

# The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



Issue 909 • November 19th to December 16th • 2025

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- 11.30am Santa Arrives
- 12noon - 5.00pm Santa's Grotto
- 11.30am - 5.00pm Market, Children's Crafts
- 5.35pm Santa Parade

**THE FURLONG SHOPPING CENTRE**

- 12noon - 4.00pm Free Circus Skills Workshops

**MARKET PLACE & HIGH STREET**

- 11.30am - 6.00pm Market Stalls
- 11.30am - 6.00pm Small Children's Fair
- 12noon - 6.00pm Ringwood and Burley Band
- 12noon - 6.00pm Live Music and Entertainment
- 5.45pm Santa Parade
- 6.00pm Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Various Steamship Circus Walkabout Entertainment

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Ringwood Winter Wonderland is proudly brought to you by Ringwood Town Council.

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# Christmas is Coming! Is your Tax Return done?

With the festive season fast approaching, the last thing anyone wants is the looming stress of a **January tax return deadline**. Every year, thousands of people leave their Self Assessment until the very last moment - and every year, HMRC's website creaks under the pressure of millions trying to file at once.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Filing early isn't just about peace of mind - it can actually save you money and make planning for the year ahead much easier.

Submitting your return now means you'll know exactly **how much tax you owe** and when it's due, giving

you time to budget properly rather than scrambling to find funds in January.

It also gives your accountant (that's us!) time to check your figures carefully, ensure you've claimed everything you're entitled to, and avoid those small errors that can lead to big headaches later.

If you're self-employed, a landlord, or have income outside of PAYE, now's the perfect time to get organised.

The earlier you file, the sooner you can tick it off your list - and actually **enjoy your Christmas break**.

At **Donaldson Ross & Co**, we're helping clients across Ringwood and beyond get ahead of the January rush.

So if you'd rather start 2026 feeling calm and in control, get in touch - and let's get it sorted before Santa even sets off.

Scan the QR code below to find out more about how we can help you have a stress free Christmas break.



## Want your return done?

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## Christmas is coming...

We are so lucky that we have so many volunteers who work hard throughout the year to put on the events for us all to enjoy. Christmas is probably the most special time for us all to attend these events with family and friends. In particular I enjoy catching up with old friends who come back to visit family.

You can see all these events in our special Christmas pages and the Whats On.

### Thank You

We would like to say a special thank you to the companies that have advertised in the 'Christmas News' section as this has helped fund the pages we give for free to the local events so our readers can all be aware and attend these amazing events.

### Independent shops

In these hard times please think about our independent businesses, particularly the shops, pubs and restaurants.

Where you can, please try and support them rather than the big shopping centres and multi-chain restaurants and pubs. We all moan when the town has empty units but unless we support them they simply wont survive.

### Diary Appointments

**Friday 28th November** from 5.30pm for the Fordingbridge Lights Switch on and **Sunday 30th November** for Ringwood's Winter Wonderland between 11.30am and 6.30pm.

Christmas Eve - Carol Service from 6.00pm in The Market Place.

**Spot the Lego Reindeer Competition** and you could win a £25 Lego voucher.

**Finally** - a few helpful tips for trying to make Christmas run smoothly:

- \* Have a budget and stick to it.
- \* Downtime - Walks, Read a book, Meet up with some friends.
- \* Zip it - Avoid hot topics or bringing up old arguments. Only positive conversations.
- \* Put your phone down and enjoy the moment.

Remember memories last longer than any present!

*Darren & Naomi*

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## NEWS

# Free parking days to support local businesses announced for December

New Forest District Council (NFDC) has announced a decision to provide four days of free parking to support businesses and communities.

The Council are offering the free parking days as an incentive for people to shop locally, to support New Forest businesses, and to engage in festive community events.

The first of the free parking days in NFDC town and village centre car parks will be on 'Small Business Saturday' (6 December 2025). This is an annual national campaign to encourage consumers to shop local all year round and support small businesses in their communities.

Other parking days include the last weekend before Christmas (20 and 21 December 2025), and an additional day where town and parish councils can request free parking in support of their Christmas events.

Councillor Geoffrey Blunden, portfolio holder for environment and sustainability, said: "Our high streets are the heart of our towns and villages, and an important part of our local economy. We hope the free parking days will support our communities to explore our high streets at a vital time for local businesses, allowing them to thrive and grow."

## SPOT THE LEGO REINDEER COMPETITION

See how many Lego Reindeer you can find in this issue and email your answer to [editor@rfnews.uk](mailto:editor@rfnews.uk). All correct answers will be put in a draw and a winner will be picked at random.



Here is one for you.....



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## 5 Tips to the Perfect Gift

Christmas is coming, Santa's filling his sleigh and you're looking for those perfect gifts for your loved ones. We've put together a guide to help you find unique and thoughtful presents that will only become more precious over time.

### Tip 1 – Set a Budget

Between the turkey and the trimmings, spending at Christmas can add up quickly. The best way to make sure everyone gets that special gift is to set a budget and decide what you can afford in advance.

### Tip 2 – Who, What and Why?

Who are you shopping for and what do they like? Are they fans of music and film, do they love a little childhood nostalgia, or are they glamorous to the core?

Maybe you're buying for a loved one or you've picked out the one colleague you don't know that well for Secret Santa? Pin down the likes (or dislikes) of the person you're shopping for, and find something you know they'll love.

### Tip 3 – Tap into Tradition

Passing on traditions is one of the most special parts of Christmas and the memories that we most treasure might end up becoming someone else's too. Whether you're continuing a tradition or starting a new one.

### Tip 4 – Treat Your Partner

If there's ever a time to splash out on a gift, it's Christmas. Delight your partner with something extra special.

### Tip 5 – Give the Gift of Making Memories

For the person who has it all or for something you know will stand out from the rest, you can give a loved one an experience to remember, so they can make some treasured memories this Christmas and beyond.

If you stick to these top tips, your Christmas shopping will be a breeze and make your Christmas the most precious yet.



Organised by Ringwood Rotary CIO

## Christmas Eve in The Market Place Toy Collection

We are happy to say that  
this Christmas Eve you will  
once again be able to give  
toys to Father Christmas  
in person in the  
Market Place on  
24<sup>th</sup> December



This year his helpers will also be collecting them for him before then  
and you can leave them at drop off points in Ringwood.

Ringwood Rotary will be collecting the toys which will be  
distributed to Special Schools and Children's Hospices.

If you can't make it to the Market Place on Christmas Eve then please  
leave simply wrapped presents at:  
The Greyfriars Community Centre reception in Ringwood  
or  
The Council Offices at the Ringwood Gateway building  
(The Gateway is closed on Tuesdays)

The Collection Points will be open from  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> until December 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## NEWS

# Ringwood Repair Café hosts MP to showcase local circular economy success

The vital work of the local circular economy was highlighted on Saturday 8th November when Sir Desmond Swayne, Member of Parliament for New Forest West, visited Ringwood Repair Café to meet volunteers and see first-hand the community impact of repairing household items.

The visit provided Sir Desmond with an opportunity to see how repair skills are shared and waste is prevented in the local community. He has been a vocal supporter of the movement, having signed the national Repair and Reuse Declaration in 2023, demonstrating a clear commitment to legislation that makes repair accessible and affordable for all consumers.

During his visit, Sir Desmond (who was accompanied by his wife, Lady Moira) praised the efforts of the volunteers and attendees, stating: "It was inspiring to see Ringwood's commitment. Your community is leading the way in tackling the waste crisis. Having personally signed the Repair and Reuse Declaration, I know how crucial these local initiatives are to achieving our national goals of reducing landfill waste, saving people money, and extending the lifespan of products."

Lindsay Andrews, one of the organisers of the repair café, highlighted the importance of political support for the cause. "We were delighted to welcome Sir Desmond and Lady Moira," said Lindsay. "Our volunteers fix hundreds of items every year, proving that

repair is a popular and practical solution. Our MP's continued support, especially his signing of the Repair and Reuse Declaration, sends a strong message that the Right to Repair is an issue that matters to our community."



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## NEWS

# Understanding Investments: How to generate a tax-efficient, guaranteed income

There are many ways to generate income from investments, and for people who are comfortable with investment risk these may prove to be very efficient.

But what if you are cautious or do not have any investment experience? Other than keeping your savings in cash and spending the interest, what other solutions are available?

A Purchased Life Annuity (PLA) offers a guaranteed level of income either for the rest of your life or for a fixed period. In addition, only a small % of the income is taxable as income as the rest is deemed a return of capital and is not subject to income tax. This can make them very tax-efficient.

These differ from traditional annuities which are purchased through a pension as a PLA is purchased from cash savings. However the benefits and considerations are similar, namely:

### Benefits:

-They provide a guaranteed income. This can be level or can increase with a % of inflation. This can be for your lifetime or for an agreed upon specified period.

-You can select various optional death benefits. These can be to pay beneficiaries for a guaranteed period or they can be to protect the premium so your nominated beneficiary will receive a lump sum equal to the lump sum used to buy the annuity, minus any income you've already received. Finally you can select joint life cover where income will continue until both annuitants have died.

Note the income you receive will be lower if you choose death benefit options.

### Considerations:

-A policy can't be changed or cashed in once it has been set up.

-Tax rates may change in the future and an individual's tax liability depends on their circumstances.

-Unless guarantees are included, the total income received might be less than the lump sum paid if the annuitant dies shortly after policy commencement.

Since 2023, annuity rates are much more competitive than they were for the 15 years of ultra-low interest rates from 2008. This can make them a viable solution for client's income needs. Where clients need income and have surplus capital, we can combine these with other investments so clients may have choose to use a % of their savings to provide a level of guaranteed income and invest a % of their savings for the long term aiming to combat inflation (investment returns are not guaranteed).

Stewart, Harry and I are available for a free initial, no obligation chat to discuss and consider your personal situation, aiming to help achieve the most tax-efficient and sustainable outcome.

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

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.

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## The Barnyard

The Barnyard on Kings Arms Lane in Ringwood is a soft play area and cafe for children aged from 4 months to 7 years.

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There are three bookable sessions per day : 09.30 to 11.00, 11.30 to 13.00 and 13.30 to 15.00. With a walk in after school session recently added 15.30 to 17.00.

The baby/sensory area is cleaned and sterilised between each session with the larger play area being thoroughly cleaned weekly. Booking is not a necessity for the daytime sessions but is advised as there is limited capacity for the under 18 month area.

Prices per session are £4.50 for under 18 months and £7.50 over 18 months. Adults are free.

They also offer private party hire for up to 25 children at the weekends, for more information on this (and to book sessions) visit their website [www.barnyardsoftplay.com](http://www.barnyardsoftplay.com)

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## NEWS

# Remembrance Day @ Fordingbridge Junior and Infant School Federation

All students were encouraged to come into school in their club uniforms: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies which were all worn with great pride!

In addition to observing a minutes silence, the children also took time to reflect and to write poetry.

Here is one written by Noah in Year 5 (aged 10)

"Wearing poppies to show respect,  
Let us not forget,  
In the field poppies grow,  
Swaying by the crosses row by row.  
Our saviours.

The bugles sound  
Which pound the ground.  
We must recall  
Before we fall.  
Our saviours.

Remember! Remember!  
The 11th November  
Which we need not forget.  
Our saviours.

Like those who have gone  
They fall silently,  
one  
by  
one.  
Our saviours."



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# New Forest District Council reaffirms commitment to Armed Forces community

New Forest District Council (NFDC) formally re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant yesterday (10 November 2025), reaffirming its ongoing commitment to supporting those who serve, have served, and the families of those in the Armed Forces.

The event, held at the council's Appletree Court offices in Lyndhurst, took place on the eve of Armistice Day, making the occasion especially poignant. It was attended by veterans who are council staff, councillors, representatives from the Armed Forces, including the Commanding Officer of 17 Port & Maritime Regiment, RLC. HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire was represented by Mr Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, DL.

The documents were signed by the Council's Chairman, Cllr John Sleep, Chief Executive Kate Ryan, and Lt Col Tom Goodall, Commanding Officer of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, RLC on behalf of HQ Solent Station.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a national promise that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy,

and public services they rely on.

By re-signing the Covenant, NFDC has demonstrated its continued commitment to ensuring that veterans and service families have equal access to services and opportunities.

Cllr Sleep, said, "Signing the Covenant is a simple but powerful way for our council to recognise the sacrifices of people who have served and to commit practical support in areas such as employment, housing, and advice. It was especially meaningful to reaffirm this commitment on the eve of Armistice Day."

Cllr Alvin Reid, NFDC's Armed Forces Champion, added, "We are proud that the council is playing a role in helping those who have served make the transition into everyday life. Some of our own staff are veterans who are bringing their valuable skills and experience to many areas of our organisation."

During the ceremony, Cllr Sleep gave a short speech, saying, "It was my great pleasure to welcome everyone to this important occasion, the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant. We came together to reaffirm a shared commitment. Together we honour the courage, resilience, and service of our Armed Forces, and together we will continue to strengthen the bond between the military and the communities they protect."

The re-signing served as a reminder of the council's lasting support for the Armed Forces community, a partnership marked with pride and respect on the eve of Armistice Day.



## Local man publishes third novel.

Kit Fielding, a local writer who spent his formative years in and around Ringwood, is having his third novel – *Under Vixens Mere* – published on September 30th. (It is a novel about water-dwellers – barges – and is set mainly in a canal marina.)

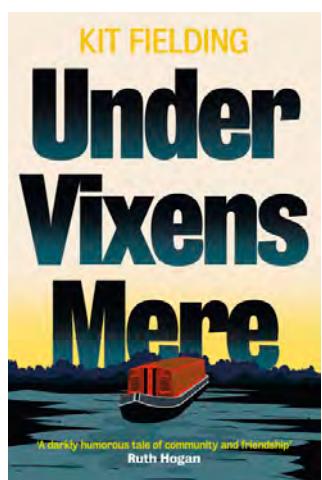
On his frequent return trips to Ringwood he enjoys a pint – or two – in the town pubs where he used to play darts for the Lamb Inn. Kit says, 'My first published novel was centred around a ladies darts team and recalling the atmosphere of match nights certainly helped with the book's authenticity.'

Kit worked as a builder in Ringwood and one of his claims to fame – or perhaps infamy – is that he helped to build the wall by St Peter's and St Paul's church, nicknamed the Berlin Wall, which closed off the market place to through-traffic. It was an unpopular construction at the time and Kit says that he 'Took a bit of flack for that one.' Kit was also – and as he puts it – a half-useful rugby player who turned out for Ellingham RFC and later for Avonvale's (Fordingbridge) Sunday side and tried his hand for a season with Bisterne cricket club.

Kit and his wife live a nomadic existence and travel in the country in their motorhome. This makes it fairly easy for him to return to Ringwood on a whim, for when he needs to relax and see the familiar faces of friends and family. 'It's important to me to keep contacts and to relive shared memories of which some, in retrospect, seem much funnier than the original event and, being a writer, I am always aware of the dynamic of the town and of its folk. So I'm looking forward to visiting again before Christmas

and maybe sipping a glass of ale at the Railway and having a jaw with some old mates.'

Cheers Ringwood.



Kit's books are described as 'gritty' and 'realistic' and he tends

## NEWS

# Fordingbridge Salvation Army launches Christmas appeal

The Salvation Army is calling on the community in Fordingbridge to share love and hope this Christmas by donating new toys to its Christmas Present Appeal to help give children a Christmas they deserve.

Every year Salvation Army churches ask people to donate new toys and gifts for children whose families are already making impossible choices between food, heating, and bills.

Last year, Fordingbridge Salvation Army distributed gifts to 47 adults and 66 children with the church and charity fearing more people will need support this year. The church is also appealing for food hampers.

Fordingbridge Salvation Army church leader/present appeal coordinator Mike French said: "Our Christmas Present Appeal is an opportunity for people in our community to embrace the spirit of Christmas and give to families and individuals who have very little.

"Christmas is meant to be a time of love and joy, but for many it's a time of stress and despair when financial worries are brought into sharp focus for families who are struggling to heat their homes, let alone provide presents for their children.

"The Christmas present appeal is how we put our belief into action, showing love where it's needed most. We believe every child deserves to experience joy on Christmas morning. We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of the public in supporting our appeal each year and we hope you continue to do so to ensure every child wakes up on Christmas Day with a smile on their face."

The Salvation Army Fordingbridge church on Roundhill, will be collecting donations of new unwrapped toys and gifts for all ages boys and girls until 22nd December. The church will continue to receive unwanted Christmas gifts in January.



The drop off points for toys and gifts are: Fordingbridge Salvation Army, Fordingbridge Information Office, The Branch, Gourmet Grocer, Wolvercote Garden Centre, Burgate School, Fordingbridge Junior & Infant Schools.

The Salvation Army will sort and distribute the gifts to children and families in the area through local groups, schools and social services.

Gifts can include anything from educational toys, baby clothes, bath toys, books, including learn to read books (for babies and toddlers) to dolls and action figures, sports equipment and clothing, toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, T-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers for older children.

The church in Fordingbridge is inviting the public to one of its Christmas services: Cosy Christmas Carols Sunday 21st December 6pm.

A church and charity, The Salvation Army expresses its Christian faith by offering friendship, practical help and support to some of the most disadvantaged people in our communities. To help support The Salvation Army's year-round work please visit: [salvationarmy.org.uk/donate](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/donate). For more information about the Christmas Present Appeal and ideas about gifts, see our website: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal>



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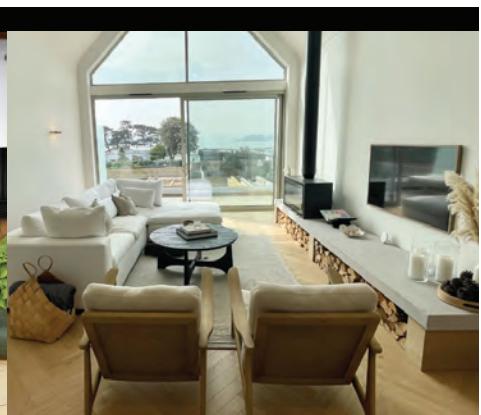
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## The National Champion!

A very exciting and proud day recently for Ringwood dancer Chloe Bleakley (16), when she became the National Champion in her event beating hundreds of other dancers from around the country at the ISTD's National Grand Finals held in Guildford.

Dancing a 'street' style routine, Chloe had qualified by winning her local event earlier in the year.

Her victory was made even more special when her trophy was presented by none other than Shirley Ballas from 'Strictly'!

Chloe is a pupil at local dance school Sally Adams Danceworks which she has attended since she was 3 years old. Learning street dance, freestyle, lyrical and rock 'n' roll.



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## SPORT & NEWS

### Ringwood Run Club to the Rescue!

A heartfelt thank you is being extended to members of Ringwood Run Club from the Poulner Freefall Cycling Team, part of the Ringwood Round Table, following a frightening incident on Sunday 19th October.

Six friends from the Poulner Freefall Cycling Team were out on a ramble along Cowpitts Lane, North Poulner, en route to their usual lunchtime gathering for London Pride and sausage rolls - a tradition many in Ringwood may recognise as not too dissimilar to Ringwood Run Club's own fondness for a post-run bakery stop.

Whilst they were walking, a sudden gust of wind caused a very

large beech tree to split and fall across the lane, trapping several of the group beneath the heavy branches. Some suffered significant injuries from the impact.

By remarkable coincidence, members of Ringwood Run Club were passing by on their morning run shortly after the incident. Among them were medical professionals, including a medic, a paramedic, and nurses, who immediately began assessing injuries, supporting those trapped, and coordinating assistance to ensure everyone was safely freed.



Despite the heavy rain, the runners continued to provide reassurance and practical help. Some returned home to collect blankets, coats, and warm clothing to keep those injured as comfortable as possible until emergency services arrived. The injured were transported to Southampton General Hospital, where some required treatment and observation. It was incredibly fortunate that no one was more seriously hurt. The Poulner Freefall Cycling Team later referred to themselves as "senior gentlemen" in their letter of thanks, noting how especially lucky they felt.

The Poulner Freefall Cycling Team have expressed their sincere gratitude to Ringwood Run Club for their kindness, swift actions, and support during what was a very distressing event. Members of Ringwood Run Club have also extended their warm wishes for a smooth and speedy recovery for all those affected.

In the spirit of community, Ringwood Run Club have also shared that anyone is welcome to join them for a post-run drink or social - including members of the Poulner Freefall Cycling Team - and would be delighted to raise a glass in celebration of continued health and recovery.

Ringwood Run Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30pm at Ringwood Gateway for a 5km social run followed by a drink, and on Sunday mornings at various local locations for a relaxed 10km run and brunch. All abilities are warmly welcomed.

(Our FB page link

[https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17czuZJWZF/?mibextid=w-wXIfr\\*\\*](https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17czuZJWZF/?mibextid=w-wXIfr**)



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Ringwood Community Hub



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2025-26



Date		Opponents
Sat 15 Nov	H	Newport (IOW)
Sat 22 Nov	A	Totton & Eling
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# Danny Cracknell 'Homeless at Christmas' Appeal 2025

The Danny Cracknell 'Homeless at Christmas Appeal 2025 has commenced with growing support from across our local community.

Now in its' 37th year, the appeal, originally the brainchild of Danny Cracknell, Jimmy Gogan and Jock McMaster, has grown from strength to strength, supporting an ever increasing number of homeless people, whom, for a variety of reasons, find themselves in desperate need of food, clothing and shelter.

These basic essentials, which many of us take for granted, have provided a lifeline and make those less fortunate aware that, throughout communities such as ours, there are many kind and generous people who really do care and want to make a difference.

Warm ladies and gents clothing, especially coats, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, jumpers, shoes/boots/trainers, sleeping bags,

blankets, rugs, thermos flasks, tooth brushes and razors are crucial.

Similarly toiletries, tinned food of all types, coffee, tea, sugar, dried pasta and any long lasting foodstuffs are also vital.

Jock, whom has been there from the beginning, reflects on how important the bond between himself and his dearly departed friends, (Danny and Jimmy), was in being able to collaborate and encourage many close friends and family to support this appeal.

The ability to offer support to many less fortunate has left a lasting impression and is also seen as a fitting tribute to those who are no longer around to help.

All donations are being received at Grants of Ringwood's estate agency office in The Furlong Centre, in Ringwood.

Jon Grant and his colleagues, Sally and Toni are available to assist and are contactable on 01425 480456.

The collection will continue until Friday 12th December and your support as ever will make such a difference in these most challenging of times.

Thank you in anticipation.



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## CHRISTMAS NEWS

## **Fordingbridge Light Switch On Event: Friday 28th November 2025**

Fordinbridge's annual Christmas Lights Switch On event takes place in the town centre on Friday 28th November, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

Following on from last year's very successful event, Fordingbridge is gearing up for a spectacular show, featuring festive entertainment in addition to the big switch on at 6pm, which will see the town centre transformed into a winter wonderland of twinkling Christmas lights.

On the main stage will be the fantastic Fordingbridge Musical Theatre Choir, performances by Fordingbridge Dance School and music by Burgate School. We are thrilled to welcome back the Vintage Sweet Hearts who are guaranteed to delight the town with their performance and beautiful renditions of classic 1940s songs.

The Lantern Parade will lead Father Christmas through the High Street to the main stage for the all important light switch on and prize giving for the local schools Christmas card competition arranged by the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery.

There will also be a Christmas Market at the Town Hall selling artisan Christmas gifts, handmade goods, confectionery and baked goods.

Additional stalls can be found at the Salvation Army and at Roundhill where we have Santa's Grotto, which is free for all children. In addition we have fairground rides, glitter tattoos, coffee and doughnuts and the reindeer and miniature donkeys have been kindly sponsored by Pennyfarthing Homes. Look out for Hyde Bands who will be playing carols in and around the town!

Encouraging people to mark the date of the Switch On in their diaries if they haven't already done so, Fordingbridge Mayor, Pete White said "The Christmas Lights Switch On is always one of the highlights of the year in the town centre and indicates that festivities are underway. I hope many people decide to attend the event, enjoy the entertainment on offer and get in the festive spirit with their friends and family."

We will be collecting donations for the Fordingbridge Food Bank, collection boxes can be found at the Town Hall on the evening of Friday 28th November.

The Mayor's chosen charity for this year's monetary donations is STARF – Stronger Together Across Ringwood & Fordingbridge. Collection boxes will be available on the night.

For further information on the Christmas Lights Switch On contact Fordingbridge Town Council on 01425 654560 email:Information@fordingbridge.gov.uk



A festive flyer for Downton Brewery's Christmas Market. The top half features a large image of a reindeer with a bottle of beer on its back. The text 'DOWNTON BREWERY NEW FOREST' is at the top, followed by 'GIVE THE GIFT OF BEER THIS CHRISTMAS' in large green letters. To the right are boxes for 'CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES W/C 15<sup>TH</sup> DEC' and 'CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS TO 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC'. Below is a red box for the 'CHRISTMAS MARKET - SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> DEC 11-3PM DOWNTON TAP BAR, SP5 3HU'. The middle section has opening hours: 'SHOP OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10AM-4PM' and 'TAP BAR OPEN EVERY FRIDAY 4 - 9PM'. The bottom section features a Christmas tree and presents, with 'CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS' and a list of days and times: 22nd & 23rd - 10am-4pm, 24th - 8am-12pm, 29th & 30th - 10am-4pm, 31st - 8am-12pm. It also announces a 'Reopening 8th January - 5pm for the first Quiz of 2026!' and includes the website 'WWW.DOWNTONBREWERY.COM' and contact information '01725 513313' and 'SALES@DOWNTONBREWERY.COM'. A reindeer cartoon is on the right.

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## CHRISTMAS NEWS

# RINGWOOD'S WINTER WANDERLAND IS SET TO BE A JOYOUS EVENT

Ringwood's much-loved Winter Wonderland is returning to the Market Town on **Sunday, 30th November**, promising a spectacular launch to the Christmas season.

Organized by **Ringwood Town Council**, the event draws thousands to enjoy the town's lights, Christmas tree, and beautifully decorated shop windows while supporting local businesses and community organizations.



## A Day Full of Fun and Cheer:

From **11:30 AM to 6:30 PM**, the town will transform into a winter wonderland, offering something for everyone:

- **Over 80 Market Stalls:** Explore unique gifts, local produce, arts, crafts, and delicious food and drink options like mulled wine, hog roast, bratwurst, Greet street food, fish and chips and stone-baked pizza.
- **Live Entertainment:** The Market Place will host performances from noon, such as – Jans gems dancers, Poulner junior school choir, churches together choir followed by our ultimate crowd entertainment - The big night out, this band will get you ready for Santa's arrival from 3pm.
- **Ringwood and Burley Band** will serenade the High Street. Look out for walkabout acts like the **Steamship Circus!**
- **Family Fun:** Younger visitors can enjoy a mini funfair, try free circus skills in The Furlong Shopping Centre, or ride the enchanting miniature steam train provided by **Chuffley Light Railway** along Southampton Road.
- **Santa's Grotto and Parades:** At Ringwood Gateway we have Santa's grotto, a variety of music entertainment along with several market stalls for when you visit Santa.

**Santa** will also lead a festive parade, culminating in the grand **Christmas Light Switch-On** at **6 PM** in the Market Place.

## Event Highlights Made Possible by Sponsors

This magical day would not be possible without the support of generous sponsors, including Grotto sponsor A-One insurance, The Railway pub & kitchen, The Furlong Shopping Centre, Henderson Bearings, Letcher's Solicitors, Quantuma RMC motors and Lonsdale Wealth Management.

## Community support

We couldn't run this event without the support of our wonderful community. Thank you in advance to Ringwood Carnival, Ringwood Rotary, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions club, Ringwood Roundtable and Ringwood Men's Shed.

## Plan Your Visit

Ringwood Winter Wonderland is a **free event**, including **free** town centre parking, making it the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit with family and friends. For full details of the program, Santa's Grotto, and the Christmas Window Competition, visit:

<https://www.ringwood.gov.uk/events/ringwood-winter-wanderland/>

Please note: Santa's Grotto is always a highlight of Ringwood's festive season and places are limited – early booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are available now via Ticket Tailor:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ringwoodtowncouncil/1910116>

Join us for a magical experience for the whole family and make memories to cherish this Christmas.



## Ringwood Carol Service

"Ringwood Rotary Club is once again organising and presenting the traditional and much-loved Christmas Carol Service in the Market place on Christmas Eve, with carol singing by all, and Santa receiving presents from children to be distributed to organisations for disadvantaged children.

The Bands will be ready to start the Carol singing with the choir about 6pm, conducted so that everyone can join in.

Santa will then arrive by horse-drawn carriage to arrive in the Market Place about 6.30pm and take his place in the Grotto there.

The Market Place is usually full to capacity with several thousand of our local public and their children enjoying the hour or so of communal dedication!"





## **Sunday 30 November Programme**

**Join us in Ringwood for a festive day packed with fun, entertainment and Christmas cheer!**

### **RINGWOOD GATEWAY**

**11.30am**

#### **Santa Arrives**

Santa makes a grand entrance on his sleigh. Photo opportunities available at the Gateway and Furlong Shopping Centre.

**12noon - 5.00pm**

#### **Santa's Grotto**

(sponsored by A-One Insurance Group)  
Timed tickets required but feel free to visit to see the creations made by Ringwood Men's Shed.

**11.30am - 5.00pm**

#### **Market, Children's Crafts, Music**

Browse stalls, enjoy music and enjoy free craft activities for children.

**12 noon - 1.30pm**

#### **The Busketeers Choir**

Performing some festive songs and collecting for local charities.

**2pm - 3pm**

#### **Henry Ridley**

Henry, aged 13, is a self taught local musician playing a mixed genre of music using vocal's and guitar.

**5.35pm**

#### **Santa Parade**

Gather outside the Gateway as Santa prepares for his parade down Meeting House Lane at 5.45pm.

### **THE FURLONG SHOPPING CENTRE**

**12noon - 4.00pm**

#### **Free Circus Skills Workshops**

with Steamship Circus - engaging with our young crowds, between The Gateway and The Furlong Shopping Centre (sponsor of Circus Skills entertainment)



### **SOUTHAMPTON ROAD**

**12noon - 5.30pm**

#### **Polar Express Rides**

Hop aboard at Friday's Cross for a magical journey along Southampton Road.

*\*Charges may apply*

## MARKET PLACE AND HIGH STREET

**11.30am - 6.00pm**

### Market Stalls

Enjoy festive stalls from Friday's Cross to Market Place featuring arts, crafts and a selection of food and drinks stalls.

At the end of the Market Stalls, opposite the Stage, you will find a new local business **Coop Ringwood**, operating their pop up bar. Grab yourself a drink and enjoy the entertainment.



**11.30am - 6.00pm**

### Small Children's Fair

A selection of children's fairground rides.

**12noon - 6.00pm**

### Ringwood and Burley Band

Enjoy traditional Christmas songs throughout the afternoon opposite Pedlars Walk.

**12noon - 6.00pm**

### Live Music and Entertainment

On stage in the Market Place

**12noon Jan's Gems**

performing to Christmas songs, Modern Arabic Pop Bellydance, Bollywood & Latin Fusion. Collecting for local charities

**12.45pm Poulner Junior School Choir**

Local school choir

**1.30pm Churches Together Choir**

Local community church choir

**3pm THE BIG NITE OUT**

This trio of delight are guaranteed to help you find your dancing feet

**1.30pm - 4.30pm**

### Mr Pop's Balloons

Challenge Mr Pop to make your desired balloon!



**5.45pm**

### Santa Parade

Watch Santa on his sleigh as he moves through Market Place to the stage.

**6.00pm**

### Christmas Lights Switch-On

Ringwood lights up for the holiday season!

## Mark your calendars

**30 November**

Christmas Window Competition begins - vote for your favorites!

**Ringwood Reindeer Ramble**

Family town trail

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

A heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, including Grotto sponsor

**A-One Insurance Group**

and additional sponsors

**The Railway Pub and Kitchen**

**Henderson's Bearings**



**Ringwood Winter Wonderland is proudly brought to you by Ringwood Town Council.**



[www.ringwood.gov.uk](http://www.ringwood.gov.uk)

Facebook: Ringwood Winter Wonderland

Instagram: @ringwoodtowncouncil



## CHRISTMAS WINDOW DECORATION COMPETITION



**VOTE HERE**

Or fill in a voting slip at  
Ringwood Gateway

**Shops, businesses and community organisations taking part:**

### High Street/off High Street

- 1 Kimbers Flooring Specialists
- 2 Queen Nails
- 3 Ringwood Fabrics
- 4 Simply Beauty
- 5 Woolley & Wallis Estate Agents
- 6 Ringwood Fisheries
- 7 W Patterson Butchers
- 8 Bakehouse 24
- 9 The Courtyard
- 10 ALDA Gifts & Trophies
- 11 With-Grace
- 12 Gemmy Jay Nails
- 13 UKG Language and Learning
- 14 Brightwater
- 15 Ringwood Nails and Beauty

### Market Place/West Street

- 16 Scoltocks Health Foods
- 17 Fred Olsen Travel
- 18 The Lighthouse Cookshop
- 19 Little Monkeys at The Old Cottage

### Christchurch Road

- 20 Beaux For Your Home
- 21 Greyfriars Community Centre

### Southampton Road

- 22 Fells New Forest Property
- 23 Hays Travel
- 24 Crown House Lettings Ltd

### The Furlong

- 25 Crew Clothing Company
- 26 Callula Beauty

**Full programme and more information**

[ringwood.gov.uk](http://ringwood.gov.uk)

**Facebook and Instagram**

[ringwoodtowncouncil](http://ringwoodtowncouncil)

**Facebook**

[Ringwood Winter Wanderland](http://Ringwood Winter Wanderland)



**Ringwood  
Town Council**

Find out more at [ringwoodroundtable.co.uk](http://ringwoodroundtable.co.uk)

## Santas Sleigh

3<sup>rd</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup>  
10<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup>

Fordingbridge & Alderholt  
St Leonard's & St Ives  
Verwood  
Burley & Bransgore  
Tricketts Cross & Ferndown  
Ringwood



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## WHAT'S ON



## LIVE MUSIC WITH HICKORY MOON



A five-piece Bluegrass/American style band.  
Featuring a lively mix of traditional string instruments.  
Banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar & double bass  
with rich vocal harmonies.

Their sound captures the energetic and heartfelt spirit of  
Bluegrass, American folk and Appalachian olde time music.

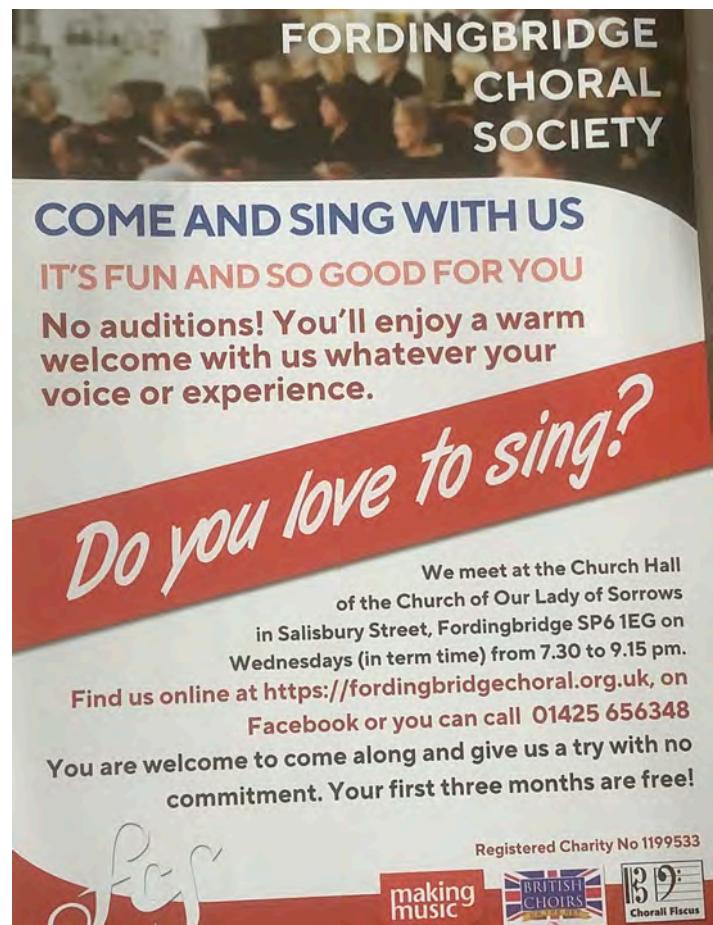
Playing at  
Greyfriars Community Centre Ringwood BH24 1DW

On Sat 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 7pm – 9pm

Doors open at 6.30pm start at 7pm Bar & Refreshments

Proceeds from ticket sales in aid of Macmillan Caring Locally

£8 each from Greyfriars 01425 472613 or  
Lindsey 07817 624034



## WHATS ON



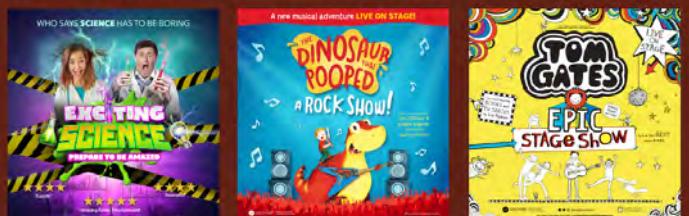
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- 21 NOV** MOST HAUNTED LIVE - THE STAGE SHOW  
PRESENTED BY YVETTE FIELDING
- 22 NOV** THE DRIFTERS  
LIVE IN CONCERT
- 12 DEC** THE COASTAL COMEDY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL  
WITH JEN BRISTER
- 13 DEC** RADIO GAGA  
THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO QUEEN
- 20 DEC** NEW PURPLE CELEBRATION  
THE MUSIC OF PRINCE

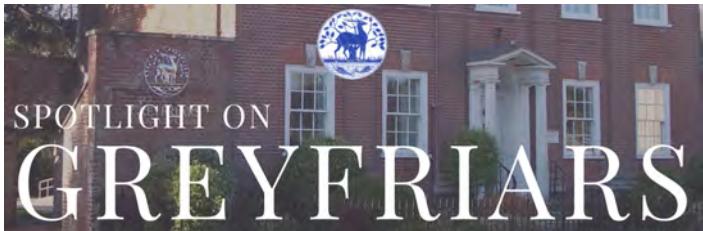


**FAMILY FRIENDLY SHOWS ON SALE NOW!**



## HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

All non profit making community events  
can be advertised here  
FREE OF CHARGE.  
Please email your article to [editor@rfnews.uk](mailto:editor@rfnews.uk)



### What's on at Greyfriars!

#### 26 November – Ringwood Antiques Club

Their November meeting welcomes Jayne and Mike Twomey, experts in the history of one of the country's first public libraries. Starting at 7pm for a 7.30 start, Members are free, Guests £10 .

#### 6 December – Greyfriars Book Sale & Grand Draw

Imagine it! Doors open at 9am, 1000's of books are ready and waiting for you to dive in! Books for all ages and interests across 2 halls, not to mention puzzles and the Grand Christmas Draw itself! Pop it in your diary now!

#### 6 December – Hickory Moon concert

In aid of Macmillan Caring Locally. This 5-piece bluegrass/American style band will get your foot tapping between 7-9pm. Tickets £8 with a bar and BYO nibbles. Tickets from Greyfriars or Lindsey 07817 624034.

#### 12 December – The Flamin' Ukes Christmas Concert

Welcoming back our fabulous resident band. Playing in aid of Greyfriars from at 2pm. Tickets £10, inc Cream Tea are available from Greyfriars or TicketSource. A mini-bus will be available for our shopping passengers who'd like to join us.

#### 13 December – New Forest Rhythmix Band

Delivering their 'Christmas Cracker' an evening of music and dance and raffle in support of Greyfriars. From 7-9pm and tickets at £15 to include a fish'n'chips supper, not to mention there will be a bar. Tickets from Greyfriars and New Forest Rhythmix.



### RINGWOOD & BURLEY BAND

*Featuring*

**Southern Union  
Barbershop Chorus**

### *Christmas Concert* 7th DEC 3:00PM START

Trinity Church 53 Christchurch Road  
Ringwood BH24 1DN

Tickets on the door or online

<https://ringwood-and-burley-band.yapsody.com/>  
Adults £8, Children Free



**SOUTHERN UNION  
CHORUS**



## WHAT'S ON

### Pinocchio in Fordingbridge

Fordingbridge Entertainments Society are delighted to welcome the Forest Forge Theatre company back to Fordingbridge with a thrilling festive show this Christmas. This year they turn their quirky storytelling, song, merriment and mischief to the wonderful mis-adventures of Pinocchio! The story of a wooden marionette who wants to become a real boy.

Pinocchio has a nose that grows with each little fib, is naive, stubborn, thoughtless and very easily led; so watch as he falls in with the rascally fox and cat, gasp as he flies on the back of a pigeon, marvel as he is swallowed by a giant shark, doubt as he waits for gold coins to grow on a vine and wonder as he is turned into a donkey ... if he will ever become a real boy!

We promise you live action, music, surprises, a puppet or two, a lot of laughs and a thoroughly enjoyable and unforgettable adventure!

Pinocchio is a co-production between Forest Forge Theatre Company, Mischievous Theatre, and Bumblefly Theatre Company. This tour been made possible thanks to funding from Arts Council England.

Performing at Fordingbridge Town Hall on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm.

Tickets available at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/FordingbridgePanto>

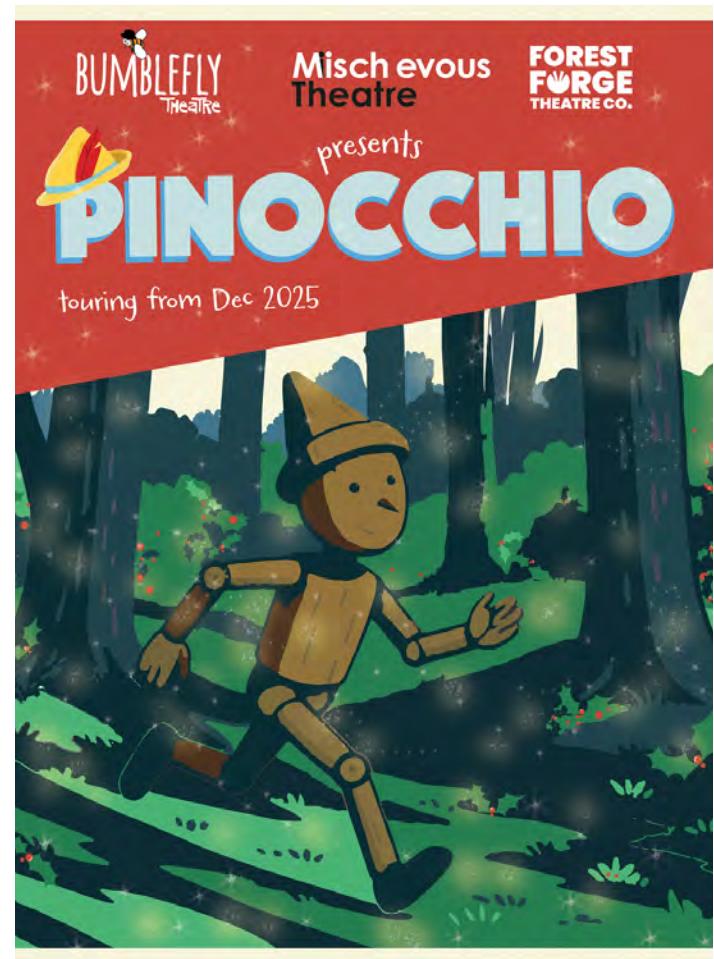
### THE BIG WRAP Sat 13th Dec - 10 - 4pm

We will be offering a Christmas present wrapping service (for the public) for a small donation for the children in Kinkiizi Uganda. Our diocese partner.

The idea is to attract 'non usual church attendees' and young people into the Parish Church for a fun Christmassy event. There will be a team of us wrapping but also tea, coffee and mince pies to encourage people to socialise whilst we wrap.



Bring in your Christmas presents and paper  
We'll do the wrapping!  
(charity donations)  
Enjoy mince pies and hot drinks too!



## WHATS ON

**NEW FOREST RHYTHMIX BAND**

**£15.00 including fish 'n' chips supper**

**Bar available**

**A Christmas Cracker**

**£15.00 TO INCLUDE FISH N CHIPS SUPPER**

**13 DECEMBER 7 - 9 PM**

- an evening of music and dance plus raffle in support of Greyfriars*

*It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing*

TICKETS FROM GREYFRIARS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
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AND NEW FOREST RHYTHMIX

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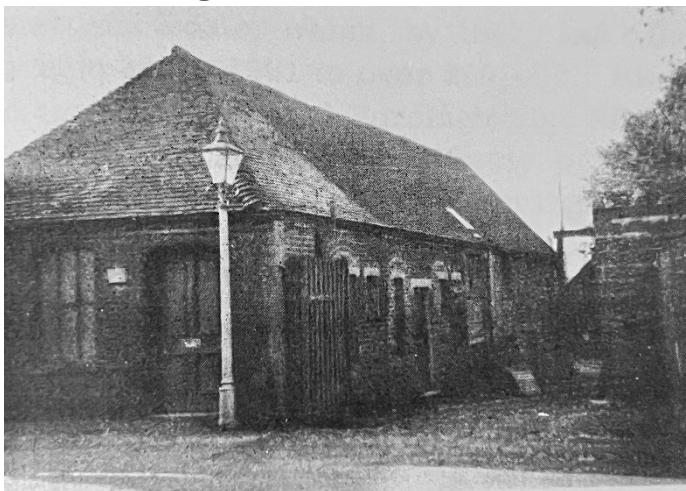
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## HISTORY & NEWS

### Refreshing Beers and Hot Metal



This slightly grainy photo is from Donald Cross' book on 'The Story of Ringwood Industries', published in 1963. The image is to illustrate the original premises of the firm which became JJ Armfield and Co, but we perhaps know it better, in modified form, as the former home of Ringwood Brewery.

Exactly when the buildings were built is unclear, but graffiti on what was most recently the tap room and brewery shop (the end of which can be seen above, before it was joined to the building on the right), by Wm Bramble, dated 1760 suggests this building is at least 265 years old. By 1784 it was home to the brewery of Tunks & Sweetland who remained in business until 1821, following the death of Stephen Tunks. The site later became home to William Munden's ironworks which came under the control of

JJ Armfield in 1876, starting the path toward the famous Armfield firm synonymous with the engineering industry in the town. In 1986 Ringwood Brewery moved here from Mintey's Yard with the brewery closing on this site on Christmas Eve 2023. For those who have a deeper interest in the history of brewing in Ringwood, we can point you in the direction of Mary Baldwin's book; 'Brewers of Old Ringwood' which is out of print but readily available online.

The recent news of the sale of this site to Pennyfarthing Homes has sparked renewed interest in the perennial question: "*what is happening to the old brewery site?*" Whilst we don't yet know the answer to this question we hope the new owners will cherish and preserve the important historical buildings on the site and reinvigorate them for their next reinvention.

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.ringwoodociety.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodociety.org.uk)



# The Ringwood Society

### Meeting House News

#### Happy Birthday Geraldine!

Geraldine celebrated her 80th birthday along with her daughter taking a leisurely 'Time Traveller's Walk' around her local town of Ringwood followed by a scrumptious lunch!

'Time Traveller's Walks' are available throughout the year ,phone/text

Andrea on 07934318151 to book a walk.

#### 'Chit Chat Club' Wednesdays 1pm to 2.30pm

Our new chit chat club on Wednesday afternoons is proving popular with our locals .Everyone is welcome to join in the fun,chit chatting or playing games.

We look forward to seeing you there.



**HISTORY & NEWS**

## RINGWOOD ANTIQUES CLUB

The next Ringwood Antiques Club meeting will be on Wednesday 26th November when Jayne & Mike Twomey, senior volunteer librarians at Wimborne Minster, will tell us about the fascinating history of the Minster's famed Chained Library, which is one of the oldest public libraries in the country.

New members are most welcome to join Ringwood Antiques Club, which meets at Greyfriars Community Centre at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Guests are welcome at £10 per evening.

For further details see [www.ringwoodantiquesclub.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodantiquesclub.org.uk)



## Ringwood Community Fridge Christmas Fundraiser

Join the Festive Fun and Support Ringwood Community Fridge!

The volunteers at Ringwood Community Fridge work tirelessly each week, making over 20 food collections from local supermarkets and sorting donations—often late into the night—to ensure good food doesn't go to waste and reaches those who can use it.

In addition to their regular efforts, the team also organise fund-raising events to cover running costs and bring the community together. Their Christmas Fundraiser is no exception, promising a warm, festive atmosphere filled with **delicious homemade bakes, hot chocolate with all the trimmings, and plenty of good cheer.**

\* **Date:** Saturday 29th November

\* **Time:** From 11am

\* **Location:** Ringwood Library

Visitors can look forward to **tasty treats, friendly faces, and a fun raffle** – all in support of a vital local initiative that helps reduce food waste and support the community.

Come along, share in the festive spirit, and help keep the fridge running this winter!

### About Ringwood Community Fridge

Ringwood Community Fridge, based in Ringwood Library, helps



to redistribute surplus food from local supermarkets, preventing waste and ensuring that good food is shared, not thrown away. The project is entirely volunteer-run and relies on community support to continue its work.

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](http://www.raceagainsttime.org.uk) or for fridge specific questions email [ringwoodcommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:ringwoodcommunityfridge@gmail.com)

## Anniversary announcement

John and Jenny Evans celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 30th October. They grew up in North London and met when members of the Boys and Girls Brigades. A weekend of family celebration will be enjoyed at Burley Manor where they were joined by their daughters Corinne and Helen, son in laws, four grandchildren with their partners and their four great grandchildren.

Congratulations on reaching such a milestone anniversary!



## NEWS

# Research shows shocking toad decline – but you could help

It's always a nice surprise to come across a toad in your garden or on a walk in the forest. But alarming recent research by Cambridge University shows that their populations have fallen dramatically. And with almost half of the UK's toads lost in just one generation, urgent action is needed to protect them.

The loss of ponds and natural habitats together with changing weather patterns are partly to blame. But many toads are also killed by traffic, especially when they crawl slowly across busy roads as they migrate to breed and lay their eggs near water. They begin their journeys in January – so that's when the Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol will be starting to turn out every evening along a local toad "hotspot" to help them make it safely across the road. And they're looking for more volunteers who can help.

"The shocking decline in toad numbers means that every life we can save is more precious than ever," said Nicola Yorke who runs the patrol. "The particular route we look after on the edge of Ringwood next to Blashford Lakes can be especially dangerous for them as they risk being killed under the wheels of cars and vans. So we're looking for more willing volunteers who can spare a couple of hours one evening every week from mid January through to the end of March. We'd also be really grateful if drivers slowed down, remained patient and kept an eye out for the toads. It would make an enormous difference and many more precious lives would be saved."

Patrollers 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.

"The toads crawl down from the wooded hills above Blashford Lakes to find a mate and breed," said Nicola. "By early Spring after their eggs are laid they make the return journey, once again facing the dangers of the busy road. They only move when it's warm enough – five degrees and above. They love wet nights but they'll also cross when it's not raining, particularly early in the season when they're keen to get down to the water. And with toad numbers falling, we need to carry on helping them to stay safe – which is why we need more volunteers to join our friendly, inclusive group of passionate, dedicated patrollers."

Registered with the wildlife charity Froglife who coordinate toad patrolling throughout the UK, the patrol has been going for 37 years. It was given a prestigious Community Award by Ringwood Town Council in May 2025 in recognition of the importance of the local toad population and the efforts of the patrol to help them survive migration.

Interested in volunteering?  
Email [rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com](mailto:rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com)



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## Ringwood Rotary CIO Firewalk and Lego Walk

On Saturday 1 November 2025, Ringwood Rotary CIO hosted their Fire and Lego Walk at the Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club in aid of two incredible causes: -

Planets Cancer Charity – providing pioneering treatments and care for people living with cancer in the Wessex area and also for Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) – supporting those affected by MND and funding vital research to find a cure. A presentation to both charities will be made in the near future.

It was a successful night with all the participants taking part and walking across the lego or the hot coals at 557oC! Some serious people managed to do it twice and no feet were harmed during the evening! The Rotary club would like to thank all the people who sponsored the walkers and our sponsors Breward Financial Planning, Answer.co.uk, SH Woodhouse Surveying, Hunts Food group and RF Recycling. Our thanks also to ERRFC for hosting the event.

(Photo Courtesy of Paddy Butler)



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## Tales from an old English chop house



Where in Salisbury can you find a card player's mummified hand, the bar where Churchill and Eisenhower planned the D-Day landings and also enjoy a wide selection of real ale? The answer is the Haunch of Venison, a hostelry in the centre of Salisbury since 1320 and a treasure trove of stories from those who have lived, worked and drunk there.

Local historian and crime writer Ruby Vitorino Moody will share tales of the exciting life of this renowned Public House when she joins Fordingbridge History Society (FHS) on Monday 8 December from 2.30pm in Avonway Community Centre, Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1JF.

The talk is free to members of FHS and visitors are most welcome to join us for a small fee (£5 per person). After the talk there are complimentary refreshments and the opportunity to have further discussions with the speaker and other members and guests. There is a large public car park just a few minutes from Avonway

and a drop off facility in front of the building.

FHS was established over 60 years ago. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at Avonway and offer a series of 8 talks from October to April. Annual membership is £15.00 per person.

For further details, check out the FHS website ([fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk](http://fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk)) or contact [secretary@fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk)



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# Puzzle Corner

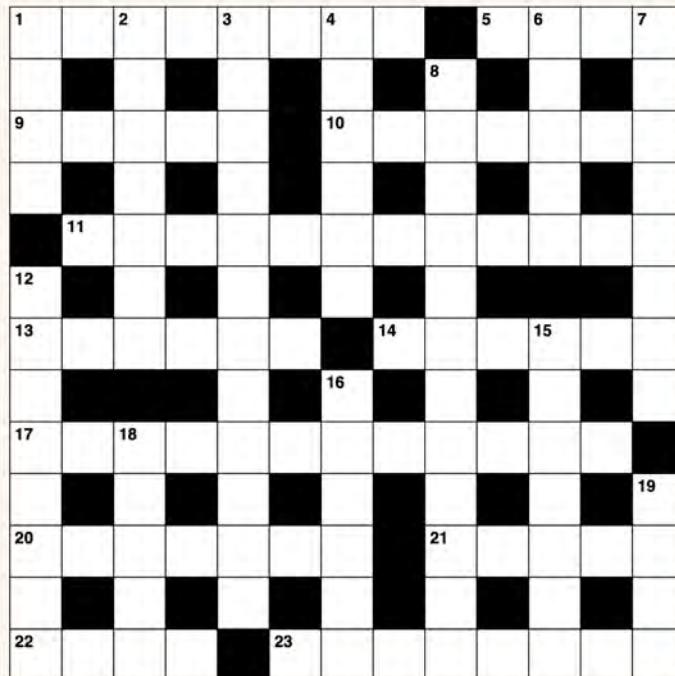
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AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



BURLEY'S  
HOME CARE



## Crossword



### Across

- 1 - Unskilled; amateur (8)
- 5 - Self-righteous person (4)
- 9 - Ski run (5)
- 10 - Keepsake; reminder (7)
- 11 - Amiability (12)
- 13 - Shelves (6)
- 14 - Aide (6)
- 17 - Menacing (12)
- 20 - Eg biology (7)
- 21 - Egg-shaped solid (5)
- 22 - Settee (4)
- 23 - Continues obstinately (8)

### Down

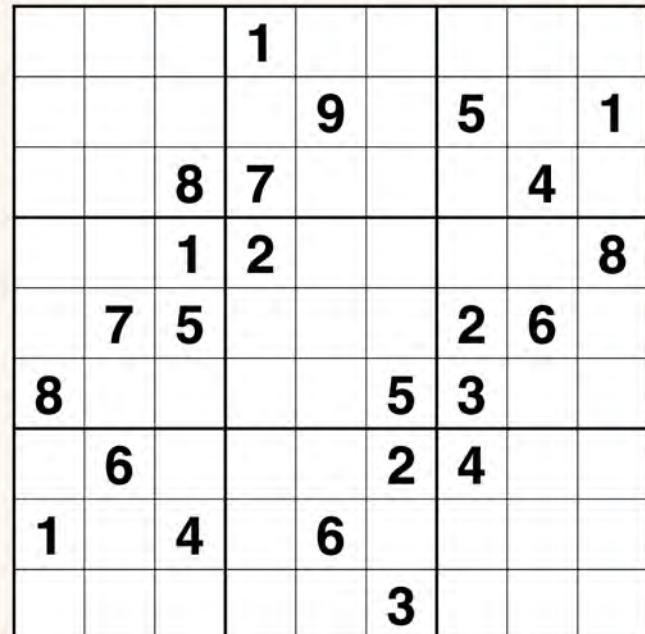
- 1 - Mischievous sprites (4)
- 2 - Made certain of (7)
- 3 - Decide in advance (12)
- 4 - Put right (6)
- 6 - Extent or limit (5)
- 7 - Alphabetical list of terms (8)
- 8 - Able to use both hands well (12)
- 12 - Dots indicating an omission (8)
- 15 - Small cogwheels (7)
- 16 - Stick to (6)
- 18 - Robber (5)
- 19 - Totals (4)

### Answers for last the last issue:



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## NEWS

# Ringwood School Students Raise £230 for Ringwood Royal British Legion's 2025 Poppy Appeal held at Bickerley Green.

The residents of Bickerley Green, were treated to a delightful afternoon tea with some excellent entertainment provided by Ben and George, two Year 10 Ringwood School Pupils. Helen, daughter of one of the residents, provided a delicious selection of mouth-watering cakes, along with another resident's great-granddaughter, Ruby, providing a yummy lemon drizzle cake for all to enjoy. Resident, Julie, spoke of how lovely it is to have young people about the home. "We were all young once, and it's lovely to see young people here at Bickerley Green. Ben and George were superb, and they have a real talent for playing the guitar and for vocals. I hope that they go far!" We also welcomed back our Year 11, former work experience student, Paige, who was amazing at organising all the catering and looking after everyone.

The idea for raising money for worthy local cause, came from a residents' meeting. Bickerley Green are very grateful for the financial support we receive from the various organisations and people within the Ringwood area, so we wanted to play our little part to support the Ringwood branch of the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal. This charity means a lot to many people who live at Bickerley Green. At Bickerley Green, we have many people who have served or have had loved ones who have served in the armed forces. Raising the money was a team effort, with relatives, friends and staff supporting the 'Poppy Appeal'. Nev Carney, one of the Ringwood Poppy Appeal organisers said, "It was wonderful to hear

of the different generations joining together, not only to raise money for the Ringwood Poppy Appeal but also to have lovely afternoon together."



Bickerley Green would like to sincerely thank: Helen, Ben, George, Paige and Ruby for all their support in making our fundraising effort such a success.



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## Sennen Cove



This is a photograph of Sue Hughes with Penni Dymond and the picture of Sennen Cove in Cornwall that Penni commissioned Sue to create in memory of her much loved and missed mother. It came about in unusual circumstances. Penni had the brilliant idea to create a textile picture, from her late mother's chiffon scarves, nylon stockings, leather gloves and jewellery. She particularly wanted a picture of Sennen Cove where her family had enjoyed many happy holidays. She put a message out on the Fordingbridge neighbourhood app 'Next Door' and Sue picked it up. What a coincidence! Penni was delighted with the finished result and Sue said "it was a lovely idea that I felt very privileged to be part of". Sue is happy to take commissions for this type of work using your treasured and memorable textiles.

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13/12/1918	A S Guy	Lance Corporal	28th Company, Royal Engineers

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## Planning Permission Granted for Replacement Grounds Facility at Carvers

Ringwood Town Council has secured planning permission for a potential new Grounds Facility at Carvers Recreation Ground. This is an important step toward replacing the deteriorating sheds on site, which are an eyesore and no longer suitable for modern grounds maintenance work.

For many years, the town's grounds equipment and staff have had to operate from several small, scattered buildings across Ringwood. This has made the team's work less efficient and created challenges around staff welfare, secure storage and day-to-day operations. The proposed new building would bring essential equipment and welfare facilities together in a single, purpose-built space while keeping its footprint as small as possible to protect the recreational area that is so valued at Carvers. The new building sits within the area already used by the old shed and yard, so no playing fields are lost.

Some residents raised concerns during the planning process about possible increases in vehicle movements on the site. The Council has clarified that activity around the facility will remain very modest. The Grounds Team already operates from Carvers, and bringing other small storage points together into one base would only result in a slight increase in movements during the working day.

The design has also been refined through the planning process to reduce its size, soften its appearance, and ensure it fits more comfortably into the edge of the park. The use of brickwork and a simple roofline reflects the character of nearby buildings, offering a clear improvement on the current sheds and a more attractive frontage facing the recreation ground.

If the project proceeds, the new facility would:

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- Provide a weather-tight, accessible workspace that meets today's standards
- Improve staff welfare and safety
- Bring essential equipment into a single, secure location
- Support more efficient upkeep of the town's parks and open spaces
- Include new native planting to enhance screening and biodiversity.

Alternative sites, including commercial units, were reviewed, but none met the town's operational needs or offered value for money. "This is about making sure the people who look after our parks, play areas and green spaces have safe and suitable working conditions," said Cllr Andrew Briers, Chair of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces. "The current sheds simply aren't up to the job anymore. A modern facility will help the team care for the places our community relies on all year round."

While planning permission has now been granted, no decision has yet been made to build, and there are no timescales at this stage. If taken forward, there will be opportunities for residents to view the plans and ask questions.

The Grounds Team maintains Carvers Recreation Ground, The Bickerley, the War Memorial Gardens, Poulner Lakes, Long Lane sports facilities, Jubilee Gardens, the Cemetery, play areas and allotments, as well as other open spaces across the town. The proposed facility aims to support this essential work into the future.



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**BEREAVEMENTS****HAYNES****Ruth Alison**

Passed away on 15th October 2025, aged 56 years.  
Funeral service to be held at Alderholt Congregational Church  
on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 10am. All flowers  
welcome. Any enquiries to I N Newman Ltd, 22 High Street,  
Fordingbridge, SP6 1AX, Tel 01425 656286

**LAYTON****Lena**

Lena passed away at Summerhill Care Home on 24th October,  
aged 93 years. Now reunited with her beloved husband Vic.  
Much loved mother to Trish and Jennie, she will be very sadly  
missed by all her family and many friends. The funeral service  
has already taken place, but donations, if desired, in memory  
of Lena may be made to 'Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance'  
or 'Dorset Blind Association' and made online at <https://lenalayton.muchloved.com> or sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose  
Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425  
837080

**SHERLOCK****Brian**

Passed away after a short stay at Oakmount Care Home in  
Ringwood aged 88 years. He was a kind, gentle and loving  
husband, father and grandpa. Brian will be deeply missed by  
his Wife Lynn, children Nik and Jo, grandchildren Izzy and Ollie  
and Nik's wife Tabitha, together with friends and family. The  
Funeral Service will take place at Bournemouth Crematorium  
on Monday 24th November at 1pm. No flowers by request  
thank you but donations if desired for Dementia UK may be  
made online at [www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk) or cheques  
may be sent to us at Barrow & Tapper 29a Southampton Road  
Ringwood Hampshire BH24 1HB (01425 472104)

**Remembering****Matthew Dunning**

(20th November 2004 – 10th September 2025)

The Ringwood community has been deeply saddened by the  
sudden passing of Matthew Dunning, aged just 20, who died  
unexpectedly on 10th September 2025 at his university home  
in Surrey.

Matthew was a much-loved and familiar face in Ringwood.  
Born and raised in the town, he attended local schools before  
going on to study Physics with Nuclear Astrophysics at the  
University of Surrey. Bright, curious, and endlessly kind, Mat-  
thew's enthusiasm for learning and his fascination with the  
universe shone through in everything he did.

(continues on page 38)

## BEREAVEMENTS

Those who knew Matthew remember his big smile, infectious sense of humour, and gentle caring nature. He was a loyal friend, a devoted son, and an adoring big brother to his twin sister Sophie and younger sisters Holly and Charlotte. He had a rare gift for making everyone around him feel valued, understood, and at ease.

Matthew was also a talented and passionate sportsman, especially on the football pitch. From a young age, he played for Ringwood Town Football Club, and he continued to enjoy sport through the Surrey community football programme whilst studying at university. His love of sport reflected his approach to life energetic, committed, and always bringing people together.

Matthew tragically died from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS), a condition that claims the lives of around 12 apparently healthy young people in the UK each week, often without any warning or identifiable cause. In honour of Matthew's memory, his family hopes to raise awareness of SADS and to support the life-saving work of Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), a charity that funds heart screenings, research, and bereavement support for families affected by sudden cardiac deaths. More information about their vital work can be found at [www.c-r-y.org.uk](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk).

Matthew's parents shared, "Matthew was such a happy and healthy young man, full of life and loved by so many. His sudden passing has come as such a shock, not only to us but to all who knew him. We are so incredibly proud to call him our son. He was

the best big brother and the most special friend to all who were lucky enough to have known him. Our hearts are completely broken, and life will never be the same, but we are so grateful for the love and support we have received from everyone, it has given us comfort and strength during the most painful time of our lives."

A service to celebrate Matthew's life will be held at St. Peter & St. Paul Ringwood Parish Church, Market Place, Ringwood, BH24 1AW on Monday 1st December 2025 at 12 noon, followed by a gathering at The Elm Tree, Hightown Road, Ringwood, BH24 3DY. All who knew Matthew, and anyone who wishes to pay their respects, are warmly welcome to attend and celebrate his life.

The family kindly requests no flowers, but donations in Matthew's memory may be made to Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) via the Tapper Funeral Service on-line at Tapper Funeral Service – Matthew Dunning Tribute Page

Matthew will be forever loved and remembered for his warmth and kindness and for the light he brought into the lives of all who knew him. He was a true gentleman with an adventurous spirit, always living life to the fullest. His gentle soul and caring nature have left an everlasting impression; he was truly one of a kind and the world will certainly be a sadder place without him in it. He leaves behind a legacy of love, humour and unforgettable memories that will be cherished forever.

**BRIGHTWATER**

**HELP!**

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN OF RINGWOOD..**

Every year Ringwood hosts a Christmas Window Competition —and this year, we want to make our display more magical than ever. That's where you come in!

We have a festive picture that needs colouring, and we're looking for your very best work! The colouring entries will be judged by none other than the Mayor of Ringwood. The Mayor's favourite design will be proudly displayed in our Christmas window for everyone to see. To take part, simply: 1. Colour in the picture. 2. Write your name and age at the bottom (plus your parent's contact details) 3. Drop it back in to our office! All entries must be in by Friday 28th November.

Let's make this year's Christmas window shine bright! 🎄

We can't wait to see your pictures.  
Love,  
Darren, Jo, Amelia, Izzy, Jen & Harry

**2 High Street,  
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### MEET THE TEAM



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## PROPERTY



# BRIGHTWATER

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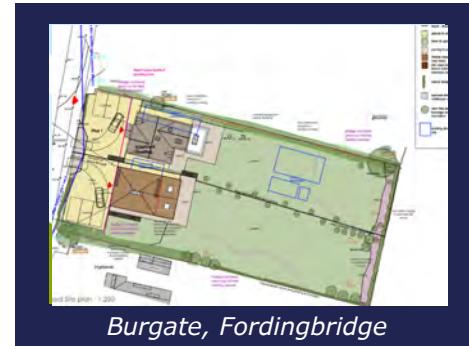
**BrightWater Commercial** are pleased to have the opportunity to take on three attractive plots of land with excellent development potential are coming to the market, including two individual-build sites in Burgate, Fordingbridge, and a larger multi-unit development opportunity in the desirable Marnhull area. Each plot offers a unique chance for quality residential development in sought-after village and edge-of-town locations. These represent rare opportunities for builders, developers, or investors—register your interest now to receive full details as they become available.



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Burgate, Fordingbridge

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£157,500 L/H

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### CROW - PRICE GUIDE £425,000

Charming 3 bedroom EOT cottage, small garden, rural views, no chain, l-shaped lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, en-suite bathroom, family shower room, parking. Epc band D

### RINGWOOD PRICE GUIDE £295,000

Mid-terrace bungalow, popular area, lounge, open way to kitchen, archway to dining room/bed 2, 1 double bedroom, bathroom/w.c., gas ch, dble glazing, large SF rear garden, garage in nearby block, no chain. Epc band D



### ST LEONARDS - PRICE GUIDE £675,000

4 bedroom detached bungalow, 'park like' gardens 0.39 of an acre, premier cul-de-sac, lounge, dining room, conservatory/garden room, kitchen/breakfast room, garage/utility room, en suite shower room, parking. Epc band D

### RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £500,000

Character 4 bedroom semi detached house, living room, dining room, modern kitchen, utility, GF bedroom & en suite shower room, 3 first floor bedrooms, bathroom, gas ch, dble glazing, parking, 8m garage. Epc band C

**The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1AT**  
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