

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



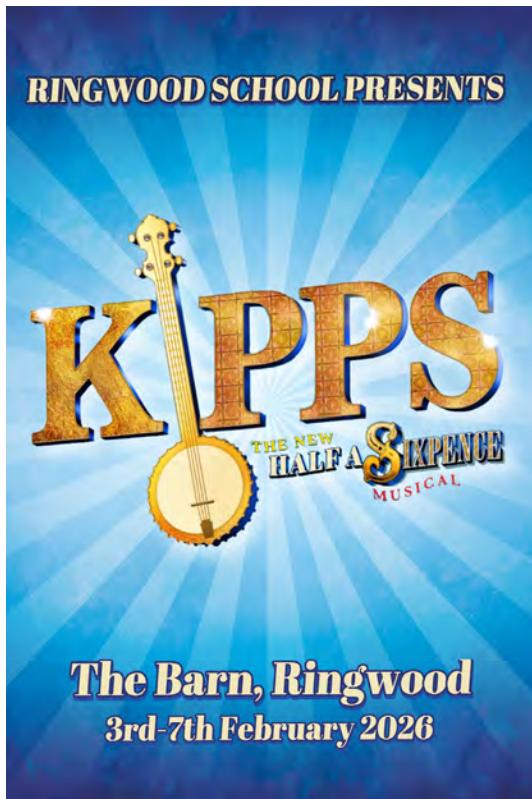
Issue 911 • January 21st to February 17th • 2025

Established 1990

RINGWOOD SCHOOL PRESENTS

KIPPS

THE NEW HALF A SIXPENCE MUSICAL



The Barn, Ringwood
3rd-7th February 2026

We would love to see you at this year's production of Kipps, the new Half a Sixpence musical!

Kipps tells the engaging story of Arthur Kipps, a humble shop assistant whose life changes dramatically when he unexpectedly inherits a fortune. Thrust into the world of high society, Kipps must navigate the challenges of wealth, identity, and love as he decides what truly matters to him.

With dynamic choreography, sharp wit, and memorable songs including 'Flash, Bang, Wallop!' and 'Half a Sixpence', Kipps offers a lively and heartfelt exploration of ambition, class, and staying true to oneself.

Showtimes & Tickets

Tue 3rd, Thu 5th & Fri 6th February — 7:00pm
Wed 4th February — 5:30pm
Sat 7th February — 2:00pm and 7:30pm



Tickets available at www.thebarnringwood.co.uk



Ringwood School is proud to present another spectacular production, continuing its long-standing reputation for outstanding theatre. With many former students now thriving in television, film and theatre — both on stage and behind the scenes — the school's productions are not to be missed. This year, audiences are invited to enjoy Kipps, the new Half a Sixpence musical, at The Barn, Ringwood, from Tuesday 3rd February to Saturday 7th February. Bursting with energy, the show is a perfect family treat, featuring show-stopping ensemble numbers, uplifting group performances and plenty of cheeky, heart-warming duets. Tickets are available at www.thebarnringwood.co.uk

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A Fresh Financial Start

With Christmas and the New Year now behind us, January is a natural time to pause, take stock, and start the year feeling more organised - especially when it comes to your finances.

With the 31 January Self Assessment deadline fast approaching, many people are in the final stages of preparing their tax returns. If you're still pulling information together, there is still time, but leaving things to the last minute can add unnecessary stress and increase the risk of mistakes.

The most organised clients we work with tend to do one thing well: they don't wait for deadlines to force action. Instead, they keep their records up to date, ask questions early, and use the quieter months to plan ahead rather than react under pressure.

Getting things in order now can mean fewer surprises when tax bills fall due, clearer decision-making throughout the year, and greater peace of mind.

At Donaldson Ross & Co, we believe good accountancy is about more than

meeting deadlines. It's about communication, clarity, and helping people feel confident about where they stand.

If one of your goals for the year ahead is to feel more in control of your finances, now is a great time to start.

If you'd like to meet with one of our team to get the ball rolling, just get in touch using our contact details below.

Want to read more?

We've got plenty of blogs available to read on our website:



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Wrap up and get outside.....

With the weather the way it is its very easy to shut yourself away and wait for Spring but we must keep moving.

We are very lucky to live where we do with so many things to do and places to explore.

Living on the edge of the New Forest there is plenty of outdoor escapes including miles of woodland, heathland and trails for cycling and walking.

- Moors Valley Country Park which is great for family walks and nature exploration.
- Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve offers peaceful lakeside paths perfect for bird-watching.
- Avon Heath Country Park with open landscapes with trails and picnic spots. These are just a few places which are perfect for starting the year actively, reconnecting with nature or planning scenic day trips.

For more ideas visit www.thenewforest.co.uk where you will find lots of interesting things to do.

As far as the paper goes we have decided to promote a local independant business for free every month, everyone is struggling at the moment so if we can help promote the small businesses locally we feel



we are doing our bit. If you look through the paper we have teamed up with Forest FM radio station to offer bussinesses an amazing deal to promote their businesses at a fantastic discounted rate.

Dont forget we also love to publish any community events and club news so please send us any good stories and we will do our best to publish them.

Wishing you a wonderful 2026.

Darren & Naomi

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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Editorial copy deadline
Wednesday 11th February

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NEWS

A Nice New Year Story...

Here is a nice new year story from a local resident!

I lost my wallet at Fordingbridge last Thursday and the first I knew was when I got a call from Fordingbridge police. Three school-boys had found it and handed it in. The contents were pretty much my whole life: passport...driver license...bank card... nhs card etc etc and £50! The police had not got the names but thought the school was Burgate. I rang the school and they tracked down the boys.

I went there and thanked them personally with a reward of £20 each. They were very polite and unassuming lads and one said 'We just thought it was the right thing to do'.

This is a great example of young people 'doing the right thing'. We hear far to often the negative stories about young people and I think (especially with so much negative news in the world) this is a nice story.



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SPOT THE LEGO SANTA WINNER



Thank you to all that entered, it was the best entry we have ever had. There were many correct answers but only one winner.

Picked at random the winner was Verena Fermor-Dunman who wins a £50 voucher for Cafe Bridges in Fordingbridge.

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Ringwood Marks 800 Years as a Market Town

This year marks 800 years since Ringwood was granted the right to hold a weekly market, a tradition that has shaped the town for eight centuries.

To celebrate this milestone, a community celebration event will take place on Sunday 12 July in Ringwood Market Place, offering residents and visitors the chance to reflect on the town's rich history as a market town and its continuing role at the heart of the community.

Ringwood's market dates back to March 1226, when a Royal Charter granted during the reign of King Henry III gave the town permission to hold a weekly Wednesday market, along with two annual fairs. Remarkably, the weekly market has continued ever since.

Located on the River Avon and forming the western gateway to the New Forest, Ringwood has long been connected to agriculture and trade. The market has been central to that identity, adapting over time while remaining a constant presence in the life of the town.

The Town Clerk said:

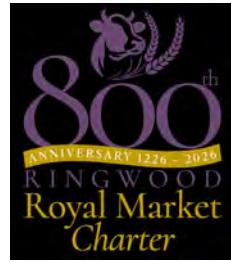
"For hundreds of years, the market has been at the heart of Ringwood's community and economy. This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate that heritage, reflect on how the market has evolved, and look ahead to how it can continue to serve the town in the future."

In 1734, the Market House was built in the Market Place, with goods sold beneath its open arches and the room above used for manorial court meetings. Although the building was removed in 1867, parts of its original stonework were reused and can still be seen today on the corner of High Street and Lynes Lane.



While the traditional annual fairs came to an end shortly before the Second World War, the weekly market has endured. Many residents will also remember the livestock market, which remained a feature of the town until its closure in 1989.

Local clubs, organisations and community groups are encouraged to



mark the anniversary in their own way. Ringwood Town Council would be pleased to help promote related activities through its social media channels, and a commemorative logo is available to support anniversary events.

For more information, or to share plans for the celebration, please contact Ringwood Town Council.



Exceptional Value for Scrap Gold as Prices Hit New Highs

Prices of gold are currently reaching their highest in history which makes now the best time to cash in your old, unwanted gold.

Tracey Yeatman, Director of Allum & Sidaway Jewellers comments, "We are finding that people have no idea of the value that sits unworn in their jewellery box at home. Each time a client obtains a quote for their old gold with us they are completely surprised by the price we can offer. You could have £100s or £1000s just sitting there!"

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worth. We offer the option of BACS (mostly same day) or you can get even better prices if you choose to use the value against the purchase of something new from store.

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We cannot guarantee how long these amazing prices will be around so I would urge you to pop to your local Allum & Sidaway, sit down with one of our expert team and find out just what your gold is worth today."



Tracey Yeatman, Director of Allum & Sidaway Jewellers encourages you to find out just how much your old gold is worth

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NEWS

“Amphibians are friends” – a unique outdoor photo gallery

Rangers at Moors Valley Country Park and Forest have teamed up with Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol to stage a unique, free, large scale outdoor photo gallery.

It will be on display for six months from 12 January 2026 until July at a purpose-designed setting close to the popular Play Trail at Moors Valley. An official launch event which will be open to all will take place at 11am on Valentine's Day, 14th February.

Called “Amphibians are friends - a tale of toad patrol” - the gallery is the brainchild of Louis Pulford, a keen local wildlife photographer, creative professional and regular volunteer with the patrol.

“There’s a common misconception that toads are ugly, but in fact they’re really beautiful,” said Louis. “I like to take a few seconds to get close up pictures of them when I’m out on patrol, and it’s a privilege to be able to share them with other people who love and want to protect wildlife.”

Set in a wooded glade right in the heart of Moors Valley, the outdoor display features twelve super size posters to showcase bold, dramatic photos of common toads and other amphibians, and the vital part they play in our ecosystem.

Volunteers at Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol help to save the lives of migrating toads as they cross a busy rural road just north of Ringwood during their breeding season.



“We’re so happy to have this opportunity to tell people a bit more about the importance of toads,” said Nicola Yorke who runs the patrol. “Very sadly amphibians are in decline across the UK due to habitat loss and changing weather patterns, and our local toad population is no exception. Luckily we have a wonderful team of dedicated, passionate volunteers who turn out in all weathers to help them. Every life we’re able to save is precious.”

Moors Valley Country Park and Forest is an award-winning visitor attraction which is a joint venture between Dorset Council and Forestry England.

Natalie Crabb, Moors Valley Recreation Manager, said “We’re really excited to hold our first locally run outdoor exhibition at Moors Valley. The work that the Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol team do is so worthwhile and these striking photos are a brilliant way of sharing this with our Moors Valley audience. We can’t wait for our visitors to come and enjoy the exhibition and learn something new from this unique experience.”

For more information email rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com

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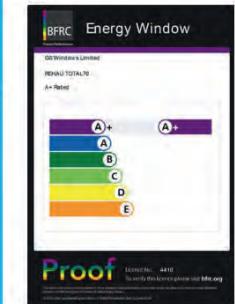
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NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Business Name: Animal Avenue Pet Supplies

When did you open?

We first opened its doors in February 2024 at the Moody Cow Farm Shop, located at the former Ringwood Town & Country Experience site. This was where our journey began and where we started building our customer base and gaining hands-on experience as new business owners. After an amazing year of learning and growth, we took the next big step and opened our own shop in town on Southampton Road in February 2025, as this was always the dream, which we never thought would be possible so quickly into our journey. This has allowed us to be more accessible to the local community and continue growing our brand.



Why did you open?

We are a young couple who took the plunge to open our own business at just 22 years old. Animals have always been a huge part of our lives, and we wanted to create a safe, welcoming, and comforting space for both pets and their owners. Our main passion lies in dog nutrition, and we love being able to educate and support owners who may feel overwhelmed. With so much conflicting information online and across social media, navigating the right diet for your dog can feel like a minefield. We wanted to create a place where people can come for honest advice, reassurance, and guidance tailored to their individual dog. Animal Avenue allows our passion to shine through while helping people make confident, informed choices about their pet's health.

What do you offer?

We offer a wide range of raw and natural pet foods, carefully selected to support optimal health and wellbeing. We also have our own brand of high-meat, grain-free, hypoallergenic kibble, as well as cold-pressed dog food. Alongside nutrition, we stock an exciting and thoughtfully handpicked selection of walking accessories, dog toys, and enrichment products. Everything we sell is something we truly believe in and would use with our own pets, which gives customers peace of mind knowing each product has been carefully chosen.

Why should people shop with you?

We pride ourselves on offering high-quality items at reasonable prices, alongside friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable customer service. As an independent business run solely by the two of us, every purchase directly supports us and helps turn our dream into a reality. You're also supporting a young couple taking their first steps into building a life in the real world through something we truly love. For us, this isn't just a shop, it's something deeply personal. As a child, I (Rose) used to play "pet shop," dreaming of one day owning my own, and now that dream has come true. When customers shop with us, they're supporting a small local business built on passion, care, and dedication. We are also a completely no-judgment space, and we welcome all dogs into our shop, no matter how nervous, reactive, shy, or excitable they may be. We understand that every dog is different and deserves patience, understanding, and kindness. Our goal is to create a calm, safe, and supportive environment where both dogs and their owners feel comfortable, accepted, and listened to. We also have our very own dog "photo chair" in store, a fun little feature where your dog gets their moment to shine! We take a photography-grade portrait completely free of charge, giving you a gorgeous keepsake to take home. If you'd like, your dog may even become a mini star and be featured on our social

media pages. It's a joyful, personal touch that lets us celebrate every dog who walks through the doors of Animal Avenue, because every good dog deserves their spotlight. We are also proud to support our local dog rescue, Poppy's Pals Rescue. We regularly help raise money for the rescue, accept



43 Southampton Road, Ringwood

donations in store, and personally deliver them to ensure they reach the dogs who need them most. In addition, we invite one of the rescue dogs currently in kennels to spend a day with us at the shop, where they are thoroughly spoiled and given the chance to enjoy some time out. These days help the dogs experience everyday life, gain confidence, and enjoy valuable face-to-face interaction with customers, all while helping them on their journey to finding their forever homes.

How's business?

Like most small businesses, things go up and down. We're still in the process of establishing ourselves and building our brand within the community. That said, we're gradually growing, and it's incredibly rewarding to see both new customers and familiar faces returning through our doors. Each week brings more confidence that we're heading in the right direction. Alongside the shop, we've been growing our social media presence, using it not only to advertise what we offer but also to have a bit of fun and show our personalities. This has been really well received by customers, often giving them a laugh and helping people feel more connected to us and the business. We've also recently launched our online store, which has been an exciting step forward and allows us to reach and support customers beyond the local area while continuing to grow Animal Avenue.

Any message to local residents?

We would love to thank the local community for their continued support and warm welcome. Whether you're a long-time customer or someone who hasn't visited us yet, we'd love to meet you and your pets. Please don't hesitate to pop in for advice, a chat, or to explore what we have to offer, even if you're just starting your pet nutrition journey. Please consider supporting your local independent businesses before turning to large corporations and chains. When you shop locally, your purchase truly matters, it

supports real people, real dreams, and helps keep the community thriving. Every sale makes a genuine difference and allows small businesses like ours to continue doing what we love.

Special offer:

To say thank you, we are offering 10% off any in-store purchase when you present this article at the till.

Spring Wellness Retreat

Yoga With Bella

8th March 9:45am-5pm

- Massage Workshop
- Honey Tasting
- Gentle Yoga
- Two-Course Lunch

Early Bird! price from £185
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yogawithbella.co/retreats-workshop/



NEWS

The Rotary Club of Ringwood organised another great CHRISTMAS EVE 2025 IN RINGWOOD With Carols and Father Christmas

The Rotary Club of Ringwood once again organised the Christmas Eve Carol Service in our Market Place, complete with Santa's Grotto and accompanying Bands. Instead of the children who attend receiving gifts from Father Christmas, they give him a gift which is then passed on to local Childrens Homes and Special Schools, a community feature which as far as is known is unique in this Country.

The Ringwood Rotary Club took over and has been organising it since 1999. It has evolved into an event which many of our local residents and visitors look forward to enjoying and participating in the singing and the service.

The event is still supported by a number of companies, particularly Abacus who lend the lorry for the grotto, Ringwood Town Council for financial support and equipment and other groups and individuals including Poulners Baptist Church and Light Contrast who help on the night and Ringwood and Fordingbridge News for the carols published in the local paper.

The main feature to the event is always the Reindeer and Sleigh which forms the centre piece of the service.

The event is also supported by representatives of the Town Council and by local churches and community groups who provide us with essential parts of our celebrations. In particular music is provided by the combined Salvation Army and The Ringwood and

Burley Band, who both have a long-term commitment to the event. Every year about 2 -3000 people attend.

Rotary Ringwood Rotary CIO

Many of the parents who bring their children to the Market Place on Christmas Eve were themselves brought by their own parents or grandparents.

The special part to the event is the presents that are given by the children attending, and we collected several hundred this time. The thanks these children receive from Father Christmas makes a very special moment for children. This is not promoted as a religious event even if the local Churches are involved. The Town Mayor and of course Father Christmas gave Christmas messages. The final blessing was more a thank you and an invitation to see everybody next year.



Photo courtesy of Derek Maidment



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RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



Issue 006

January 2026

Wishing all residents and local businesses a Happy New Year. We hope you've had a wonderful start to 2026 – a very special year for our town as we celebrate 800 years since the granting of the Royal Market Charter, a landmark moment in our rich and proud heritage. Our Events Team is busy planning a commemorative programme to mark this anniversary, with a special celebration taking place on Sunday 12th July.

We're also delighted to welcome two new members to our team: Tony Robinson, our new Grounds Manager, and Michelle Gordon, who joins us as Finance Manager.

Throughout the year, we'll be sharing more information about the work of the Town Council and how it benefits our community – keep an eye out for updates.



Ringwood Cemetery Extension

Land next to Ringwood Cemetery at Hightown Road has long been set aside for future cemetery use and was, until recently, used temporarily as allotments. In 2020, allotment holders were advised that burial space was finite and that plans would be needed to meet future demand, with existing tenants given priority for new plots at the Crow Arch Lane site. A Cemetery Working Group is now developing plans for a modern cemetery facility, including memorial gardens and scattering lawns. Site preparation is underway, with public consultation to follow. Further details on this project can be found on the Council's website.

New Trees – Planting for the Future

Our Grounds Team has been busy planting new trees across the town, helping to create greener, healthier spaces for everyone. From disease-resistant elms at Ash Grove Play Area to new trees forming a future avenue at Carvers Recreation Ground, and young oak trees now growing on The Bickerley, each planting supports biodiversity and enhances our local landscape. With valued support from Hampshire Forest Partnership and Ringwood Actions for Climate Emergency (RACE against time), these trees will benefit wildlife and be enjoyed by the community for generations to come.

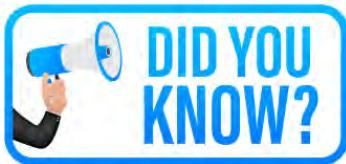


Ringwood Winter Wonderland

Ringwood's annual Christmas Winter Wonderland was a great success. The weather was very kind, allowing visitors to wander around the town throughout the day – enjoying the atmosphere, shopping, and taking part in fun activities for all. It was wonderful to see the High Street full of delighted shoppers among the market stalls; Market Place had jam packed entertainment during the day, alongside a wide variety of food and drink vendors. The Gateway saw many families soaking up the magic of Christmas in and around the Grotto. If you're keen to add this ever-growing event to your calendar, Winter Wonderland returns on Sunday 29th November 2026.

New Bus Shelter and Speed Safety Devices Coming Soon

We are pleased to share that our bids to NFDC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund have been successful. Funding has been awarded for a larger bus shelter in Gorley Road, improving comfort and accessibility for passengers, and for Speed Indicator Devices, a joint project with Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council, to enhance road safety in our communities. Look out for updates as the projects progress.



Carvers Clubhouse is available to hire. There are three different room options, perfect for all occasions and uses. We welcome parties, one-to-one meetings, local community groups and more. The different options available can be viewed on the Carvers Clubhouse website. Coming Soon: we are currently working on a new food menu and party packages.



www.ringwood.gov.uk



@ringwoodtowncouncil



01425 473883

NEWS

Family Mediation Week 2026

Parents who have decided to separate or divorce in 2026 are being urged to find out how to avoid courtroom confrontation to settle money and parenting arrangements, with the launch of Family Mediation Week, 26th to 30th January 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

"Family Mediation Week shines a helpful spotlight on these tricky issues, offering separating parents information about their options



as they look to make arrangements for parenting, property and finance.

"Family mediation is a process where an independent, professionally-trained mediator helps you work these things out, enabling you to avoid courtroom confrontation. You are provided with a safe space to be able to have discussions and explore options that work for you and your family, without someone imposing decisions upon you. It protects your ongoing parenting relationship and allows the children to also have a voice through the process."

Loose Legal are proud to be sponsoring Family Mediation Week 2026. You can access talks aimed at providing you with more information using the following link:
<https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/family-mediation-week-2026-timetable/>

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

The advertisement features a large photo of an elderly man smiling and a young woman smiling at him. The Oak Mount Care Home logo is in the top right, with 'RINGWOOD' and the phone number '01425 479492' below it. The Carehome.co.uk rating of '9.8' is in the top left. The text 'A family-run care home with a friendly atmosphere.' is at the bottom.

A family-run care home with a friendly atmosphere.



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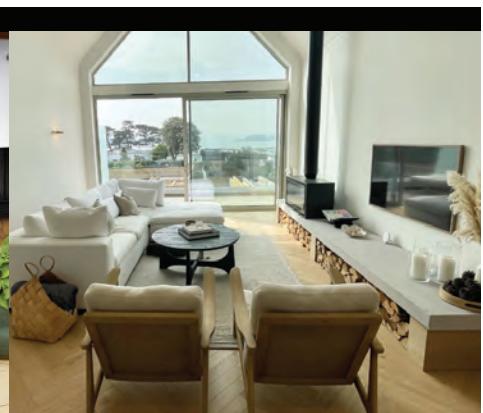
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NEWS

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.

That's why we are offering an **amazing deal** to help promote ourselves as well as the small businesses in the local area.

The deal includes:

- * 3 month commitment
- * 1 x 1/2 page and 2 x 1/4 pages in the R&F News
- * 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.

If you are interested in knowing more please email Nikki at sales@rfnews.uk

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THE WESTERN NEW FOREST



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98.9 FM FROM FERNDOWN



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www.edenfuneraldirectors.co.uk

Antiques Roadshow for Fishing Tackle will be coming to the Avon

It's been a while since the last valuation day for antique fishing tackle occurred for the Hampshire Avon and the previous event revealed some great items from the world of angling, including a rare 5" Hardy Perfect reel that went on to achieve £12,000 at auction.

A team of experts will assemble to provide opinions on value and will advise on the best ways to dispose of if required. If you have any old fishing tackle, including reels, rods, books, boxes, salmon & trout flies, lures, trophies, cased and carved fish.... They could be more valuable than you may

think.

The venue for the next valuation day will soon be announced and, if you need some advice ahead of this event, please contact Jason on 07798 621585 for more information.





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Ringwood Town Football Club
Ringwood Community Hub



Fixtures
2025-26



Date		Opponents
Sat 24 Jan	H	Lymington
Sat 31 Jan	A	Colden Common
Sat 7 Feb	H	Ash Utd
Tue 10 Feb	A	Cove*
Sat 14 Feb	A	US Portsmouth

KO 3pm *7:45pm
20% off entry to home matches!
quote RFNEWS

fixtures subject to change

NEWS

Three tips to save around £100 a year on energy bills

This winter, there are some easy, low-cost steps you can take at home to help reduce your energy bills.

1. Reduce your combi boiler flow temperature to 60C.

Most boilers are set too high – lowering the flow temperature can make yours more efficient and cut your bills.



Looking to help animals in 2026? Animals' Voice educational and wildlife trust needs you!

Trustees and volunteers required to help guide our work forward. Presently applying for Charitable status to set up a community wildlife rescue centre in Fordingbridge. To find out more about our work Tel 01425 653663 or Email: enquiries@animalsvoice.org.uk

2. Find and fix draughts around the home

Have a good look for gaps around windows, doors, pipes and floors. Look out for visible light, listen for noises on windy days, and feel for air moving around.

Different material may be required depending on the gaps – and be careful not to seal essential ventilation like extractor fans or airbricks.

3. Turn radiators down, not off, in rooms you're not using

Lowering the settings in rooms you're not using much can save energy and help your boiler run more efficiently. Turning them off completely can actually increase risk of damp and mould.

Every home is different and one of the best ways to save energy is monitoring and managing your consumption, helping identify the changes that will be most effective in your own household.

Energy suppliers install smart meters in homes at no extra cost. Smart meters provide automatic readings to your supplier, ending estimated bills and making budgeting easier.



They also mean you can make the most of tariffs that offer cheaper electricity during different hours of the day.

Once you have a smart meter, you can get near real-time information about energy use through your free in-home display or by downloading apps offered by energy suppliers and other organisations.

These will help identify your most energy intensive appliances and habits so you can adjust them and make savings.

There are a range of other energy saving actions you can consider like ensuring your hot water cylinder has a jacket to help your hot water stay warmer for longer, installing an energy efficient showerhead or turning appliances off at the socket.

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website: www.economyhire.co.uk

St Ives House residents enjoy winning day of football and friendship at Ringwood Community Hub

Care home residents enjoyed a morning of sport, friendship and fun after joining a walking football session at Ringwood Community Hub.

Residents from St Ives House, on Horton Road, were invited to watch and join in with AFC Bournemouth's Women's Walking Football team as they took to the pitch at the facility on Long Lane. Several residents from the care home, which is run by not-for-profit care provider, Care South, embraced the opportunity to get involved with one resident, John, scoring two goals during the match.

Afterwards everyone headed inside the hub for some fun seated football games led by the AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust team. The morning was rounded off with a buffet lunch and cream tea which enabled the residents to sit down for a chat with some of the walking football team players.

John, who lives in St Ives House, said: "It was brilliant. It has been many years since I last played football in the Army. It was the first time I had been to Ringwood Community Hub and I scored two goals. They were a great team. It was excellent."

Pauline, who also lives in the home, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I loved the friendship and everybody was friendly. It was really nice."

Care South has enjoyed a partnership with AFC Bournemouth for the past 11 years which sees the Community Sports Trust host weekly seated football sessions in the Dorset-based care homes. The residents also get the chance to meet the players and have VIP stadium visits.

Paul Harris retires

After 26 years of dedicated service and only two days of absence, Paul Harris has retired from his position as Early Morning Manager at Lunns of Ringwood.

Previously a milkman, Paul continued his career at Lunns—at the time primarily a newsagent and art store, now a post office—demonstrating unwavering commitment by wearing shorts year-round, even during extremely cold temperatures.

Throughout his tenure, he witnessed many loyal paper delivery staff come and go, including members of his own family. Paul was known for being the first welcoming presence customers

encountered each morning upon the shop's opening at 6 am, preparing newspapers for those starting their day.

We extend our best wishes to Paul for his retirement. He is pictured here with Heidi and Sheila Killen in a photograph taken by Derek Maidment, whose father, Jim Maidment, was succeeded by Paul in the early morning role—a testament to Ringwood's close-knit community.



Steve Cuss, Head of AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust, said: "It was our pleasure to welcome the St Ives House residents to join one of our walking football sessions. It was wonderful to see John get back on the pitch and then all of the residents enjoy the games afterwards. We like to help them to stay active while having fun, which is good for their health and wellbeing."

Natalie Graham, Deputy Manager at St Ives House, said: "Our residents had a fantastic time meeting the AFC Bournemouth Women's Walking Football team and got very competitive during the fun games, which paid off as they won against the other two teams. We are so grateful to Steve and the AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust team for inviting our residents to be part of such a lovely event. They are already looking forward to defending their winning title in the new year."

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.

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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7:30pm - doors open at 7pm
Thursday and Saturday Matinees 2:30pm - doors at 2pm

**Adults £15
Children £12**

Tickets from poulnerplayers.com
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TicketSource Telephone Booking - 0333 888 3368
Greyfriars Community Centre

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MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

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SNOWDROP WEEKEND

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14th & 15th February
10am to 4pm

Refreshments, stalls, toilets
FREE ADMISSION



‘Humour and Wisdom in the Garden’

Patricia Elkington

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at 2.00pm Ibsley Village Hall
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Free to members £3 to visitors

RINGWOOD SCHOOL PRESENTS



The Barn, Ringwood
3rd-7th February 2026

WHATS ON



LIVE MUSIC - COMEDY - THEATRE - AND MORE!
 View all upcoming events and book tickets on our website
www.thebarnringwood.co.uk

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

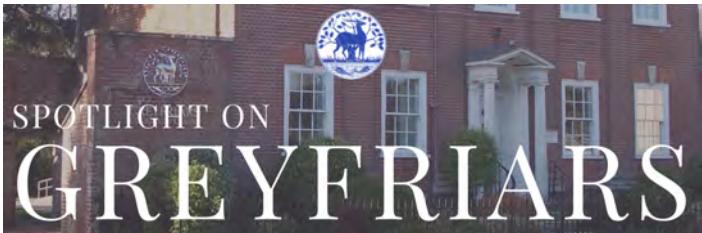
- 13 FEB** JANET STREET PORTER Is off the leash
- 15 FEB** EXCITING SCIENCE Prepare to be amazed!
- 20 FEB** PSYCHIC SALLY The nation's favourite psychic
- 27 FEB** THE COASTAL COMEDY SHOW With Felicity Ward!
- 1 MAR** THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED A rock show! Full on family entertainment
- 13 MAR** ATTENTION ALL SHIPPING A celebration of the Shipping Forecast

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All non profit making community events
 can be advertised here
FREE OF CHARGE.
 Please email your article to
editor@rfnews.uk



What's on at Greyfriars from 2026!

From 6 Jan - Longwater Tai Chi

Join Gina for a friendly Qigong or Tai Chi class on Tuesday afternoons at Greyfriars. For full details of the classes and to book online

<https://www.longwatertaiichi.co.uk/event-timeline-Ringwood>, or call Gina on **07792 979039**

From 7 Jan - MKD*BXG

Unleash your inner fighter, join MKD Boxing classes on Wednesdays, 6pm for kids – 45 mins, 7pm for adults – 60 min session. Contact MKDBOXING@gmail.com or call Elvis Makoda on **07505427978** to register.

From 18 Jan – Steph Yoga

Find out how the wisdom of yoga can transform your everyday life by joining this week course. Contact stephcarolanyoga.co.uk for more details.

From 20 Jan – Perform drama, dance and singing

Embracing the uniqueness of every child, focusing on happiness and fulfilment. Sessions from 4.15-5.15pm for 4-7 years and 5.20-6.20 for 7-12 years. Contact Sam on **07949772618** or at samlove@perform.org.uk.

28 Jan – Ringwood Antiques Club

Wayne Colquhoun (Antiques Roadshow expert) is guest speaker at our next meeting, starting from 7 for 7.30 start. This promises to be another memorable evening. Members, free, Guests £10.00.

Happy New Year



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Heather - Daughter of Sue (resident)

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Find a care home near you at **Care-South.co.uk** or call us on **01202 712410**

Head Office | 39 Commercial Rd | Poole | BH14 0HU

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.

 **FOOD
FUN
FRIENDSHIP**



5 Tips for Healthy Eating

For healthy eating, focus on whole foods like fruits, veggies, and whole grains, ensuring protein and calcium with each meal, choosing healthy fats (unsaturated), limiting added sugar/salt/saturated fats, and staying hydrated with water, while also making mindful choices by cooking more and reading labels.

Here are 5 key tips for a healthy diet:

1. Eat More Plants & Fiber: Aim for at least five portions of varied fruits and vegetables daily, and choose high-fiber, whole-grain carbs (brown rice, oats) over refined ones to reduce disease risk.

2. Prioritize Lean Protein & Healthy Fats: Include sources like

beans, lentils, fish (especially oily fish weekly), lean meat, and unsweetened dairy or alternatives, plus healthy fats from nuts, seeds, and oils (olive, sunflower).

3. Limit Sugar, Salt, & Unhealthy Fats: Cut back on sugary drinks, sweets, processed meats, and foods high in saturated fat, opting for lower-fat dairy and unsaturated oils instead.

4. Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water, unsweetened tea, or coffee; avoid sugary soft drinks,

as even fruit juices are high in sugar.

5. Make Mindful Choices: Cook meals from scratch more often, read food labels to understand what's in your food, control portion sizes, and find joy in balanced, varied eating.



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HISTORY & NEWS

The Year Ahead



Despite being only a few weeks in to the New Year, 2026 is already looking like an exciting year for the civic and amenity society for Ringwood; The Ringwood Society. Here we take a small look ahead at some of the events they will be holding over the next twelve months.

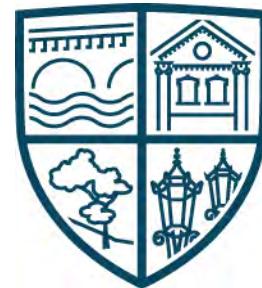
This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the Market Charter for Ringwood, and there is an exciting programme of events coming up throughout the year including some by The Society. The full list of events is being finalised, and will be available soon, along with the opportunity to buy a specially designed Ringwood mug!

After the success of 2025, The Ringwood Society will once again be spearheading the Heritage Open Days calendar in September. A rumoured return of the sell out pub walk will be complimented by a variety of other events, but if you know of an interesting place that would like to join in, please contact The Society through their website to assist with expanding the programme for 2026.

And finally, last but not least, The Society will hold their annual Design and Conservation Awards event in the Autumn. After an excellent set of winners for 2025, nominations are now open. Could your favourite project of the year win an award in 2026?

Membership of The Society gives access to a range of social events as well as talks, exhibitions and meetings, interested people should consider joining, this proactive and lively society. The Ringwood Society is run by a committee of volunteers who are passionate about our town and the community within it. Societies like this rely on the willingness of people to stand and join the committee. Would you be interested in offering your skills to The Society and its members? Expressions of interest are always welcome, contact The Society through their website.

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.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



The Ringwood Society

Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

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Exhibition of WWII Veterans Portraits (& anecdotes) at the Ringwood Meeting House

Mon 5th - Fri 30th January 2026

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
16/01/1945	Henry Frank King	Flight Sergeant	466 Sqn, Royal Australian Air Force
19/01/1942	Richard George Barlow	Captain	Royal Corps of Signals
06/02/1917	Walter Boreham	Private	1 st /4 th Bn, Suffolk Regiment
07/02/1941	Harold Ernest Honeywill	Gunner	Royal Artillery
22/02/1919	Samuel Hatton Mintey	Sergeant	115 Bty, 25 th Bde, Royal Field Artillery
26/02/1919	C H Whicher	Private	1 st Dorset Yeomanry (Queen's Own)
27/02/1917	Albert Tom Kendall	Private	44 th Garrison Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

Lest We Forget

HISTORY & NEWS

'Ringwood Pubs' book

The second edition of this popular local history book will be available from mid-January.

Thanks to publicity by Ringwood Meeting House the first edition of 'An Incomplete History of Ringwood Pubs' sold out within just four months.

Editor Janet Mobbs-Longman says, "At the launch in 2024, I described the first edition of the book as a 'work-in-progress' and I'm delighted that three readers got in touch and have allowed me to include their knowledge of family members who ran Ringwood pubs. In particular, John Frampton has provided details of the Fish Inn, which is where he grew up, Jill Collier has told me of her grandmother, Amelia Bradford, who grew up at The George, and Peter Trill has provided enlightening information on the sisters Kitty and Sarah Trill to whom he is related via his 4xgreat grandfather who was their father."

Corrections to the first edition have been made:

The book's editor explained: "I inadvertently misinterpreted my Dad's early research into the location of The Coach & Horses. Ringwood historian Mary Baldwin pointed out that this pub was almost certainly to the right of The White Hart, at 2 Market Place, not the left, where The Lighthouse Cookshop now stands.

I'd be very grateful if any owners of the first edition could note this in their copies, so that my error is not perpetuated."

One extra pub has been included in the second edition:

The Vale of Avon Inn traded in the late 1800s from the building in Christchurch Road that is now Lunn's.

Copies of the book will be sold from there and from Ringwood Meeting House, price £12.50, or they can be ordered online, with an additional delivery charge, through the website RingwoodPubs.co.uk.

Alternatively, you will be able to browse & purchase the book in the Ringwood Meeting House, adjacent to the large car park in the

centre of Ringwood.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-12pm Weds 10am-2.30pm

'Mr. Ringwood' revisits the Meeting House!

Recently staff and patrons at the Meeting House were thrilled to welcome back a Meeting House regular, Norman Jenkins. Known locally as 'Mr. Ringwood,' having lived his whole life here, Norman was warmly welcomed into the Meeting House for a warm cuppa!

Norman has been well known to many in Ringwood over the years, in his younger years taking part in the Motor Cross activities on the Mount.

Norman also recalled an interesting time in early 1940s when 'Lord Haw Haw' (William Joyce), the Nazi sympathiser, who broadcast on the radio regularly trying to persuade the British to surrender, was staying temporarily in the New Forest and was seen a few

times by Norman and his friends driving along the forest lanes.

In later life Norman was a member of the 'Wednesday Parliament' a group who used to meet regularly on a Wednesday in the 'Meeting House' for discussion and chat about topical subjects. Now a resident at the Bickerley nursing home, Norman is enjoying his 100th Year in style alongside his Bickerley friends.

Come back to the Meeting House soon Norman, it was lovely to see you!



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Suet Blocks Berry	£1.50 (Each)	£10.50 (Box of 10)	
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NEWS

Ringwood care home raises £1,600 through community events for Parkinson's UK

Residents and staff at a Ringwood care home have raised over £1,600 for a charity supporting people living with Parkinson's. Over the past year, residents and the team at St Ives House care home, on Horton Road in Ashley Heath, have hosted a number of events for their families, loved ones and the local community to attend in aid of Parkinson's UK.

These events at St Ives House, which is run by not-for-profit care provider, Care South, have included the home's summer fayre and Christmas fayres. Both events each featured a range of stalls, crafts, games, raffle and live music.

In total, £1610.50 was raised for the charity, which was presented to Ruth Wright, Community Fundraiser for the South West at Parkinson's UK, by Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, along with some of the home's residents.

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, said: "We are incredibly proud of the fantastic amount of money raised by our residents, staff and the wider community for Parkinson's UK. Some of our respite residents are personally affected by the condition, so this charity is a cause close to our hearts. The events were a great opportunity to bring people together, have some fun, and raise vital funds for Parkinson's UK. At Care South, we are proud to support our residents and the local community, and these events are a perfect example of how getting together can make a positive impact."

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition which affects around 166,000 people living in the UK. According to Parkinson's UK, someone is diagnosed with the condition every 20 minutes in



Britain. There are over 40 symptoms of Parkinson's, but the main three are a tremor, slowness of movement and muscle stiffness. Ruth Wright, Community Fundraiser for the South West at Parkinson's UK, said: "We are extremely grateful to everyone at St Ives House for their fantastic fundraising efforts. This donation will make a huge difference to people living with Parkinson's and their loved ones to receive vital support and information. Support like this makes a real difference, and we cannot thank St Ives House enough for choosing to support Parkinson's UK."

St Ives House provides residential, respite, and dementia care.

Residents enjoy a daily programme of events organised by the dedicated activities team to enable residents to socialise and build friendships.

Care South is a not-for-profit provider of high-quality residential care homes across 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 01425 209464 to book a tour.

Salisbury Lipreaders Celebrate Fantastic Award

Chair Steve Miller and Tutor Michelle representing Salisbury Lipreading Community Group were stunned when they learned they had been awarded £750 by Hall & Woodhouse.

"Receiving the award from Tessa Woodhouse was a both a pleasure and an honour," said Steve.

"The generosity of H&W means that our lipreading students will be delighted that there is continuing support for their classes throughout 2026. What a wonderful start to the New Year." Deafness is the most isolating disability and invisible. Losing your hearing is disorienting and can be very frightening. Learning the mechanics of how to lipread can significantly reduce that feeling of isolation, enable participation in social occasions and reduce stress in the workplace.

SLCG's award is one of many as part of the pledge made by H&W in 2002 to donate £1 million from their Community Chest fund to local community groups across the South of England.

For information on how to join a local Lipreading class please contact Michelle on tutor.wordofmouth@gmail.com

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Classical Guitar Masterclass at Ringwood Junior School

Ahead of his evening performance for Avon Valley Concerts, internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Craig Ogden gave an hour's presentation to the pupils at Ringwood Junior School.

Over 300 children were enthralled as Craig demonstrated the beautiful music produced by the classical guitar. It was incredible to see almost half the children eagerly putting up their hands to ask a question at the end. Staff and pupils will surely remember this wonderful event.

Avon Valley Concerts will return to Fordingbridge on Friday 13 February 2026, presenting Kyan Quartet in The Sixth Form Centre at Burgate School. Established in 2020, Kyan Quartet brings together four exceptional musicians from the UK, USA, China and France. Their programme includes string quartets by Debussy and Beethoven.

Concert details:

Friday 13 February 2026 at 7pm
The Sixth Form Hall, Burgate School, SP6 1EZ
Tickets cost £18, U25 free

Tickets available from Caxton Decor, Grants of Ringwood, Greyfriars Community Centre, online at www.avonvalleyconcerts.com or on the door



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PROPERTY - AROUND THE BLOCK

A Seller's Checklist for Choosing the Right Buyer

Accepting an offer on your home is not just about the amount you've been offered.

The 'best' buyer is often the one who is best placed to see the sale through to completion.

With a significant number of property transactions falling through, asking potential buyers the right questions early can save time, stress, and disappointment later.

While buyers often come armed with questions of their own, savvy sellers and experienced agents know that a successful move requires research both ways.

Here are nine questions a serious buyer should be able to answer clearly and confidently.

1. How is the purchase being funded?

A strong buyer can explain whether they are using cash, a mortgage, or both, without hesitation or confusion.

2. Do they have a property to sell?

If so, clarity matters. Is it already on the market, under offer, or yet to be listed?

3. When was their property listed?

A home that has been on the market for a long time may introduce risk, especially if price reductions have already been made.

4. Is there a property chain involved?

Shorter chains are usually more reliable and less prone to delays.

5. Do they have a mortgage agreed in principle?

Most serious buyers will already have this in place before making an offer.

6. When does the mortgage offer expire?

This helps identify whether time pressure could affect the transaction later.

7. Are there any fixed deadlines?

School places, job relocations, or rental notice periods can all influence how smoothly a sale progresses.

8. Do they have a solicitor instructed?

Buyers who have already appointed a solicitor are often better prepared to move quickly.

9. Do they understand what being a cash buyer actually means?

A genuine cash buyer has the funds available now, not once another sale completes.

Making the right decision

The highest offer is not always the best one. In many cases, a slightly lower figure from a well-prepared buyer can lead to a faster, more secure sale.

An experienced local agent will help you look beyond price alone, assess each buyer's position, and advise on the likelihood of a successful completion.

If you are selling in 2026 and want help choosing the right buyer for your home, contact us here at BrightWater for clear, practical advice based on our experience in the local market.



Darren Loose
MD of BrightWater

NFDC's Draft Local Plan recommences in February 26 – New Housing Coming!

New Forest District Council is due to reopen their Local Plan process in February after a temporary delay due to the proposed merger to create the new unitary authority.

The Local Plan will set out the planning authority's housing ambitions and is required by central Government so that it can fulfil its manifesto pledge of delivering 1,500,000 houses before Parliament ends in 2029. The Government has set out its needs for local planning authorities within the new "Standard Method" which assess how many homes each authority will need to deliver to maintain its 5-year housing land supply.

What is known is that NFDC is one of the most poorly performing planning authorities when assessed against the "Standard Method", as an example, last year they were tasked with delivering 1,200 houses across the district with the actual level of completions coming in at 140, resulting in a failure rate of 88% against the Government's target.

Jason Lewis, director of Brightwater Commercial comments, "the local authority's position of failing to meet its 5-year housing targets has left NFDC exposed and where land that is located within the Greenbelt, can now come forwards to be considered for development purposes. We are pleased to be advising on land located within the west and south of the district, where, if these projects succeed, will deliver approximately 400 new homes, on which, 50% will be for affordable housing purposes".

NFDC are seeking additional land to fulfil its requirements for new housing land and are maintaining an open "Call for Sites" to gather in any opportunity that can contribute to the required housing numbers. At Brightwater Commercial, our team are able to quickly assess opportunities and advise on their suitability to meet the Government's objectives. Please call either Harry or Jason for more information 01425 478719.



Jason Lewis
Commercial Director
BrightWater



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A FAST START TO 2026

We have started the year at pace, taking on a number of new commercial units for sale and to let across the Ringwood, Bournemouth and Christchurch areas. We are also seeing growing demand for our advice on land for development or grazing, reflecting the trust clients place in us across the commercial real estate sector and our reputation for clear, reliable guidance.



As we begin 2026, we do so from a position of strength. We have built strong relationships, delivered results we are proud of, and earned the trust of clients who believe in what we do. That support has made all the difference and provides a solid foundation as we continue to grow in the year ahead.



We're are beginning 2026 with real excitement and enthusiasm and ready for all that it will bring.

If you have commercial units you're looking to rent out or sell, we'd love to work with you.

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jason@brightwaterproperties.co.uk,

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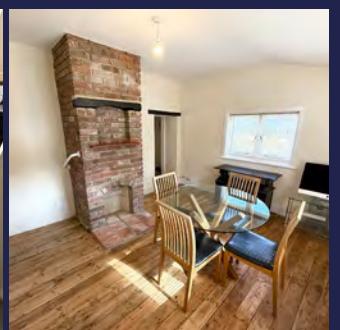
Detached family home located in Burnbake Road | Three bedrooms | One bathroom | UPVC double glazed conservatory | Attached single garage | Front and rear garden | 18ft lounge | Driveway parking for multiple vehicles | NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Semi-detached house located in Brooks Close | Three bedrooms | One bathroom | Modern kitchen Diner space | Front aspect sitting room | WC and utility room | Conservatory | Rear garden | Driveway parking | Side gate access.

Detached house in sought after location | Four bedrooms | One bathroom | Living room with feature fire | Conservatory | Rear garden | Driveway parking for multiple vehicles | Easy access to A338 | Walking distance to amenities.



**Oak Tree Cottage, Howe Lane
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Public urged to keep off the ice as temperatures plummet

Stay off the ice to save your life – that's the warning from the National Water Safety Forum as the UK experiences a significant cold snap

Cold temperatures have led to the freezing over of many inland waters, which can be a risk to life. Although frozen lakes, ponds, canals, rivers and lochs may look enticing, ice can be extremely unpredictable – it is impossible to tell how thick it is or if it can bear weight.

The warning comes in the wake of several fatalities in recent years, where sadly people lost their lives after falling through ice.

The National Water Safety Forum is aiming to educate the public about the dangers of frozen and icy waters and promote informed, safe outdoor activities during the colder months to prevent further tragedies. With some schools closing due to weather conditions, parents and carers are encouraged to share the warning with young people.

Professor Mike Tipton, Chair of the National Water Safety Forum, said: "Icy conditions present a unique set of risks and frozen waterways are a serious threat to life, increasing the chance of an accidental immersion and cold shock, which can kill in seconds. As with all risks, a little knowledge and consideration can make a lifesaving difference: the NWSF is providing this knowledge."

Gavin Ellis, Water Safety Lead for the National Fire Chiefs Council, said: "Our message is simple: please stay off frozen lakes, rivers and canals. Ice is never safe, and what looks like fun can quickly turn into a life-threatening emergency. We urge parents and carers to speak to children about the dangers and help keep them safe this winter."

To keep yourself and your loved ones safe around water this winter, the National Water Safety Forum is urging everyone to follow this essential advice:

Stay off the ice – ice thickness and water depth are variable and unpredictable

Keep back from the edge – fallen leaves or snow might obscure the boundary, whilst ice makes things slippery underfoot

Always supervise children – talk to them about the dangers of ice and never let them play on or near frozen water

Keep dogs on a lead – prevent dogs from venturing onto the ice and don't throw balls or sticks onto frozen water for them to fetch.

What do in an emergency:

If someone falls through the ice:

Do not go onto the ice yourself to attempt a rescue – instead, **phone 999** immediately Tell the person in the water to **stay calm and float** on their back

Look for nearby **rescue equipment to throw**, or try to reach them from solid ground with a branch or pole

Try to **keep your eyes on the person** in the water at all times

If you are able to get the person out safely, **keep them warm** with dry clothing and/ or shelter until the emergency services arrive




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If a dog falls through the ice:

Do not attempt a direct rescue – instead, **encourage your pet to swim** back to you so that you can lift them out If your pet cannot reach you, use a branch or pole to reach them without venturing onto the ice.

If you fall through the ice:

Float on your back until you feel calm

Shout for help when your breathing is under control

Try to climb out by spreading your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you and pulling yourself out slowly

If you cannot climb out, **continue to float** with your head clear of the water and wait for the emergency services.



NEWS

Ringwood Christmas Window Decoration Winners Announced

The votes have been counted, verified, and the results are in! The annual Christmas Window Decoration competition, part of the popular Ringwood Winter Wonderland programme, saw over 400 votes cast this year.

Queen Nails has been crowned the overall winner, edging out 26 local businesses, shops, and community organisations taking part. The winners were presented with the prestigious trophy by Town Mayor, Cllr Rae Frederick.

Gemmy Jay Nails claimed second place, while Ringwood Fabrics came in third. Little Monkeys at The Old Cottage and Hays Travel rounded out the top five.

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

In addition to the window competition, Ringwood Town Council also ran the Reindeer Ramble Trail, where local families helped Santa find his hidden reindeer in shop windows around town. Random winners receive vouchers donated by local businesses, including Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre, BrightWater Estate Agency and Hays Travel.

Ringwood Town Council organise the Ringwood Christmas Window Decorating Competition and Reindeer Ramble with the aim of encouraging local families to visit Ringwood throughout the month of December.

Ringwood Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to the

sponsors of their 2025 events. A special thank you to Grotto sponsor A-One Insurance Group. Additional sponsors: The Railway Pub & Kitchen, Donaldson Ross, Kimbers Flooring Specialists, Ringwood Motor Company, Economy Hire (Southern) Ltd, Quantum, Letchers Solicitors, Churchill Living – your support makes a huge difference to the events around the town.



CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG FLIES INTO RINGWOOD HALF TERM WEEK!

Poulner Players are thrilled to present the magical family musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in February with six performances packed with laughter, adventure and unforgettable songs.

Based on the much-loved film, featuring the classic Sherman Brothers score, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang follows the Potts family and their extraordinary car that floats, flies and whisk them away on a fantastical journey. Along the way they encounter dazzling dance numbers, colourful characters and deliciously dastardly villains – all brought to life by a talented local cast.

This joyful production, directed by Danielle Morris and Tom Buxton is perfect for families, theatre lovers and the young at heart. Expect big musical moments, eye-catching costumes and plenty of magic!

Performances take place from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February at Ringwood Waldorf School at 7.30 pm plus matinee on Thursday and Saturday at 2.30 pm when in exchange for a donation you can take pictures of your loved ones in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Tickets are priced at adults £15 and children £12 and are available at www.poulnerplayers.com or call in at Greyfriars Community Centre. Profits will be donated to South Central Ambulance, Ringwood.

Climb aboard and let Chitty Chitty Bang Bang take you on a magical ride this February half-term – it promises to be truly scrumptious!



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**Come and collect your free bottle
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Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club & The Lions Message in a Bottle Scheme

Lions Clubs Message in a Bottle is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge. Lions Clubs nationally supply Lions Message in bottle to anyone who needs it free of charge via Lions Clubs themselves, pharmacies, and doctors surgeries.

This scheme helps emergency services personnel (Paramedics, police, Fire Fighters, and Social Services) to save valuable time in identifying an individual very quickly and knowing if they have any allergies or take special medication, knowing who best to contact in the event of an emergency, and if there are any household pets that will need care if their owner becomes unwell.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club will be handing out these lifesaving bottles to everyone free of charge at their open day in the Meeting House in central Ringwood on Saturday 31 January 2026 between 10am – 12pm. Please come along to collect your free bottle, find out more about how the scheme works, and what Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions do in our wonderful local community.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club promote this scheme because they believe that this gives older or vulnerable people more confidence about their treatment in an emergency. It also gives peace of mind to relatives and friends that essential information will be available in an emergency situation. To find out more about this scheme, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club, or any other Lions Projects please contact them on 0345 833 5819 or via their website at www.randflions.org.uk.



 Ringwood
Antiques Club

An evening with
Wayne Colquhoun



Join us when we welcome guest speaker
Wayne Colquhoun -
popular Liverpudlian
Antiques Roadshow expert.

**Wednesday 28 January- 7pm for 7.30 start.
Members free - Guests £10.00**



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BEREAVEMENTS

Hibberd

Annette

Annette passed away at Salisbury Hospice on 7th January, aged 86 years. Much loved wife to John and mother to Martin, she will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place on Monday 2nd February at Bournemouth Crematorium at 11.30Am. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, in memory of Annette may be made to the 'Salisbury Hospice Charity' and sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

Titt

Philip John

After a long illness Philip passed away peacefully at Gorselands Nursing Home on 13 January aged 84 years. Devoted husband of Brenda for 61 years and loving father to Julian, Nigel and Helen. He will be sadly missed.

Funeral service to be held at Salisbury Crematorium on Monday 9 February at 12 noon.

Family flowers only but donations if desired to Macmillan Caring Locally c/o I N Newman Ltd, Griffin Mews, 22 High Street, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AX, Tel: 01425 656286

Stainton Burrell

Andrew

It is with great sorrow we announce that Andrew son of Rex & Joyce Burrell, brother to Hilary, Jonathan, Philippa and Simon and beloved husband of Mary passed away peacefully at the Macmillan Unit, Christchurch on the 7th December aged 67 years. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Cremation has already taken place.

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Puzzle Corner

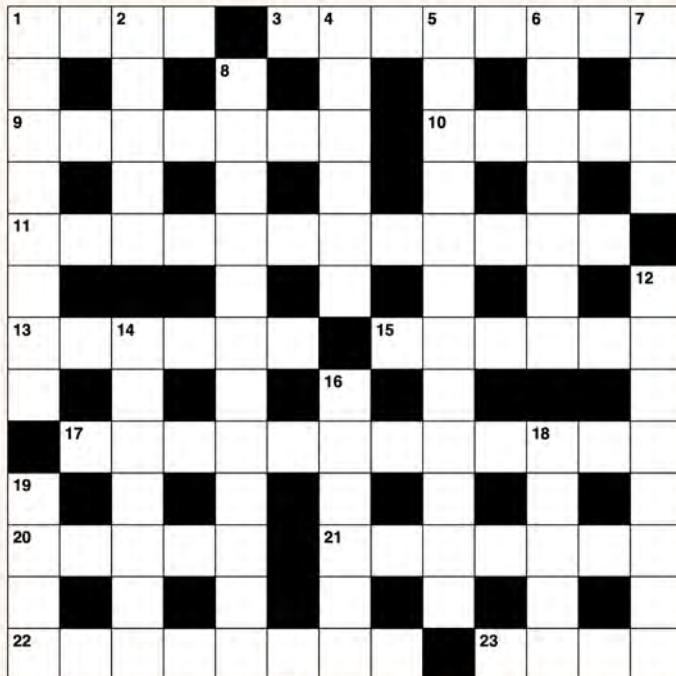
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Crossword



Across

- 1 - Court enclosure (4)
- 3 - Creature that eats both meat and plants (8)
- 9 - Assumed identities (7)
- 10 - Trench (5)
- 11 - Consequence of an event (12)
- 13 - Starts (6)
- 15 - Long and very narrow (6)
- 17 - Tamed (12)
- 20 - Diacritical mark (5)
- 21 - Fall back (7)
- 22 - Arithmetic operation (8)
- 23 - In an inactive way; with no particular purpose (4)

Down

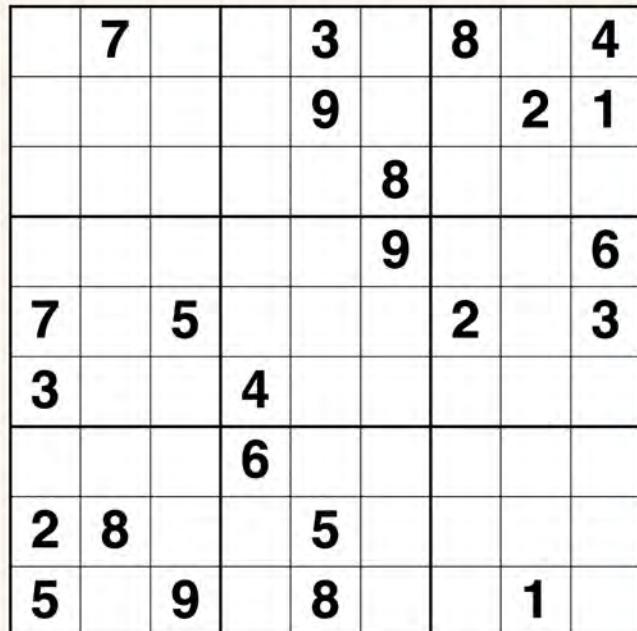
- 1 - Verbal attack (8)
- 2 - Bend or curl (5)
- 4 - Mistake in snooker; blunder (6)
- 5 - Dimly; not clearly (12)
- 6 - Surpassed (7)
- 7 - Reflection of sound (4)
- 8 - Separation; alienation (12)
- 12 - Hard work (8)
- 14 - Grumbled (7)
- 16 - Dual audio (6)
- 18 - Recorded on video (5)
- 19 - Volcano in Sicily (4)

Answers for last the last issue:



Sudoku

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RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £310,000

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