

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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Issue 910 • December 17th to January 20th • 2025

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Christmas Eve Carol Service in The Market Place

Wednesday, December 24th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



The traditional and much-loved Christmas Carol Service will take place 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 carol singing will start at 6pm, led by our local Ringwood and Burley and Salvation Army Bands. Do come and enjoy this popular community event of our Town, celebrating together our recognition of the importance of Christmas.

The carols with their verses are included in this Newspaper or you can find them on the website rfnews.uk



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Wishing you a Merry Christmas

From Donaldson Ross & Co.



As 2025 draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to say and heartfelt **thank you** to all our clients, neighbours, and friends throughout Ringwood and the surrounding areas. Your support means the world to us, and we're proud to be of such a strong, welcoming community.

This year has brought its fair share of change, challenges and opportunities - but through it all, we've continued to enjoy the conversations, the problem-solving, the planning and even the last minute panics that remind us why we love what we do.

Christmas always gives us a chance to pause and appreciate the relationships that make our work meaningful. Whether we've helped you navigate a tricky tax query, supported your business as it grows, or simply been a sounding board when numbers get confusing, we're grateful for every moment of trust you've placed in us.

We close out the year with a very well deserved extended Christmas break and will be closing the office from 23rd December to 5th January.

To end on a light festive note:

Why was Santa's tax return so accurate?

Because he checked it twice.

From all of us at Donaldson Ross & Co, we wish you a warm, joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Here's to a positive and organised start to 2026 - and we look forward to supporting you every step of the way!



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It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

So Christmas is just around the corner, the Christmas trees and decoration are hopefully all up and the shopping should be done.

If you are still looking for some last minute gifts please consider shopping locally rather than taking the easy option and looking online.

We have so many independants that rely on us, Endless Incense, The Lighthouse Cookshop, With Grace, Lunns Art Shop (in the post office), 3 Wishes, Simply Beauty, Roberts Jewellers, Allum & Sidaway, Rikers and Animal Avenue Pet Shop along with many others.

2025 has been a great year for the paper, we decided to print once a month rather than fortnightly and the feedback has only been positive from everyone. We have even more plans for 2026 including a schools page within the paper, a new website, networking events for local businesses, online and video interviews of our advertisers and linking up with Forest FM radio (see page 37). Our online readership has more than doubled this year which is great news for all that feature in the paper.

Next year we are aiming to support the people that support us by helping market and advertise your businesses, local groups and clubs.



The paper would not exist without all of the news you send in so please spread the word and encourage people to share their news regarding what is happening in your community.

From all of us at The Ringwood & Fordingbridge News we want to thank you all for your continued support and hopefully we will see you all at the Christmas Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas.

Darren & Naomi



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The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

Publishers:
Darren & Naomi Loose

Advertising:
Nicola Matthews
07881 270844
sales@rfnews.uk



Distribution:
Rae Frederick
office@rfnews.uk

Editorial:
editor@rfnews.uk

Telephone:
01425 563111

The next issue will be published on **Wednesday 21st January**

Editorial copy deadline
Wednesday 14th January

Printed by Blackmore LTD, Shaftesbury, Dorset.



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NEWS

New Forest District Council plans permanent behind-the-gate food waste collections in livestock areas

New Forest District Council (NFDC) plans to continue collecting outdoor food waste caddies from behind property gates at identified homes where free-roaming Forest livestock can potentially access the usual collection point.

At its meeting today, NFDC's Cabinet supported the recommendation to make this approach permanent. NFDC's Council will now review the recommendation from Cabinet on Monday 15 December, when it considers the additional resources required.

Cllr Geoffrey Blunden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, said:

"The new waste service is already delivering real environmental benefits, with recycling rates improving, litter reducing, and household participation in weekly food waste collections exceeding expectations. We remain committed to supporting every household to use the new service effectively."

"As part of this commitment, we are planning to continue collecting outdoor food waste containers from behind the identified property gates. Collecting containers from behind gates takes extra time, which means we need additional crews and vehicles."

"We are also committed to a full review of the service once the rollout is complete. This review will consider wider approaches to collections in these areas and the use of community recycling banks, and will be informed by data, financial modelling, and operational experience."

Residents who received a letter in autumn 2025 asking them to



New Forest DISTRICT COUNCIL

present their outdoor food waste caddy behind their property gate or fence should continue to do so.

For households that did not receive a letter about a change to their collection point, waste containers should continue to be presented at the edge of the property boundary, where it meets the kerbside or public highway.

If NFDC's long-term approach is confirmed at the Council meeting, they will write to these households again with clear instructions on how to present waste containers on collection day.

Residents are reminded to place food waste in their brown outdoor caddy rather than the black-lid rubbish bin and to return wheelie bins to a safe storage place promptly after collection.

Residents should report any incidents involving bins and animals on NFDC's website: Report bin and animal incidents - New Forest District Council

Christmas waste date changes

There are changes to waste collection dates over the Christmas and New Year bank holidays for all households:

Recycling and rubbish

Thursday 25 December – changed to Saturday 27 December

Friday 26 December – changed to Monday 29 December

Monday 29 December – changed to Tuesday 30 December

Tuesday 30 December – changed to Wednesday 31 December

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Wednesday 31 December – changed to Friday 2 January
 Thursday 1 January – changed to Saturday 3 January
 Friday 2 January – changed to Monday 5 January
 Monday 5 January – changed to Tuesday 6 January
 Tuesday 6 January – changed to Wednesday 7 January
 Wednesday 7 January – changed to Thursday 8 January
 Thursday 8 January – changed to Friday 9 January
 Friday 9 January – changed to Saturday 10 January
 If you have extra cardboard, we can collect a small bundle of dry flattened cardboard on your collection day. This should be left next to your recycling bin (or sacks if not yet on the new waste service). Please do not leave flattened cardboard outside for collection if the weather is wet as it may not be good enough quality for recycling.

Collections will resume as usual from Monday 12 January.

Glass

Thursday 25 December – changed to Saturday 27 December
 Friday 26 December – changed to Saturday 3 January
 Thursday 1 January – changed to Saturday 10 January
 All other glass collection days will remain the same.

Garden waste

If you are a subscriber to the garden waste collection service: there will be no collections between Monday 22 December and Friday 2 January. Collections will resume from Monday 5 January. Nearer the time, you will also be able to see the updated collection dates on our website.

Read more about Christmas recycling and rubbish changes on our website.

SPOT THE LEGO SANTA COMPETITION

See how many Lego Santa's you can find in this issue and email your answer to editor@rfnews.uk by 14th January 2026.

All correct answers will be put in a draw and a winner will be picked at random.

Here is one for you.....

PRIZE

£50 voucher to be used at a local shop in Ringwood or Fordingbridge.



Spot The Reindeer Competition WINNER

The winner of the Spot The Reindeer Competition is Catherine A who along with many others guessed the correct amount of 24 reindeers.



The winning prize is a £50 voucher for The Lighthouse Cookshop in Ringwood.

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NEWS

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club in Ringwood Town Centre on Saturday 20th December

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club inspired by the cosy Icelandic tradition of Jólabókaflóðið will be encouraging everyone to pick up a free pre loved book for Christmas in exchange for a donation towards their Christmas Charities, including Wessex Cancer Support and Lifelites. They can be found outside the Meeting House in Ringwood Town Centre on the morning of **Saturday 20th December**. For those younger members of our community Santa will be present to help the Lions Club spread Christmas Cheer to all in town that morning.

Wessex Cancer Support offer free and local emotional and well-being services to anyone affected by cancer in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. Lifelites provide cutting-edge assistive and sensory technology, specialist training, and full maintenance support to children's palliative care services throughout Britain and Ireland.

Jólabókaflóðið, or the Christmas Book Flood, is a unique Icelandic tradition which results in the giving and receiving of books on Christmas Eve, where families often spend the evening reading together. The tradition dates back to World War II - when imported gifts were scarce, but paper was not rationed, leading to a cultural emphasis on books as gifts.



Lions Club President Alastair Ward commented *"Wessex Cancer Support & Lifelites are two amazing charities who offer so much to so many, and we are proud to support them this Christmas. At the same time, we're offering everyone in our community the opportunity to settle down with, or gift to others, a great book this Christmas, courtesy of our Lions Club".*

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club meet on the second Thursday of every month at The Trinity Centre in Ringwood. They are one of over 46,000 clubs operating around the world who volunteer their time in fun and friendship.

Anyone wishing to find out more about what they do, or wish to help in their activities, can find out more from their website (www.ranflions.org.uk) or call them on 0845 8335819.

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NEWS

Understanding Investments-End of Year Update

As I am writing this at the start of November ahead of the UK Budget on Nov 26th I won't be commenting on that event here. We will provide an update on this in due course.

Investments markets have been strong in 2025, albeit as suggested last year, more volatile as Trump Tariff news and negotiations ebb and flow. As is usual, negative news tends to be reported more than positive news, as bad news sells! The latest recurring theme is the predictions of an AI bubble and the impact that could have on global stock markets, as well as concerns over private equity debt. Whilst we must never be complacent, it is really important to understand that most significant stock market declines are caused by events or unforeseen consequences that aren't being talked about and reported on. If the news is already out there, markets are usually pricing the risk in already. That doesn't mean markets are always right, but it just means the risk has been considered.

The reality is that there are a number of positives in play currently, along with some areas of concern. On a positive note, tariff negotiations progress so it looks like global trade will continue, we have high employment levels (unemployment is rising but from record lows), inflation has fallen and is forecast to drop more, interest rates have peaked and are likely to come down (more slowly than forecast last year) and the oil price is cheap. Whilst growth is still low, it appears there is now less risk of a recession. Valuations for global equities are reasonable with the exception of some of the large tech companies (who arguably deserve a higher valuation).

On the negative front, it's still too early to fully understand the effects of tariffs on either inflation (if companies pass on the increased costs to the consumer) or to company profits (if companies don't pass on the increases and swallow them themselves, potentially reducing their profit margins). Geopolitical worries continue (as they ever do) and there could be further fall-out in the corporate world from the significant interest rate hikes of 2022 and 2023 as fixed term loans mature and are rolled on at higher rates.

It's also reasonable to expect a negative year for stock markets at some point. What no-one knows is exactly which year, but positive and negative years are part of a normal investment cycle and shouldn't be feared and second-guessed. Short-term market declines and gains are common. It's why we advocate multi-asset portfolios which also hold lower risk government bonds and other assets that should be supportive during stock market declines. Rather than try to predict when markets will rise or fall, it's important to ensure you have a suitable time-frame over which to judge investment returns (minimum 5 years) and have plenty of cash for liquidity to ensure you are never forced to sell your investments at the wrong time.

A couple of final quotes which feel apt to me right now for the reporting press. "Bull markets climb a wall of worry" which appears to be playing out currently and "Even a broken clock is right twice each day" for the naysayers who have been predicting crashes for a number of years now and who would have missed out on the positive years. The fact remains that positive stock-market years outnumber negative years over time (since 1928 the S&P 500 has been positive 70% of the time).

We wish everyone a wonderful festive season and hope 2026 is kind to you all.

Stewart, Harry and I are available for a free initial, no obligation chat to discuss and consider your financial needs and objectives. Feel free to contact us.

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.

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Thank you on behalf of the Danny Cracknell 'Homeless at Christmas' Appeal

'An outstanding effort from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge community' is the conclusion drawn by the organisers and recipients of the Danny Cracknell 'Homeless at Christmas Appeal 2025'.

Yet again our community have pulled together to support the appeal with an incredible supply of food and warm clothing.

The appeal is orchestrated by Jock McMaster and Jon Grant, ably supported by Cathy Mercer, Dave Read and Keith White and Eric Champion, premises to store the items were generously donated by Malcolm Lambert.

Ringwood Senior School produced a magnificent effort, collecting in excess of 3,500 tins of food, donated by pupils and staff.

The Winton branch of the Salvation Army whom received a significant amount of the donations expressed their gratitude.....



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.'we rely on people's generosity to help us with our outreach with local vulnerable people, supporting individuals and families whom are struggling. Thank you once again for your support'

The deadline date for receiving goods has been set for December 12th to enable the items to be sorted ready for distribution.

Deliveries will continue over the forthcoming days to centres across the South and Whitechapel, London.

A special mention needs to go to all the team at Abacus Van Hire, Ferndown, who, for the past 35 years, have generously donated vehicles for this truly worthy cause. It is fair to say that without their wonderful generosity the distribution of these much needed donations would have been extraordinarily difficult.

Our thanks also extend to the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News, the Mayor of Ringwood, staff at Ringwood Town Council and each and everyone of you whom has provided our appeal with your donations and kindness.

It is fair to say you have all made a difference and reinforced the message ,to those less fortunate, that people do care!!

Thank you to you all and may we wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmastime.

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NEWS

Ringwood and District Branch Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Absolutely Amazing result for the 2025 Poppy Appeal in Ringwood and District - £29,552.26 and still rising...

Thank You all so very much for your support for The Poppy Appeal in Ringwood and District.

The Poppy Appeal Organisers from the Ringwood and District Branch of The Royal British Legion are saying a Big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped raise over £29,552 during the Poppy Appeal fundraising collection which took place over the weeks leading up to Remembrance.

Whilst the Legion is seen as the UK's leading Armed Forces charity, it is the support of the local general public and companies that provide the funding for all the Legion's work.

The Branch Poppy Appeal Coordinator said: "It's an absolutely amazing total given the continuing concerns being expressed nationally about people having less disposable income now".

"We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who gave so generously to help us reach this total". We would also like to thank all the businesses and organisations in the area that backed the Poppy Appeal, by allowing us to use the Furlong; have collecting boxes on their counters around the town and in local villages; for their fundraising efforts and the amazing support they continue to show towards the Appeal.

Shops and businesses weren't shy of providing Hot Drinks to those who stood outside doing the street collections, "It really has been an incredible time. The Poppy Sellers were out and about on the streets, outside stores and shops and with the Legion Gazebo appearing several times on the Furlong".

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DELIVERY TEAM

We are looking for people to join our delivery team in Ringwood - 3rd Wednesday/Thursday of the month. Interested, please contact Rae at

Email: office@rfnews.uk

"Our special Thanks to the Town Council and Lara Faramus for their support and allowing us to have the Gazebo on display at the Gateway and in the Furlong; there were a lot of people involved, we certainly could not have achieved

such an astounding result without our team of Poppy Appeal volunteers, but the Public's response has been truly amazing."

"Thank you all so very Much for your continuing support of such a worthwhile cause, it is really appreciated"

For more information please email Jean Webley - Jean.webley@me.com



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How to recycle your real Christmas tree

From 31 December to 14 January, you can take your Christmas tree to one of the following drop-off sites and we will recycle it:

Brockenhurst – Brookley Road car park, SO42 7RA
 Burley – Burley coach park (next to car park), BH24 4DJ
 Fordingbridge – A338 slip road car park, SP6 1AW
 Ringwood – The Furlong long stay car park (follow signs to the designated area), BH24 1AT

We will recycle your tree by chipping it to create mulch. The mulch will be used locally to help keep moisture around plant roots, and to prevent weeds from growing.

Please only drop off real Christmas trees and remove any decorations first. Other wood and rubbish should not be left at the sites. Trees must be left in the signposted area only.

If you're a garden waste customer, Christmas trees can be chopped up and put in your brown-lidded garden waste bin, but your bin lid must fully close.



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NEWS

New defibrillator at Trinity Ringwood

Trinity United Church Installs Lifesaving Defibrillator Thanks to Generous Donation from Ringwood Old Peoples Welfare Association

Trinity United Church, Ringwood, is delighted to announce the installation of a new defibrillator, made possible through the generous support of the Ringwood Old Peoples Welfare Association. This vital piece of equipment will enhance safety and wellbeing for all who use the church and its many rooms and halls.

The donation reflects the Association's longstanding commitment to supporting the local community, and Trinity United Church is deeply grateful for their kindness.

The installation was celebrated with a photo featuring Debbie Grace from Ringwood Old Peoples Welfare Association, Roger Gregory from Ringwood Carers Café, and Rev. Sue Baker-Maher from Trinity United Church.

Their presence highlights the collaborative effort between local organisations to ensure the wellbeing of residents and visitors alike.

Centre Manager at Trinity, Alan Ball, expressed appreciation: "This donation is a wonderful example of how local groups can come together to make a lasting difference. We are proud to host the defibrillator at Trinity, where it will add to the local network of these life saving devices"

The church welcomes all members of the community to its facilities and events, and hopes the presence of the defibrillator will provide reassurance and safety for everyone who visits. For enquiries tel: 01425461440. www.trinityringwood.co.uk. Or find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRingwood>



70th Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Harry and Rita Cutler celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 3rd December. There were plenty of big celebrations on their special day, including spending lots of time with their family, which they love to do often.



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NEWS

Age Concern Hampshire Launches Christmas Campaign to Support Older People During Winter

Age Concern Hampshire is launching its annual Christmas campaign, Past, Present, and Future, to support older people through the challenges of the winter season. This year's campaign shines a spotlight on three key issues that can have a serious impact on later life: winter pressures, falls, and isolation and loneliness. By raising awareness of these challenges, the charity also hopes to generate vital funds and attract new volunteers, helping to secure the longevity of its essential services across the county.

Winter can be a particularly difficult time for older people. Age Concern Hampshire is addressing these winter pressures by helping residents access essential financial support and providing guidance with form-filling through its Information Service. This includes assistance with benefit applications that can help with heating and fuel costs. By removing these barriers, the charity ensures older people receive the support they need to stay safe and well during the colder months.

Fall prevention is another crucial focus. Through its Care and Well-being Centres and Foot Care clinics, Age Concern Hampshire helps older people maintain mobility, manage foot health, and reduce the risk of accidents. These services not only protect physical wellbeing but also contribute to independence and confidence at home.

The campaign also tackles isolation and loneliness, which can intensify during the Christmas season. Support is available at the charity's Care and Wellbeing Centres, or through assistance in the home via the Help at Home service. In addition, practical support and social groups help older people stay connected, engaged, and

supported throughout the winter.

Volunteers are central to Age Concern Hampshire's work all year round. From offering companionship to supporting practical services in centres, their dedication ensures that older people in Hampshire receive care, connection, and independence. Anyone interested in giving their time can find out more by visiting: ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/volunteer-hampshire/give-time-by-volunteering.

The charity is also inviting donations from individuals and corporate supporters. Every contribution, big or small, helps fund essential services and allows Age Concern Hampshire to respond flexibly to the evolving needs of older people across the county. To support the Christmas campaign and make a donation, please visit justgiving.com/campaign/ach40.

"Winter can bring unique challenges for older people, from managing health and safety to staying socially connected," said Brogan Rehill, Head of Fundraising and Volunteer Services at Age Concern Hampshire. "Our Christmas campaign highlights the services we provide and the ways the community can help. By donating or supporting our work, everyone can play a part in ensuring no older person in Hampshire faces the season alone."



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Ringwood Town Football Club
Ringwood Community Hub

**Fixtures**

2025-26



Date		Opponents
Sat 13 Dec	H	Romsey Town
Tue 16 Dec	A	Brockenhurst*
Sat 27 Dec	A	Hamworthy Utd
Sat 3 Jan	H	Aldermaston
Wed 7 Jan	A	Blackfield & Lan*

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NEWS

Fordingbridge Players

Fordingbridge Players is thrilled to announce that we will be bringing to life a brand new play in the autumn of 2026. 'Norman the Conqueror' tells the story of 90 year-old Norman during Covid lockdown in 2020, as he looks back on his life in wartime Southampton in 1940, through moments both dramatic, tender, humorous and moving.

This richly layered play is rooted in real events, and has a special connection to Fordingbridge through Norman's marriage to a local girl, giving it truly personal resonance.

The play is going to be our most expansive production to date with a large cast, live music and song and complex set with time-change scenes shifting effortlessly between 1940 and 2020.

In order to fully realise this huge show, we are looking for more actors to join our friendly, talented team of thespians. If you are aged 16 or over and you enjoy live theatre, then we'd love to hear from you!

Email fordingbridgeplayers@gmail.com or message Wendy on 07847388002 to register your interest.

<https://www.fordingbridgeplayers.org.uk/>

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Experienced Mechanic Takes the Wheel at Keystone Automotive

A new chapter has begun at Keystone Automotive as 28-year-old mechanic Nick Cooper officially takes over the long-standing Ringwood garage (Keystone Cars), bringing youthful energy and modern ideas to a business that has been part of the community for several decades. Keystone is conveniently located in the heart of Ringwood Town Centre, with shops, cafés, and local amenities just a short walk away -ideal while your car is being serviced or repaired.

Nick, who started as an apprentice at 16 years old under former owner Paul Heron, has now taken full control and is ready to carry the business forward.

Nick plans to honour Keystone's reputation for reliable, straightforward service while introducing modern diagnostic tools and expanded weekend hours. Nick has extensive knowledge of German manufactured cars (BMWs in particular) with diagnostics to back it up although he welcomes all makes and models.

Regular customers welcomed the news, many noting how familiar Nick already is to the neighbourhood.

Nick is excited for the road ahead. This garage has always looked after Ringwood, and he is proud to keep that tradition going.

Keystone now provides a complimentary pick-up and drop-off service for customers living locally to the garage or to one of their team members.

Keystone also offers reduced labour rates on all servicing.

Their aim is to encourage regular vehicle maintenance, which is vital for preventing future problems - while recognising that most people have plenty of other demands on their budget.

At Keystone, all parts used are of high quality. While cheaper alternatives exist, Keystone chooses to invest a little more to ensure top-grade components for every repair.

Winter Service Offer

Keystone Automotive are offering a complete winter check which includes looking over all of the below for just £20. T&Cs apply.

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BrightWater Christmas Colouring Competition

We would like to introduce you to THE WINNERS of our Christmas Colouring Competition!

Huge congratulations to Summer, Margot and Darcie who took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place from lots of amazing entries!

We were so impressed with your colouring

We would also like to say a big thank you to everyone that entered, the Mayor loved seeing all of the fantastic pictures!




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CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT



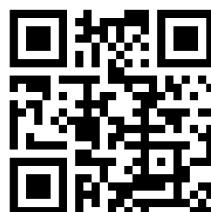
Christmas Eve Carol Service in The Market Place

Wednesday, December 24th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Scan here for access
to the website and the
online copy of the
Carol Service Hymns



BRIGHTWATER

Thank you to all our current clients for their loyalty over the past year.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Your BrightWater Team
Darren, Jo, Amelia, Isobelle, Jenny, Jason & Harry

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CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT

~ 1 ~

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

WHILE shepherds watched their
flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

Fear not! said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town, this day
Is born, of David's line,
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from
Heaven to men
Begin and never cease!

~ 2 ~

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

THE holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flow'r;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good.

~ 3 ~

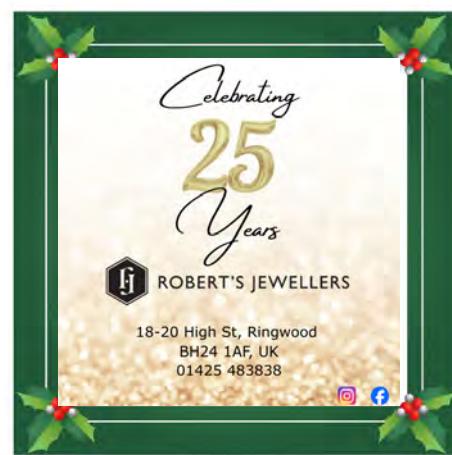
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

HARK! the herald angels sing:
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald angels sing:
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the Heav'n-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.



CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT**- 4 -****THE FIRST NOWELL**

THE first Nowell the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds
 In fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay keeping
 their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

They lookéd up and saw a star,
 Shining in the east beyond them far,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
 Three wise men came from country far,
 To seek for a King was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 That hath made Heaven and earth
 of nought,
 And with his blood mankind hath bought.

- 5 -**IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER**

IN the bleak mid-winter
 Frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone;
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid-winter, Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
 Nor earth sustain
 Heaven and earth shall flee away
 When He comes to reign
 In the bleak mid-winter
 A stable-place sufficed
 Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

What can I give Him
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part
 Yet what I can, I give Him
 Give my heart

- 6 -**AWAY IN A MANGER**

AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where
 he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
 I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 And fit us for Heaven to live with thee there.

- 7 -**ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

ONCE, in royal David's city,
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a Mother laid her Baby
 In a manger for His bed;
 Mary was that Mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor, and mean, and lowly
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
 Through His own redeeming love;
 For that Child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav'n above;
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.



CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT

~ 8 ~

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

DING dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.

Glo - - - - ri - a,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo - - - - ri - a,
Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen.
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen.

Pray you dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve-time song, ye singers:

~ 9 ~

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

GOOD King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me,
If you know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, Under-
neath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
You who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

~ 10 ~

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

GOOD Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow;
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus
Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door,
And man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!



Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!



CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT

~ 11 ~

**ANGELS FROM
THE REALMS OF GLORY**

ANGELS from the realms of Glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship,
Christ the new-born King;
Come and worship,
Worship Christ,
the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:

Sinners, moved by true repentance,
Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence,
Mercy calls you; break your chains.

~ 12 ~

**JESUS, GOOD
ABOVE ALL OTHER**

Jesus, good above all other,
Gentle Child of gentle mother,
In a stable born our brother,
Give us grace to persevere.

Jesus, cradled in a manger,
For us facing every danger,
Living as a homeless stranger,
Make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,
Risen Master, death defying,
Lord in Heav'n, thy grace supplying,
Keep us to thy presence near.

Lord, in all our doings guide us;
Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;
We'll go on with thee beside us,
And with joy we'll persevere!

~ 13 ~

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Earth to the heaven's replies.



CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT

14 LONG TINE AGO

LONG time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day.

Hark now hear the angels sing
A new king's born today
And man will live for evermore
Because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
They saw a bright new shining star
And heard a choir from
Heaven sing
The music came from afar.

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
Came to Bethlehem that night,
They found no place to
bear her child,
Not a single room was in sight.

By and by they found a little nook
In a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger cold and dark,
Mary's little boy-child was born.

~ 15 ~ GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

~ 16 ~ RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

RUDOLPH, the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw him,
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
Play in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee:
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"

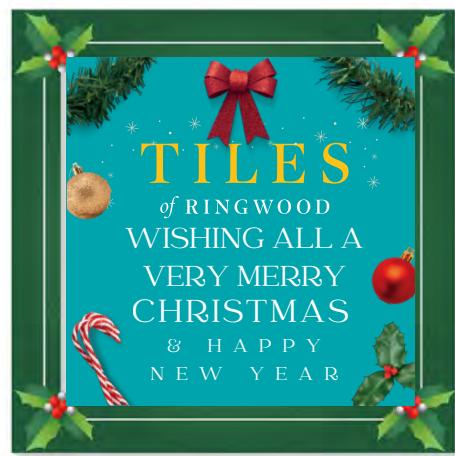


CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT**~ 17 ~
SILENT NIGHT**

SILENT night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round the virgin mother and child;
Holy infant, tender and mild,
Rests in heav'nly peace,
Rests in heav'nly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Guiding star, lend thy light.
See, the eastern wise men bring
Gifts and homage to our King,
Jesus Christ is here,
Jesus Christ is here.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Hallelujahs to our King,
Jesus Christ is here,
Jesus Christ is here.

**~ 18 ~
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year.

We all like our figgy pudding;
We all like our figgy pudding;
We won't go until we get some
So bring it out here!

Good tidings we bring

We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
And soon will be here.

Good tidings we bring

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring



CHRISTMAS CAROL - PULLOUT

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

AVON VALLEY CHURCHES

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	8.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	10.00am	Morning Service
St. Mary's Church, Hale	10.00am	Carols & Readings
Church of the Holy Ascension, Hyde	10.00am	Morning Praise & Baptism
Sandleheath Uniting Church	10.45am	C of E Service
Church of the Holy Ascension, Hyde	3.00pm	Carols on the Common
St. Mary's Church, Breamore	6.00pm	Carol Service
St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sandleheath Uniting Church	6.00pm	Carol Service

avonvalleychurches.org.uk



WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

St. Boniface Church, Woodgreen	3.30pm	Crib Service
St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	3.30pm	Christingle Service
St. Boniface Church, Woodgreen	9.00pm	Looking towards Midnight
St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	11.00pm	Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	8.15am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Church, Breamore	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge	10.00am	Family Communion
St. Mary's Church, Hale	10.00am	Holy Communion + Crib Service
Church of the Holy Ascension, Hyde	10.00am	Family Communion
Sandleheath Uniting Church	10.45am	Methodist Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Church of the Holy Ascension, Hyde	10.00am	Parish-wide Communion
Sandleheath Uniting Church	10.45am	Methodist Covenant Service

THE SALVATION ARMY

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Salvation Army Hall, Roundhill,
Fordingbridge (SP6 1AQ) 6pm Cosy Christmas Carols

salvationarmy.org.uk



NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Burgate School (SP6 1EZ) 10.15am Christmas Carols - with guest speaker Adrian Holloway. Followed by Mulled wine & festive nibbles!

newlifecommunitychurch.co.uk



 together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/fordingbridge/
 facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherInFordingbridgeDistrict/



WHATS ON



LIVE MUSIC - COMEDY - THEATRE - AND MORE!
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LIVE MUSIC

21 FEB RULE THE WORLD
The UK's leading tribute to Take That

28 FEB DIRE STREETS
Celebrating the music of Dire Straits

6 MAR DRAG ME TO THE 80s
Meet our 80s Divas with full live band

7 MAR ONE NIGHT OF BILLY JOEL
The Piano Man

14 MAR VICKY JACKSON IS PINK!
Supported by Born GaGa



ON STAGE

13 FEB JANET STREET PORTER
Is off the leash

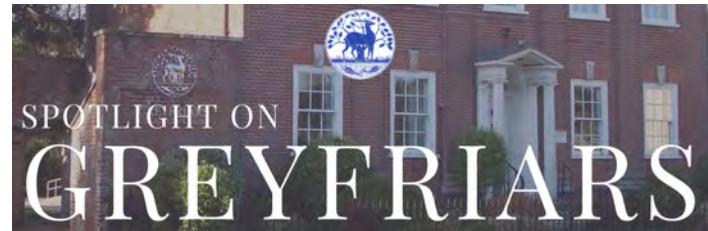
15 FEB EXCITING SCIENCE
Prepare to be amazed!

20 FEB PSYCHIC SALLY
The nation's favourite psychic

27 FEB THE COASTAL COMEDY SHOW
With Felicity Ward!

1 MAR THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED
A rock show! Full on family entertainment

13 MAR ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING
A celebration of the Shipping Forecast



What's on at Greyfriars from 2026!

From 6 January – Longwater Tai Chi

Join Gina for a friendly Qigong or Tai Chi class on Tuesday afternoons at Greyfriars. 1.45-2.30pm – Tai Chi Qigong Shibashi, suitable for all, or 2.45-3.45pm, in depth Tai Chi class to learn a form (sequence of moves). For full details of the classes and to book online <https://www.longwatertaichi.co.uk/event-timeline-Ringwood>, or call Gina on 07792 979039

From 7 January – MKD* GXG

Unleash your inner fighter, join MKD Boxing classes on Wednesdays, 6pm for kids – 45 mins, 7pm for adults – 60 min session. No experience, no problem, just bring your energy. Contact MKDBOXING@gmail.com or call Elvis Makoda on 07505427978 to register.

15 January – Ringwood U3a

Our meeting will feature a talk by Gerald Ponting “Flowers of Reserves & Roadsides”; a colourful presentation to bring some cheer to a cold winter's afternoon. Contact Hazel Taylor on 07864084885.

20 January – Perform drama, dance and singing

Embracing the uniqueness of every child, focusing on happiness and fulfilment, recognising that each child's journey is their own. Our teachers have one aim – to bring out the best in your child. Sessions from 4.15-5.15pm for 4-7 years and 5.20-6.20 for 7-12 years. Please contact Sam on 07949772618 or at samlove@perform.org.uk.

Merry Christmas to you all

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

WHATS ON



A light in the darkness this Christmas
Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 21st December
6pm
Followed by mince
pies & spiced
non-alcoholic
punch
at
Trinity United Church
51 Christchurch Rd
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The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club



Is Proud to Announce



Santa's visit to Ringwood

Saturday the 20th of December

From 0930 to 1330

At The Meeting House Square

Who will be there?

Santa and his Elves, our Cuddly Lion
Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions



The organisations that we are supporting are
Wessex Cancer Support, Life Lites and other Lions Charities.

The Lions Book Stall will be giving away FREE Books!

(small donations welcome)

Chit-Chat Club at the MEETING HOUSE



WEDNESDAY afternoons
from 1.00 till 2.30pm
(all are welcome)



Ringwood Meeting House
22 Meeting House Lane Ringwood BH24 1EY
Tel : 01425 480656
Email: info@ringwoodmeetinghouse.org
(Opposite bus stop by main car park)



Chamber Maids
Musical Director: Ivy Tan
Pianist: Jo Kent

Maid for Christmas

‘25

Ringwood Parish Church
Sunday, 21st December
7.30pm
Tickets £15
online from [Trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) or on the door

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Saturday 19th September

Take part in our Processions

2pm, 7:15pm or both?

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HISTORY & NEWS

Shining a Light on History



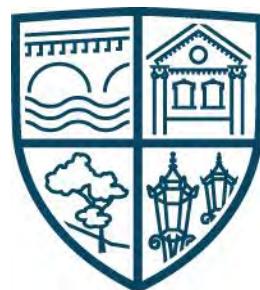
There has been a church on the present site in the Market Place since at least the times of the Domesday Book in 1086, but did you know the building which sits at the heart of our town actually only dates back to the Victorian era?

Despite repairs in 1791 and 1810, by 1845 the, presumed Saxon building, was in a "disgraceful state" and a report on its condition was commissioned given walls which were no longer straight and significant strapping having to be relied on for structural integrity of the structure. It was resolved to reconstruct the church to designs by Frederick J Francis and his younger brother Horace. Frederick is no stranger to the built landscape of Ringwood having also designed Clark's Almshouses in The Quomp in 1843, and

what is now Ringwood Infant School in 1848. Horace would go on to build prestigious buildings in London, Oxford and Cambridge, among others. The Francis' work on the church of St Peter and St Paul in Ringwood was completed in 1855 with the building being consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester on May 26th that year. Sadly the proposed spire was omitted from the finished building, but the result is one of only four Grade II* listed buildings in the parish.

In 2026 the clock on the tower, which is older than the building is 250 years old, and the church are raising money towards the restoration of the rare pagoda turret clock. Donations would be welcomed and those interested should make contact with the church wardens. We hope to be able to see the clock working again for its anniversary.

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 per person, and students receive free membership. Further details can be found on their website www.ringwoodociety.org.uk



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Ringwood
Society**

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HISTORY & NEWS

England's first pandemic

The Black Death, a plague and destroyer of communities throughout Europe also caused devastation in England. It is estimated that 50% of Europe's C14th population perished: we were fortunate in that it didn't land in the south of England until nearly the end of its first killing cycle.

Dr Cindy Wood returns by popular demand to share with us the short and long term economic and social impact of the dreaded Black Death, which destroyed 30% - 45% of the English population. Cindy, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Winchester, will join Fordingbridge History Society (FHS) on Monday 12 January from 2.30pm in Avonway Community Centre, Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1JF.

Cindy's 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) or contact secretary@fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk



Fordingbridge Twinning

A small group from Fordingbridge Twinning visited its twin town, Vimoutiers, in Normandy during the first weekend of December. The theme for the weekend was the Foire de la Pomme (Apple Festival). In the evening there were more than 300 guests, from the UK, Belgium, Germany, and of course from France itself. (see attached photo)

Members of Fordingbridge Twinning were also invited to the town of Chatelet, Belgium, at the same time, next year, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their Normandy Market which takes place every year in December. The FTA will be there this time next year.

After Christmas, Fordingbridge Twinning will commence preparation of its annual Murder-Mystery evening in February. Next year, the date will be 28th February, so do put that date in next year's diaries. It will feature the so-called "Red-Rose Murders", taking place in 1950s Hollywood. Tickets will go on sale in January, so watch out!

For further details do contact Derek Ayling on 01425 650770, or by email, on Hippotrain@BTinternet.com



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NEWS

Salvation Army's free wardrobe clothes Fordingbridge for a Year!

For struggling families in Fordingbridge, a simple necessity like clothing can become a source of stress. But over the past year, the Fordingbridge Wardrobe—a free clothing initiative run by The Salvation Army—has eased that burden for hundreds of residents. From parents stretching tight budgets to keep up with children quickly growing out of their clothes to individuals embracing sustainable fashion, the project has become a vital community resource.

Now marking its first anniversary, the initiative has not only provided practical support but also fostered dignity and connection.

Mike French, the leader of The Salvation Army in Fordingbridge said; "We hear from families who say this has been a lifeline. One mother told us she could finally breathe easier knowing she could find good-quality clothes here without shame or worry, freeing up money for school uniforms."

The Fordingbridge Wardrobe began after discussions with Downton Baptist Church, which runs a similar project. Seeing an opportunity to prevent usable clothing from going to waste while meeting local needs, the Salvation Army stepped in.

"A clothing bank would have been the easier option, but we wanted to do more. This was about creating a space where people could take what they needed freely—no questions asked—while also reducing waste."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with many people returning regularly to browse the well-stocked tables. Once a

month – three months on with a month break- The Salvation Army Hall on Roundhill Road is converted into a walk-in closet with quality clothes to choose from.

Recognising that some people in need may hesitate to visit, the team has worked hard to create a warm, judgment-free environment.

"We want everyone to feel comfortable coming in. Whether someone is struggling or just wants to make eco-friendly choices, they're welcome here."



As the wardrobe enters its second year, the Salvation Army hopes to reach even more residents. Donations of clean, good-condition clothing are always needed to keep the wardrobe full and fresh.

For 140 years, the Salvation Army has served Fordingbridge through practical support and compassionate outreach, helping those in need while building a stronger community. Its partnership with Belindas Bakery continues to offer free fresh bread and its pastoral support to students in the local school helps to tackle mental health issues and boost young people's well-being. Additionally, it offers pastoral care and emergency financial assistance to individuals in crisis, as well as youth programs and seasonal initiatives like Christmas toy appeals, ensuring vulnerable families can celebrate the holidays. To learn more about The Salvation Army in Fordingbridge, visit their website: Fordingbridge | The Salvation Army.

The Barnyard SOFT PLAY CAFE RINGWOOD
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The Barnyard on
Monday 22nd December
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Christmas 12.30 to 2.30
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information and
to book
tickets
barnyardsoftplay.com

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Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia, nursing, assisted living and care at home across the south of England. Registered Charity No. 1014697. *Correct at time of print.



NEWS

Free Thermal Imaging - Cut Energy Bills and Stay Warm This Winter

Ringwood – January and February 2026

This winter, **Greening Ringwood** is offering local residents a valuable opportunity to boost home comfort and reduce energy bills—at no cost.

As part of a community initiative focused on sustainability and energy efficiency, trained volunteers will use thermal imaging cameras to detect where heat may be escaping from homes. These quick, non-invasive scans—conducted from outside—reveal cold spots, draughts, and insulation gaps that often go unnoticed.

"Many homeowners don't realise how much warmth is lost through walls, windows, and roofs," said Sandi Bryant, coordinator for Greening Ringwood's Energy Efficient Homes Project.

"Thermal imaging provides a clear snapshot of problem areas and helps people take simple steps to fix them."

After the thermal image, residents will receive a thermal image and guidance pack exposing any issues their home may have. The pack also contains information on where to get further free (no obligation) advice on any changes to the home.

Why Take Part?

- * Save Money: Identifying, and fixing heat loss can significantly lower your energy bills.
- * Stay Warm: Improve your home's comfort with simple changes.

* Better health: Living in a house at the right temperature increases health and reduces damp.

* Support Sustainability: Reducing heat loss means lower carbon emissions—good for your wallet and the planet.

* It's Free!: No strings attached. It's part of a community initiative to help everyone live more comfortably.



All volunteers are trained in camera use and health and safety. Data is handled with care, in line with Data Protection standards, and will be deleted at the end of the project on a date agreed with each participant.

Thermal imaging will be available from January to February 2026. Spaces are limited, so early registration is encouraged. To sign up or learn more, visit our website, <https://greening-ringwood.org.uk/> FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/greeningringwood> email bookings@greening-ringwood.org.uk or call 07770 173896



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Arrival of new Minister

Revd Sue Baker-Maher is the new minister at Trinity United and Crowe Hill Methodist church. She's previously worked in East Anglia and London, and before becoming a minister she spent many years in the charity world, focusing on strategic planning. These days, though, she says with a smile that in such a fast-changing and challenging world "all bets are off" when it comes to predicting anything!



One of the things that drew her to the New Forest was Crowe Hill's enthusiasm for trying out new reflective and retreat-style gatherings. She'll be leading Blue Christmas there this year for anyone who finds the noise and pressure of the season a bit much (18 December at 2pm and again at 7.30pm).

Over in Ringwood, Trinity United's strong community spirit was another big attraction. She's delighted that Trinity's Community Carol Service is back on 21 December at 6pm. Settling in quickly, Revd. Sue says she's been really inspired by the churches in our area and the commitment to working together.

Outside of church life, she enjoys badminton and dancing (she's still looking for local groups, so do let her know if you have suggestions!), and she's already joined the Fordingbridge Park Run. She and her husband, Danny, also love walking parts of the Camino de Santiago and visiting family around the UK and Ireland. They have two grown-up children.

Revd. Sue would love to hear what people around here think about faith, life, church and community – so do say hello if you see her out and about.

You can reach Sue at sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk,
Mobile: 07785 757582 | Landline: 01425 473407

Ringwood & Fordingbridge News and Forest FM working together in 2026 to support local businesses

Like most of our clients at The Ringwood & Fordingbridge News and Forest FM we too are small businesses that run for little if any profit.

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- * 3 x 1/8 page with 200 words of your choice
- * 9 x 30 second adverts on Forest FM every day
- * Sign up by 31st January and we will design your advert and have a professional voice over for your radio ad.

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NEWS

St Ives House welcomes Ringwood carers for afternoon tea and Christmas carols

Local carers were invited to a festive afternoon filled with tea, conversation and Christmas carols at a Ringwood care home.

St Ives House care home, on Horton Road, welcomed around 20 members of the Ringwood Carers Group for afternoon tea in the home's in-house bistro, which was prepared by the home's chefs.

Members of the Ringwood Carers Group care for their spouse, parent, or loved one on an unpaid basis and benefit from attending monthly meetings to talk to other like-minded people.

The group also enjoyed listening and singing along to carols played on the home's piano by local musician Alan Poulton. It is the second time that the home has hosted the annual event as one of many initiatives it runs to support the local community.

Marion, a member of Ringwood Carers Group whose husband, David, now receives respite care at St Ives House, said: "David stays at the home every five to six weeks. All the staff are so kind and caring. It's nice to have somewhere we can trust for David to receive respite care which they tailor to his needs. It was really good of the team to host the afternoon tea. They put on a lovely spread."

Pat, who is also a member of Ringwood Carers Group, said: "It was a lovely treat provided by the home. It was nice to see the other members of the group to catch-up and my husband John enjoyed it too."

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, said: "It was a privilege to welcome the Ringwood Carers Group in for a relaxing afternoon of tea, cakes and mince pies with live music. It was a pleasure to see everyone enjoying the music and each other's company. At Care South, our ethos is all about Food, Fun and Friendship and this special event exemplifies how we bring that

to life to support our local community, as well as for our residents and their relatives."

Members of Ringwood Carers Group meet on the second Thursday of each month from 10.30am to 12pm at Trinity Centre in Trinity Church on Christchurch Road.

St Ives House provides residential, respite and dementia care with residents enjoying a daily programme of events led by an in-house activities team to bring them together to socialise and build friendships.

The home hosts Welcome Wednesdays sessions every week from 2pm to 4pm for local residents to attend and experience the warm, friendly atmosphere of the home. There is no need to book in advance. Just turn up on the day for hot drinks, cakes and friendly conversation.

Care South is a leading provider of high-quality residential and home care services across the south of England, with care homes in Dorset, north Devon and Somerset, and care at home offices covering Dorset and Somerset.

For more information about the care services available at St Ives House, visit care-south.co.uk or call the home on 01425 209464.



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NEWS

Fiona Bruce and BBC Question Time to broadcast live from The Barn, Ringwood on 19th February 2026

The Barn, Ringwood is proud to announce that BBC Question Time, the UK's flagship political debate programme, will be broadcasting live from our venue on Thursday 19 February 2026. Hosted by the renowned Fiona Bruce, Question Time brings leading politicians, influential thinkers, and public figures face-to-face with the people who matter most: the audience.

Each week, Question Time delivers lively, unscripted debate shaped entirely by real questions from local communities. From the biggest political stories of the moment to the issues affecting everyday lives, the programme gives the public a rare chance to challenge decision-makers directly and to influence the national conversation. Next February, it's Ringwood's turn.

"This is an exciting opportunity for local residents to take part in one of the country's most important democratic forums," said Sam Coombes, Venue Manager at The Barn. "The energy of Question Time is unlike anything else on television and to experience it live,



right here in Ringwood, will be something truly special."

Whether you're passionate about politics, curious about current affairs, or simply eager to hear how national issues affect your community, this is an opportunity not to miss. Audience members will play a central role in shaping the debate, engaging directly with a high-profile panel and contributing to a conversation watched by millions across the UK.

Audience applications are now open. To be part of this special broadcast, apply via: <https://eu.castitreach.com/ag/mentorn/questiontime/welcome.html>



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The Green Gram Community Refill Shop - Autumn Baking Activity

The Green Gram is Fordingbridge's very successful community owned and run refill shop.

During October half term children were able to take part in a free baking activity run by the Outreach Team at The Green Gram. With generous sponsorship from Fordingbridge Town Council, thirty families signed up to receive ingredients and instructions to make delicious spider cookies and autumn themed activities.

The packs of ingredients were prepared by shop volunteers for the children to collect and once the cookies were made the children had the opportunity to enter a competition by sending us their best spider cookies. There were so many wonderful cookies that it was really difficult to choose and as the standard was so high, we decided to award two £10 prizes with the winners being Maverick and Blake Smith and Jonah Frostick. Congratulations to everyone who took part, it was wonderful to see the children in the process of making and the finished spiders.

Thank you also to the team at The Branch (New Life Community Church) who promoted the activity; enabling families to take part in the half-term breakfast club and then come and collect their



ingredients. We will plan to do another activity in the future, but in the meantime do check out The Green Gram's impressive range of baking and other ingredients on our website.

<https://www.thegreengram.org/>.

As part of the outreach work we host uniform and youth group visits at the shop, attend events and also give talks to local groups. If you'd like to find out more about our outreach work, email outreach@thegreengram.org.



Chamber Maids Christmas Concert

The Ringwood based ladies chamber choir 'Chamber Maids' will be raising their voices again this Christmas.

In the very capable hands of our brilliant Musical Director Ivy Tan, together with our wonderfully talented accompanist Jo Kent we will be presenting a selection from our extensive and diverse repertoire of Christmas songs and carols old and new. By encompassing a variety of music genres from sacred classical (part of Handel's Messiah) to secular pop (a Stevie Wonder song) we hope to provide a concert that has something to suit everyone's taste.

The concert will be held on Sunday December 21st at 7.30pm in Ringwood Parish Church.

We very much hope you will join us to set your Christmas festivities going. There's even a chance for you to raise your voices in a couple of well known carols.

So come and celebrate Christmas with us. Tickets can be purchased online at trybooking.com or on the door.

The Chamber Maids rehearse once a week at the Wesley centre and perform varied seasonal programmes in three concerts each year.

Find us on facebook – 'Chamber Maids Choir' for more details and future performances.

Our friendly ensemble occasionally has vacancies for sopranos and altos. An ability to read music and some experience of choral singing would be an advantage. If you think you might like to join please contact

Ivy Tan on 07949 127016 or email ivylianguy@gmail.com

Mrs Charter Retirement

Mrs Fiona Charter who has spent her whole career at Poulner Junior School for 35 years is retiring at Christmas. We would like to give her the send off she deserves to recognise how much she is loved and valued.



We are creating a book of memories, funny stories and messages from as many people as possible that she has had contact with over the years whether a pupil, parent, carer, grandparent or colleague and would appreciate your help.

Please email your messages or any photos you have to adminoffice@poulner-jun.hants.sch.uk



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BEREAVEMENTS

Hiett

Lionel

Lionel passed away at the Macmillan Unit, Christchurch Hospital, on 18th November, aged 81 years. Now reunited with his parents Myrtle and Bill, he was a loving father to Jon, Phil and Rich, and will be dearly missed by all his family and many friends. The funeral service has already taken place, but donations, if desired, in memory of Lionel may be made to the 'Macmillan Caring Locally' and made online at <https://lionelhiett.muchloved.com> or sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

PERRETT (Court)

Rosemary

Rosemary's love and kindness will be missed by all her family and friends. Rosemary was a mum to Dawn, Jacquie & Nik and a granny and a great granny to her cherished family. Rosemary had lived in the same house in Ringwood for 87 years. Her garden was her solace and her family her life. Now she will be reunited with her beloved John. Rosemary passed away at Salisbury Hospital on 17th November aged 91 years. Rosemary's wish is to be remembered with smiles and not tears.

Any donation, if desired would be appreciated by the "Stars Appeal" this is Salisbury Hospital's Charity that helps patients and the dedicated staff that care for them.

Hales

Frank

Frank passed away peacefully at home on 25th November, aged 69 years. Much loved husband to Jane, father to Amy and now reunited with their son Lucas, he was dearly loved by all his family and his many friends, and he will be very sadly missed by all who knew him. The funeral service will take place on Friday 19th December at 11.00am at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Market Place, Ringwood. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, in memory of Frank may be made to the 'The Fire Fighters Charity' and made online at <https://frankhales.muchloved.com> or sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

Cuss

Tony

Passed away on 30th November 2025, aged 85 years. Funeral service to be held on Monday 22nd December at 3pm at Harbour View Crematorium, Randalls Hill, Lytchett Minster, Poole BH16 6AN.

Please feel free to dress how you feel comfortable. Family flowers only thank you but donations, if desired, to the RNLI can be made at www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk/harbour-view/funeral-search or sent to Barrow & Tapper Funeral Service, 29a Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1HB.

Puzzle Corner

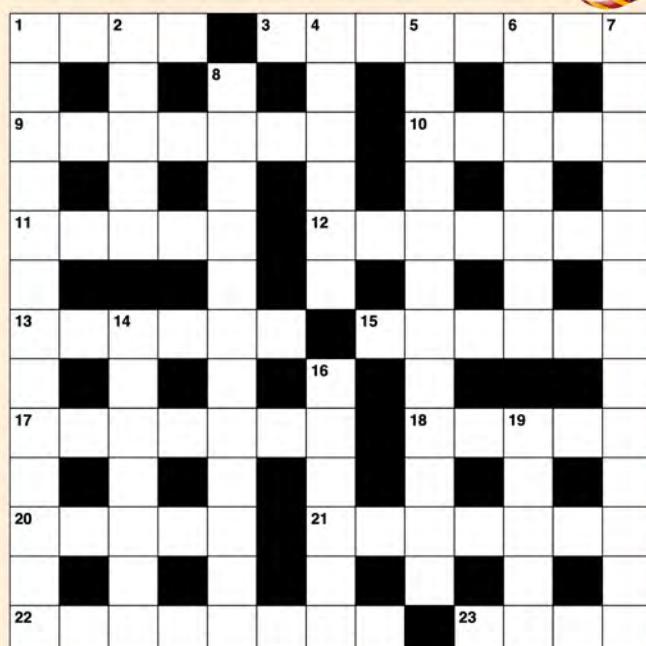
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Crossword



Across

- 1 - Set of playing cards (4)
- 3 - Musical pieces for solo instruments (8)
- 9 - Accelerate (5,2)
- 10 - Observed (5)
- 11 - Male bee (5)
- 12 - Moves up and down repeatedly (7)
- 13 - Items of value (6)
- 15 - Graphical representation of a person (6)
- 17 - One who holds property for another (7)
- 18 - Part of the hand (5)
- 20 - Type of lizard (5)
- 21 - Agitate (7)
- 22 - Catastrophe (8)
- 23 - Sheet of floating ice (4)

Down

- 1 - Deprived (13)
- 2 - Doctrine; system of beliefs (5)
- 4 - Argue against (6)
- 5 - Room attached to a house (12)
- 6 - Take back (7)
- 7 - Incapable of being expressed in words (13)
- 8 - Coming from outside (12)
- 14 - Origins (7)
- 16 - Humans in general (6)
- 19 - Customary (5)



Answers for last the last issue:



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

Sudoku

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

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At the same time, this year has been a real success for us. We've built strong relationships, delivered results we're proud of, and gained the trust of people who believed in what we set out to do. That support has made all the difference and has given us a strong foundation to grow from.



Now we're looking ahead with real excitement. If this year was our foundation, 2026 is where we plan to build even bigger. If you have commercial units you're looking to rent out or sell, we'd love to work with you.

**Please contact Jason Lewis at
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