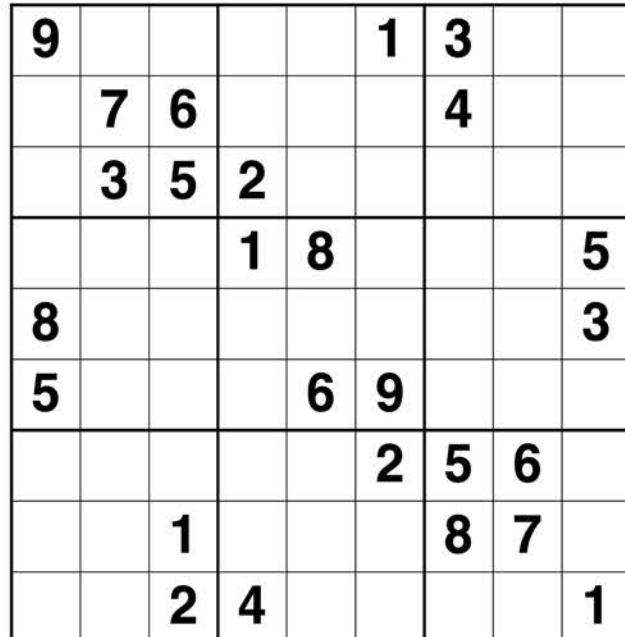
Across

- 1 - People of olden times (8)
- 5 - Island of Indonesia (4)
- 9 - Follow the position of (5)
- 10 - Learning institutions (7)
- 11 - Hard but fragile (7)
- 12 - Beer (5)
- 13 - Medium-sized feline (6)
- 14 - Sightseeing trip in Africa (6)
- 17 - Popular sport (5)
- 19 - Regret (7)
- 20 - Sum added to interest (7)
- 21 - Flaring stars (5)
- 22 - Pull abruptly (4)
- 23 - Branch of mathematics (8)

Down

- 1 - Account of one's own life (13)
- 2 - Cup (7)
- 3 - Decomposition by a current (12)
- 4 - Sampled (food) (6)
- 6 - In the company of (5)
- 7 - Aggressive self-assurance (13)
- 8 - Devoted to music (12)
- 15 - Act of turning up (7)
- 16 - Black Sea peninsula (6)
- 18 - Obtain information from various sources (5)

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

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Ringwood C of E Infant School Welcomes Wildlife with a Helping Hand from Team Wilder

Children at Ringwood CofE Infant School enjoyed a delightful and educational afternoon as they teamed up with Craig Whitlock from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder. The mission? To rejuvenate the school's flower beds and bring nature back into their school grounds.

With trowels in hand and smiles on their faces, the young pupils planted a variety of native flowers, installed bug hotels, and set up bee feeders – all designed to encourage local wildlife to thrive in the school grounds once again.

"This is such a fantastic way for the children to connect with nature and learn about the importance of biodiversity," said Mr. Whitlock. "They've done a brilliant job and shown so much enthusiasm."

The project was made possible thanks to the generous support of Mark, manager of HPS Ringwood, whose donation helped fund the materials and plants used in the revitalization effort.

Headteacher Mrs Silk expressed her gratitude: "We're incredibly thankful to Craig and the Wildlife Trust, and especially to Mark at HPS Ringwood. This initiative not only brightens up our school but also teaches our children to care for the environment."

The school grounds are now buzzing – quite literally – with new life, and the children are already looking forward to spotting bees, butterflies, and bugs in their newly created wildlife haven.



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