

# The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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Issue 913 • March 18th to April 14th • 2026

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## Ringwood pupils set to run Mini London Marathon to fund vital school facilities



Forty pupils from Ringwood Junior School in Hampshire have secured coveted places in this year's TCS Mini London Marathon, taking place on 25 April, where they will run alongside children from schools across the country. The young runners, aged 7 to 11 years, will take on either a one-mile or 2.6km course, racing through the iconic surroundings of St James's Park and finishing on The Mall outside Buckingham Palace – an unforgettable experience for the children involved. Those pupils not taking part will also be encouraged to take part in an in-school event clocking up the miles for the same cause. continues on page 12

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# The Most Expensive Words in Tax: “I Didn’t Realise”

In our experience, some of the most expensive words in business and personal finance are surprisingly simple: **“I didn’t realise.”**

We hear them often.

- “I didn’t realise rental income needed declaring.”
- “I didn’t realise I had to register.”
- “I didn’t realise that counted as taxable income.”

Most of these situations don’t begin with **bad intentions**. They begin with assumptions or outdated information.

Unfortunately, HMRC assesses penalties based on whether reasonable care was taken - not simply on intention.

As we approach the end of the tax year on **5 April**, it’s a sensible time to pause and ask a simple question: is there anything I’ve assumed rather than confirmed?

From April 2026, Making Tax Digital will increase reporting frequency for many people. While it doesn’t change the amount of tax due, it does increase transparency and the

importance of keeping records accurate and up to date.

At **Donaldson Ross & Co**, we believe most tax problems are preventable with the right conversation at the right time.

A short discussion now can often avoid the financial and emotional cost of saying “I didn’t realise” later.



## Want to read more?

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## Happy Easter .....

As the days grow longer and the first signs of blossom appear, Easter arrives once again as a welcome marker of spring here in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge area. After the darker months of winter, there is something uplifting about seeing gardens coming back to life, fields greening, and the New Forest beginning to stir with the season.

Easter has always been a time of renewal and hope, and this year feels no different. With lighter evenings and the promise of warmer weather on the horizon, many of us will be looking forward to spending more time outdoors – whether that means a walk in the forest, time in the garden, or simply enjoying the fresh air with family and friends.

Spring also brings communities together. Local events, church services and Easter egg hunts offer moments to reconnect after the quiet of winter. They remind us how fortunate we are to live in a place where nature and community are so closely woven together.

So as Easter approaches, let's hope the sunshine makes an appearance, the rain holds off long enough for a few good walks, and that we all find a little time to

step outside and enjoy the beauty of the season. After all, spring here in The New Forest is something truly special.



As all our readers are aware this is a community paper so we need as many local news stories as possible. Whether you are a local organisation, club or school please send in your local stories and we will always publish what we can. Please email [editor@rfnews.uk](mailto:editor@rfnews.uk) if you have any questions. Thank you for all your support and thanks to all the companies that advertise, without you there would be no paper.

*Darren & Naomi*

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**NEWS**

# Bickerley Green Receives Generous £730 Donation from a Sponsored Walk

Elaine Peachey, decided to help Bickerley Green, upon the passing of her 96-year-old father, Don.

Although Elaine's Dad had only spent 6 months living at Ringwood's Bickerley Green, Elaine felt compelled to raise some much-needed funds for Bickerley Green's own amenities fund. This fund is used to support the welfare and activities for all the residents. The money raised, will help to provide a varied range of interactions and entertainment.

To raise funds, Elaine embarked on walking two miles each day, during January and early February. Elaine, spoke of how the cold and wet weather, plus being unwell at times, affected her progress.

However, she was determined to raise as much money as possible, and carried on her challenge until February 8th, the day her father would have turned 97. Elaine remarked, "Dad received the very best care from the staff at Bickerley Green and he would have been really proud of the money I have raised with the help of my sponsors."

Tracy Wentworth,



Bickerley Green's Deputy Manager, spoke of the home's gratitude for the generous amount of money Elaine has donated. "We are incredible grateful for Elaine's support. "Her Dad was a lovely person to care for, and we will always remember Don, singing his favourite song, Fly me to the Moon, by Frank Sinatra. We cannot thank Elaine enough for the kindness she and her sponsors have shown." Pictured with Elaine are Bickerley Green's very own: Norman and 'Mac' who will both turn 100 this year.



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# Rotary Club of Ringwood Schools Photographic Competition

The presentation of certificates and winners' prizes for the Rotary Club of Ringwood Interschools Photographic Competition took place in The Barn, Ringwood School on 10th March 2025.

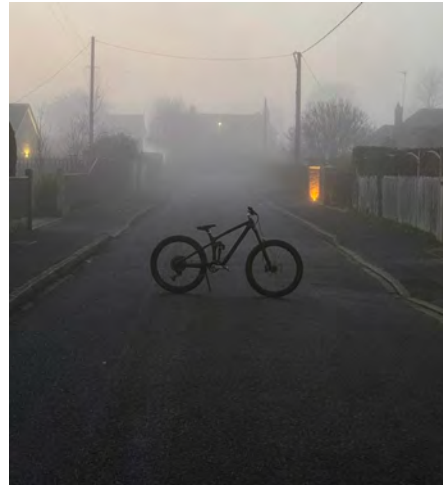
Initiated in 2011 and organised jointly with Ringwood School, the competition has expanded to this year receiving over 600 entries from 23 schools invited across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. This year's theme was Perspective. The standard of entries was remarkably high.

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

The Winners in Student categories were, Hope Wilkins, St. Marks C of E Junior School (Primary), Jacob Kilburn, Ringwood School (Y 7-10) and Keela Billington, Ringwood School (Y 11-13).

In 2022, Rotarian Michael Lingam-Willgoss, a founder member of the competition team and a major fund raiser died. In his memory the award for the overall Best in Show, the MLW Prize for the Young Photographer of the Year, was presented to Jacob Kilburn, Ringwood School (Y 7-10).

The Arts University Bournemouth Prize went to Adam Markham, Brockenhurst College (Y11-13) and was presented by Vanessa Collingridge, Course Leader Foundation.



The AUB winning image, Adam Markham, Brockenhurst College (Y 11-13)



The winning image of the MLW Prize for the Young Photographer of the Year, Winner Jacob Kilburn (Y 7-10)

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# NEWS

## Ringwood Town Council

“Wait... Ringwood Has an Annual Town Assembly? It Does - and This Year You'll Actually Want to Come!”

Yes, it's true! Ringwood does have an Annual Town Assembly - and if you're thinking "I've never heard of it," you're not alone! This year, we're changing that. On Wednesday 13 May, at Ringwood Gateway (doors open 6.00pm, light refreshments included), we're turning the Assembly into a welcoming, community-focused evening - and you're invited.

Instead of a quiet, overlooked meeting, we're bringing life, colour and conversation into the room. Local organisations will be joining us to show off the brilliant things they do in Ringwood - from activities and clubs to support services and volunteering opportunities.

You'll also be able to chat with Town Council staff from Carvers Clubhouse, Events, the Grounds Department and more. They'll be on hand to answer questions, explain their work, and hear your thoughts on how our services can better serve the community. A visual round-up of what the Council has been working on this year will be running throughout the evening.

Town Councillors will be there too - ready to meet residents, hear ideas, and answer questions directly (in a friendly way, we promise).

And because 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of Ringwood receiving its market charter, we're adding something special: local historian Mary Baldwin will give a lively 20minute talk about the history of Ringwood's market and how it shaped the town we



know today.

We'll finish the evening by announcing this year's Community Award winners, celebrating the amazing individuals and groups who make Ringwood such a fantastic place to live.

So if you've never been to a Town Assembly - or never even realised Ringwood had one - this is the perfect year to give it a try. Come along, meet your community, and help shape the future of our town.



## Kimbers Flooring in Ringwood has moved!



Keep a look out for our official opening party soon!



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## NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

### Benefits:

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

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

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

### Considerations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Hot Cross Bun Recipe

### Who doesn't love a Hot Cross Bun!

Whether you make them yourself or drag the little ones off their screens here is a chance to spend some time making some delicious treats this Easter.

Makes: 8 buns

Total time: 2 hours 40 minutes

Preparation: 25 minutes

Proving: 2 hours

Baking: 16 minutes

Hot cross buns are the quintessential Easter bake. At Bread Ahead, we only produce them for one month over the Easter period, but we won't blame you if these become a year-round bake in your kitchen. Simply by not adding the cross they become the most sensational little tea buns. Even if they get a few days old, you can slice them open, toast them and enjoy with some farmhouse butter, followed by a nap.

### Ingredients - For the buns

- 250 g (9 oz / scant 2 cups) strong white (bread) flour, plus extra for dusting
- 3 g (½ teaspoon) fine sea salt
- 40 g (3¼ tablespoons) caster (superfine) sugar
- 30 g (1 oz) unsalted butter, softened and cubed
- 8 g (1½ teaspoons) fresh yeast or 4 g (1¼ teaspoons) dried active yeast
- 140 g (generous ½ cup) full-fat (whole) milk
- 40 g (1½ oz / ½ cup) sultanas (golden raisins)
- 25 g (¾ oz / 3 tablespoons) mixed peel (candied peel)
- 2 g (1 teaspoon) mixed spice
- 3 g (1½ teaspoons) ground nutmeg

### For the cross mixture

- 100 g (3½ oz / ¾ cup) strong white (bread) flour
- Pinch of fine sea salt
- 120 g (½ cup) water

### For the glaze

- 100 g (3½ oz / ½ cup) soft light brown sugar
- 20 g (1½ tablespoons) lemon juice
- 80 g (⅓ cup) water

### Method

#### 1. Make the dough

Place the flour, salt, sugar and butter in a mixing bowl. Rub in the butter to a sandy consistency.

Mix the yeast and milk together until the yeast has dissolved, then add to the mixing bowl.

Use your hand or a dough scraper to bring the ingredients together into a rough dough, ensuring it is well mixed and there are no pockets of flour or butter.

#### 2. Knead

Transfer the dough to the work surface and knead.

Hold onto the dough with one hand and use the other hand to stretch and fold for around 5 minutes until the dough is nice and smooth.

Stretch the dough into a pizza shape and pile the dried fruits and

spices in the middle.

Fold the dough over to cover the fruit, then gently start to roll and fold the dough until the fruits and spices are evenly distributed.

#### 3. First prove

Place the dough in a bowl, cover with a damp cloth, a plate or a shower cap and leave at room temperature for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

#### 4. Shape the buns

Line a large baking tray with baking paper.

Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and cut into 65-g (2¼-oz) pieces.

Roll each one into a smooth ball and place on the baking tray. Leave plenty of room between them as they will spread out.

Cover with a damp cloth and leave at room temperature for about 1 hour, or until doubled in size.

#### 5. Make the cross mixture

Mix together the flour, salt and water until you have a smooth paste.

Transfer to a piping bag with a 4-mm (¼-in) plain nozzle.

#### 6. Make the glaze

Combine the sugar, lemon juice and water in a small saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for about 5 minutes.

#### 7. Bake

Preheat the oven to 180°C fan (400°F / gas 6).

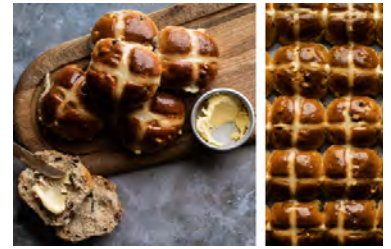
Once the buns have proved, pipe a cross on the top of each one.

Bake for 16 minutes until golden brown.

#### 8. Glaze and cool

Remove from the oven and place on a cooling rack.

After 2 minutes, brush with the glaze.



Thanks to Bread Ahead for the recipe -

<https://www.breadahead.com>



**Ringwood Repair Cafe is held on the second Saturday of the month except August.**

Venue: Greyfriars Community Centre  
NOTE: May's repair cafe will be held at Ringwood Meeting House (Open between 10am and 12noon)

2026

| JAN                            | FEB | MAR | APR |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 10                             | 14  | 14  | 11  |
| MAY<br><small>see note</small> | 13  | 11  | 8   |
| SEP                            | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 12                             | 10  | 14  | 12  |

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# NEWS

continues from page 1

This marks the third time Ringwood Junior School has entered the prestigious event, which not only celebrates great sporting achievement but also encourages fundraising for good causes. This year, pupils are running to raise funds for much-needed new facilities at their school.

Headteacher Sally Evans said the event was about far more than the race itself. "The Mini London Marathon gives our pupils a chance to challenge themselves, build confidence and feel part of something truly special. At the same time, they are helping to improve facilities that will support the wellbeing of our children for many years to come. We are incredibly proud of every child taking part."

Funds raised will go towards replacing the school's existing timber cabins, which are no longer fit for purpose. The cabins are currently used for wellbeing support, counselling and small group work. Plans are in place for a new multi-purpose building, providing a larger space with separate rooms to ensure privacy for pupils who need it.

Year 6 pupil Milo Guillon explained why the project matters so much to the children. "It will be amazing to have a bigger, warmer space with separate rooms. Some children need space to talk through worries and concerns, and this new building will really help with that."

The project has already received a welcome boost, with New Forest District Council awarding a £100,000 grant towards the development. However, the school still needs to raise at least a further £15,000 to begin building work later this year.

The TCS Mini London Marathon has also inspired a lasting love of running within the school community. Several current and former pupils and parents who took part in previous years have gone on to compete in major running events across the world.

One parent, Sarah Collins, who supported her children in a previous year and aims to run this year said "seeing the children cross

the finish line was incredibly moving. It inspired many of us to keep running long after the event – including taking part in major marathons. It all starts with opportunities like this."

Every donation, no matter how small, brings the school one step closer to creating a facility that will benefit current pupils and generations to come.

Supporters are encouraged to donate via the school's fundraising link and wish the young runners the very best of luck as they prepare for April's big race.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/peer-to-peer/ringwood-juniors-mini-london-marathon--2026>



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**Ringwood Junior School  
Mini London Marathon  
2026 campaign**



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SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

## The Lighthouse Cookshop

For those of you that don't know us; Hi! We're The Lighthouse Cookshop, a lovely little independent family run Cookshop, situated in Ringwood's Market Place, stocking quality and interesting cookware for the everyday, and all those impressive dinner parties. Our knowledgeable and enthusiastic team are here to help and advise on all things kitchen. You're always very welcome to browse around our extensive & inspiring collection of Cookware, Gifts, Cards and much more.



Despite opening our doors back in 2004, our story surprisingly begins long ago in 1820! Our family have run hardware shops in and around Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire for over 200 years, first opening their doors in 1820. Generation after generation have all since tried their hand at retailing, developing and changing the business over the years to become Hayward's Hardware of Tewksbury, still in the family and on the High street in Tewksbury to this day.

In 2004 we continued the tradition, heading south to seek out a town to start a shop in. Eventually, we decided on a cookshop and found the wonderful town of Ringwood, and settled there. And the rest, as they say, is history.

In the over 21 years we have been serving customers in the Market Place, we have witnessed remarkable changes in shopping habits across the country. We are firm believers in preserving High Streets, Shopping Local, and serving and giving back to the local communities and the local economies that we live and operate in.

In our curated product ranges, we strive to champion great quality items that will last the test of time, and in the long term, save money too.

As we like to say: **Buy Well Once!**

We are always keeping pace with the latest advancements in cookware and material science. For instance, we have been championing ceramic coated pans, stainless steel pans and vitreous enamel bakeware, to replace the toxic coatings that have been a mainstay in so many kitchen cupboards for decades. Alongside natural cleaning products, such as plastic free scrubbing brushes, cloths and more.

We are proud stockists of some of the great brands of the UK and the world, including **Emma Bridgewater, Cornishware, Robert Welsh, Global Knives, Dunoon, Stellar, Judge**, and more.

We pride ourselves on supporting Local and UK Artists and Artisans, among our broad range of Gifts, Cards and Homeware, including **Alex Clark, Sophie Allport, Emma Ball, Samuel Hayward, Rupert Blamire, Dollyhotdogs, The Stripes Co.**, among many other independent British artists.

We would like to say a massive thank you to each and every customer from over our 21 years and counting, for supporting our family business. We have come to love Ringwood and the surrounding areas more and more over the years, including its great people and all who come to visit.

What can we say, we're a little shop with a big heart!

Come and find us in the Market Place in Ringwood, for Cookware, Homeware, Cards, Gifts and much more. We look forward to seeing you!

Instagram & Facebook:  
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www.thelighthousecookshop.co.uk



## SHOP LOCAL

Supporting our community

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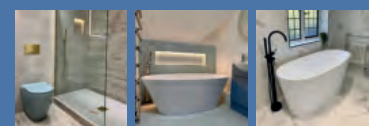
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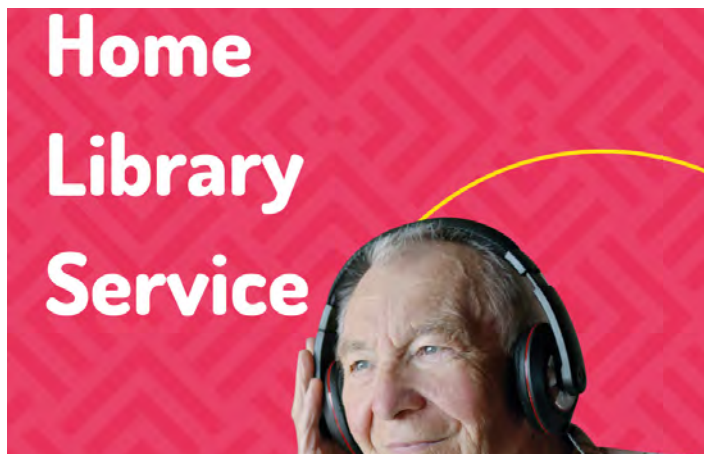
# NEWS

## Hampshire Libraries Home Library Service

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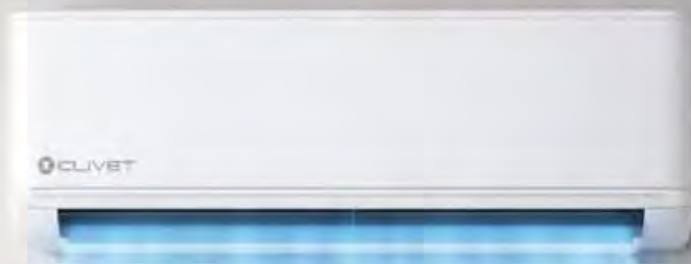
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**REVIEWS**



**SPORT**

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2026  
**ELLINGHAM & RINGWOOD RFC**



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**Fitness is about more than burning calories. It builds resilience for life's toughest moments**

After a near fatal riding accident in October 2025, I did not know if I would ever lift weights again. At the time, I was preparing to compete at Hyrox Birmingham and was in peak condition. What I did not realise then was that the fitness I had built over years of training would become the very thing that helped carry me through major surgery and recovery.



Recovery suddenly became my toughest training session yet, in the days that followed surgery, simply sitting up in bed felt like the hardest physical challenge I had ever faced.

Exercise has always been, and now more than ever, about far more than physical results.

Because I train, I am more resilient when life becomes difficult or unpredictable. Fitness teaches you that progress takes time, patience and hard work. You learn to push through challenges, but you also learn to respect the process and understand that there will always be peaks and troughs, both in training and in life.

Now in my forties, my approach to health and fitness looks very different to what it did even five years ago.

Some things have remained constant. Training outdoors and running are still central parts of my routine, largely because of the positive impact they have on my mental health and emotional wellbeing.

These days my focus is primarily on strength training, building solid core foundations to support joint health and long term longevity. Just as importantly, I prioritise proper recovery days, something many of us underestimate but which becomes essential as we get older.

For me, exercise is no longer about aesthetics or chasing personal bests. It is about staying strong enough, physically and mentally, to navigate whatever life throws my way.

And after the events of the past year, that strength means more to me than ever.

Because of my experience, both personally and professionally, I am passionate about helping others build strength that supports them through every stage of life. As a personal trainer specialising in women's health and fitness in midlife, I work with women across the local community to develop sustainable strength, resilience and confidence through exercise. Ultimately, fitness is not just about looking strong. It is about having the strength to keep living life fully, whatever challenges come your way.

Marie is a local personal trainer specialising in strength training for women in their forties and beyond.

[www.newforestgym.co.uk](http://www.newforestgym.co.uk)



**Ringwood Town Football Club**  
 Ringwood Community Hub



**Fixtures**  
 2025-26



| Date       |   | Opponents       |
|------------|---|-----------------|
| Sat 21 Mar | H | Cove            |
| Tue 24 Mar | A | US Portsmouth*  |
| Sat 28 Mar | A | Fawley AFC      |
| Tue 31 Mar | H | AFC Aldermaston |
| Sat 4 Apr  | A | Clanfield       |
| Tue 7 Apr  | A | Cove*           |
| Sat 11 Apr | H | Whitchuch Utd   |

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 Nb fixtures subject to change

## SPORT &amp; NEWS

## Fordingbridge Under 12s Rugby Team Celebrate Tournament Success

Fordingbridge Under 12s rugby team delivered an outstanding performance to win the Fawley Mini Tournament in March, showing determination, teamwork and plenty of spirit despite difficult conditions.

Persistent rain and thick mud could not dampen the enthusiasm of the young players, who embraced the challenge and produced some excellent rugby throughout the day. The team remained unbeaten across the tournament, winning every game against strong opposition.

Teams taking part in the friendly and well-organised event included Fordingbridge, Fawley, Portsmouth, Ringwood and Gosport/Fareham. The tournament was made possible thanks to the fantastic efforts of the Fawley Under 12s coaches, who created a brilliant day of rugby for everyone involved.

Fordingbridge coaches Gemma, Gary, Sam and Mark praised the squad's effort and attitude. They said: "The boys played brilliantly. They are a close team who really do work hard to support each other, succeed and most of all to enjoy their rugby. It all came together at the tournament with some great teams to play against. Huge thanks to Lewis and the team at Fawley for making it happen!"

The event was a great example of sportsmanship, teamwork and community spirit. Thanks to all the children, parents, referees and coaches involved!

**COME JOIN US:** We would welcome new recruits to at Under 12s (Year 7) and all age groups - no previous rugby experience required, we will work with children to help them grow into this fantastic sport. Contact Fordingbridge Rugby Club: frfcmunis@outlook.com - 01425 517050 - Facebook

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# NEWS

## Ringwood Junior School - World Book Day

Ringwood Junior School celebrated World Book Day on 5th March and children and staff embraced the opportunity to celebrate the magic of books. Walking through the school gates were 'Enola Holmes', 'Robin Hood', 'Hermione Granger', 'Harry Potter', 'Mr Twit', 'Beth Mead', Slime, a Bearded Dragon, 'Tom Gates', 'Lottie Brooks', 'Mary Poppins', footballers, rugby players, gymnasts, horse riders and many more wonderful book characters.

Children and staff were also given the option of wearing cosy pyjamas to school. We are passionate about encouraging reading with children and it is important that children view reading as a cosy, safe and relaxing thing to do. We also want to encourage positive reading habits, and reading at bedtime is a great way to create a mindful, wind down time at the end of the day.

Year 3 staff acknowledged, 'The Huey's in The New Jumper', Year 4 staff dressed in their pyjamas, Year 5 staff dressed as characters from, 'The Wizard of Oz' and Year 6 paid homage to, '101 Dalmations'.

The children brought their books in to school and they spent time in class sharing these as well as staff also sharing their favourite books. Dedicated time was spent enjoying all sorts of books and book related activities, both inside and outside in the sunshine.



Mrs Evans, Headteacher, and Mrs Dallyn, Library Leader commented 'World Book Day continues to develop childrens' enthusiasm and enjoyment for reading which extends beyond the classroom, encouraging the development of positive reading habits.'

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# Storybook Characters Bring Magic to World Book Day at Moyles Court School

What a truly magical World Book Day we enjoyed today at Moyles Court School, Ringwood. Our pupils, staff and parents made exceptional efforts to bring books and characters to life across the school.

From the moment the day began, the school was filled with imagination. Our outdoor learning and enrichment sessions were supervised by staff brilliantly dressed as Cruella de Vil, Bananaman and Mary Poppins, adding a touch of theatrical magic to the forest and grounds.

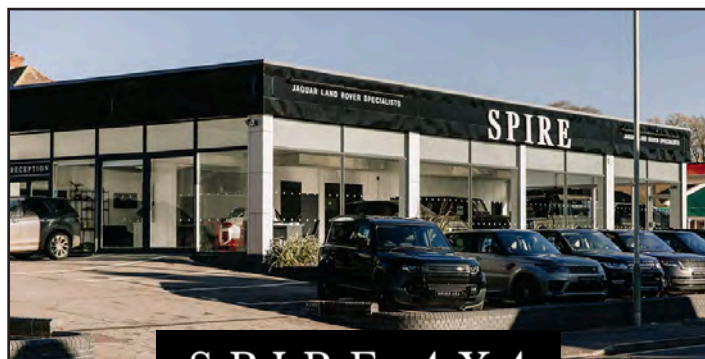
English lessons were led by our very own Jane Austens', 'Emma' guiding pupils through literary adventures and celebrating the joy of storytelling.

Across the school grounds there were delightful scenes straight from the pages of favourite books: Little Red Riding Hood sat beneath the trees reading alongside Elphaba from Wicked, while Coco Chanel could be spotted enjoying a quiet moment with a character from Charlotte's Web. Buzz Lightyear and several Toy Story characters also made appearances throughout the day.

A special thank you goes to our parents, whose creativity and support made the costumes and characters so memorable. Your

efforts truly helped make the day magical for the children.

Days like today remind us just how powerful stories can be in inspiring curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of reading.



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 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 6-11PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**FIND US OUT & ABOUT**  
 CUCKOO FAIR - SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OF MAY  
 PARTY ON THE PITCH - 30<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY  
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## CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL

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 Originally Produced by David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers & The Shubert Organisation  
 Based on the play CALENDAR GIRLS written by Tim Firth & on the motion picture CALENDAR GIRLS written by Tim Firth & Juliette Towhidi


**April 8th – 11th**  
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 Ringwood School**

This amateur production of CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)





**Ringwood Antiques Club**

*Art & The Landscape  
 with  
 David Brindley*



David is a former Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral. With a Masters degrees in Art History, Theology and Philosophy, David will share the wide range of his knowledge and experience.

**Wednesday 25 March - 7pm for 7.30 start.**  
**Members free - Guests £10.00**


 We meet on the 4th Wednesday monthly at Greyfriars  
 New members are always welcome

Damerham & District Horticultural Society



# SPRING SHOW


**Saturday 21st March**  
**2 till 4 pm**

**Damerham Village Hall**  
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**Admission £2.50**  
**Members & Children Free**

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[website www.ddhs.co.uk](http://www.ddhs.co.uk)



## 'The natural calendar and Gilbert White'

**Chris Bird**

Hear about the Father of modern Ecology and his observations on the seasons from a Chelsea medal winner

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**at 7.30pm Ibsley Village Hall BH24 3NL**

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### LIVE MUSIC

- 21 MAR** VOCALIZE LIVE!  
The decades show
- 17 APR** GO YOUR OWN WAY  
The Fleetwood Mac legacy
- 25 APR** THE BOWIE EXPERIENCE  
Featuring Laurence Knight
- 2 MAY** THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES  
A sensational tribute to the famous four
- 23 MAY** AHH... FREAK OUT!  
Join us for the best DISCO hits!

### ON STAGE

- 23 APR** CRAIG REVEL-HORWOOD  
Revelations - songs boys don't sing
- 30 APR** JOHN POWER  
Cast, The La's and Me
- 1 MAY** THE COASTAL COMEDY SHOW  
with Simon Brodtkin
- 31 MAY** PAUL YOUNG  
Songs and stories



## Ibsley Garden Club

Our March meeting is a talk by Chris Bird who is always entertaining. This time he will share his knowledge of the great Naturalist Gilbert White who did his observation and writing in Hampshire. Chris Bird's 2021 RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden, titled "The Natural Kalendar," was a Silver-Gilt medal-winning design created in collaboration with Sparsholt College to celebrate the 300th (plus one) anniversary of Gilbert White's birth.



### What's on at Greyfriars!

#### From 18 March – Fantastique French

Returning to Greyfriars, Tim Robins brings 2 new courses on Wednesday afternoons with Beginners starting **18 March** and Improvers from **15 April**. Contact [fantastiquefrenchtuition.co.uk](http://fantastiquefrenchtuition.co.uk) or call 07944 340563.

#### 25 March – Ringwood Antiques Club

David Brindley will be speaking on 'Art of the Landscape' at **7pm for 7.30pm start**. Former Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral, David will share his wide range of knowledge and experience. Members free, Guests £10.00

#### 23-28 Mar – Pop Up Cafe

A taster of great things to come. Join us each day from **9am-1pm** for homemade cakes, pastries and locally roasted 'Dorset Roast' coffee from Eco Coffee (based just outside Ringwood).

#### 28 March – Spring Book Sale

Greyfriars' famous Spring Book Sale & Craft Fayre returns from **9am** - this year promises to be our most exciting yet! Join us for a fantastic day filled with incredible bargains, delicious homemade treats, thousands of books, puzzles and unique craft stalls to explore

#### From 10 April – New Study Group – Roman World

Returning with a brand new course with the ever-popular Nick Griffiths, including exploring archaeology and monuments. Nick delves into the day-to-day lives of ordinary citizens across the Roman world, Full course £70 available via TicketSource or Greyfriars.

## HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

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



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# Care South

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Proud to be part of Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care, as well as care at home services across the south of England. Registered Charity No. 1014697.  
\* Correct at time of print.

# GREYFRIARS TREASURE HUNT

Calling all treasure hunters! On Sunday 12th April Greyfriars Community Centre is organising a walking Treasure Hunt around the town, suitable for all ages.

Come along to Greyfriars at 2pm and collect a set of clues set by volunteer Mary Baldwin. The route is a gentle walk from Greyfriars along Christchurch Road to the Market Place, then back along the High Street. Return to Greyfriars for a well-earned cream tea, when you will discover how good your sleuthing skills are as the answers are revealed!

Tickets are available from Greyfriars or via Ticketsource priced at £8 for adults and £4 for children including the cream tea. Bring family and friends and enjoy a cheerful spring outing filled with curiosity, community and a delicious treat at the end.



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**Walking Treasure Hunt**

Followed by a cream tea



**Sunday 12 April**  
**2pm start at Greyfriars**

Follow the clues and answer the questions on a stroll around Ringwood.  
Suitable for all ages.



Tickets from Greyfriars  
Adults £8 Children £4  
including cream tea



# Care South named top care home group for sixth consecutive year



The team at residential and care at home provider, Care South, are celebrating after being rated as a top care home provider for the sixth consecutive year.

Care South, a not-for-profit provider of residential care homes and care at home, has been named one of the UK's Top 20 Care Home Groups in the Mid-Size Large Group category at the Care Home Awards 2026.

It is the sixth year in a row that the award has been presented to Care South, to champion the high-quality care provided across its 14 care homes in Dorset, North Devon and Somerset. Care South also offers care at home services in Dorset and Somerset. Recognition is based on reviews from residents, relatives and loved ones on carehome.co.uk, where Care South achieves an average group rating of 9.8/10, with many of the individual homes rating even higher. All of Care South's care homes are also rated 'Good' by CQC, the independent regulator of health and social care in England.

Reviews for Care South's homes on carehome.co.uk include: 'My father is very happy at the home. The care is amazing. The staff are attentive, friendly, and respectful. It is a truly happy community and environment. His room is comfortable and warm, with a lovely large window overlooking the garden, which lets in lots of natural light. This makes a big difference to his happiness, as his personal space is cosy, homely and a joy to spend time in, as are the communal rooms, dining room and conservatory. The food is also of

high quality and is plentiful."

Another review for Care South reads: "I am so very impressed with the staff who are kind, caring, friendly and always genuine. They work very hard while managing to make everyone feel special. They are also kind and caring towards visitors. The kindness I have received has been exemplary. The home is absolutely spotless and everything is very tidy. I can't speak highly enough of the home." Simon Bird, CEO of Care South, said: "We are thrilled to be named as a Top 20 Care Home Group for the sixth consecutive year. This is a very proud collective achievement for all our care home teams who go above and beyond to ensure our homes are warm, welcoming places where residents feel cared for, respected and supported as individuals. We work closely with residents, their families and friends to listen and act on any feedback to ensure that we are always doing what is best for their loved ones. That's why this accolade and recognition is so special – it's from them. Food, Fun and Friendship, as well as outstanding care, let residents continue to live life to the full in our happy homes."

For more information about the care services available, go to [care-south.co.uk](http://care-south.co.uk) or call Care South on 01202 712410.



## HISTORY & NEWS

### What Does The Ringwood Society Do? (And Why You Should Care)



Ringwood was once summed up by *The Guardian* as the “epitome of pleasant”, not a bad summary from a national newspaper. There are lots of reasons why this is the case, but did you know there is an organisation which promotes, protects and progresses the unique character of our market town? Enter The Ringwood Society!

“We’re currently working on the history of The Ringwood Society, so have recently rediscovered some of the story of its foundation” said Society Chair, and award-winning local architect, Alex Bancroft. “A town meeting was held in December 1961 about the idea of an amenity society to influence the town’s future development, and three quarters of those present applied for membership, even though The Society had still yet to be established! By January 1962, things had been brought together, and The Society was officially formed.”

Over the last sixty-four years, The Ringwood Society has worked tirelessly to protect the important essence of the town through

commenting on planning consultations, becoming an authoritative and valued contributor to the planning process, whilst at the same time not only being about preservation. Towns develop and The Society has sought to promote this ever changing place with projects such as the Millennium Clock, Friday’s Cross Signage and the Memories of Ringwood Railway site on Castleman Way, a yearly calendar of talks, exhibitions, building tours and their annual Design and Conservation Awards. Without their efforts, it is highly likely that major change and development would have cut through the town, unchecked.

Unlike other civic societies, Ringwood is growing their membership, showing the continuing relevance of their work. Never ones to rest on their laurels, they do say that “the more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved!” An active membership and a vibrant and dynamic committee are the only way organisations like these can thrive, and newcomers are always warmly welcomed.

As membership is only £10 a year per person, and students receive free membership, this and a small contribution of time, if able, seems a small price to pay for ensuring we remain a rather ‘pleasant’ place indeed to live. Further details can be found on their website [www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk)



# The Ringwood Society

**FORDINGBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY**

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**Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance**  
SHINING IN APRIL IN HONOUR OF

| DATE OF DEATH | NAME                    | RANK                       | REGIMENT OR SHIP                                    |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 03/04/1918    | Edward Tregonwell Johns | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn, Dorchester                      |
| 05/04/1942    | Norman Gardner Pring    | Lt. Commander              | RNVR                                                |
| 06/04/1918    | Archibald Wiseman       | Corporal                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Seaforth Highlanders             |
| 06/04/1945    | George Scott            | Lance Serjeant             | 52 <sup>nd</sup> Rg, RAC                            |
| 09/04/1917    | Percy Philip Cobb       | Private                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn, Hampshire                       |
| 09/04/1943    | Donald Cox              | Private                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Bn, Hamps          |
| 14/04/1918    | Roland Pay              | Private                    | 15 <sup>th</sup> Bn, Royal Warwick                  |
| 17/04/1943    | Raymond White           | Sergeant                   | 49 Sqn, RAFVR                                       |
| 19/04/1917    | Arthur Victor James     | Serjeant                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Bn, Hampshire      |
| 21/04/1918    | Alec Fred Park          | Private                    | 6th Machine Gun Corps                               |
| 21/04/1943    | Wilfred Charles Marsh   | Sergeant                   | 102 Sqn, RNVR                                       |
| 22/04/1918    | Ernest Tom Fry          | Private                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn, Hampshire                       |
| 24/04/1919    | Wilfred Maywell         | Serjeant                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Bn, Hampshire      |
| 25/04/1918    | Charles Brown           | Captain                    | 242 <sup>nd</sup> Seige Battery                     |
| 25/04/1943    | Walter James Luckham    | Private                    | Pioneer Corps                                       |
| 26/04/1918    | Sidney Arthur Stride    | Gunner                     | 132 <sup>nd</sup> Heavy Battery                     |
| 29/04/1917    | Albert Edward Warren    | Private                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn, Royal Berkshire                 |
| 29/04/1918    | Phillip Bollom          | Private                    | 19 <sup>th</sup> Bn, The Kings (Liverpool Regiment) |

**Lest We Forget**

## HISTORY & NEWS

# Murder, mayhem, pillage and plunder!



Mayors murdered and rioters rampaging: bloodshed, fights and French raids. Add in a dash of Treason and life for the officers responsible for Southampton's law and order was tricky to say the least.

Dr Cheryl Butler, historian and Hon Fellow University of Southampton is coming to Fordingbridge History Society (FHS) to talk about which instruments of justice were brought into play to deal with the miscreants. There was a wide choice including the pillory, stocks, ducking stool and gibbet.

Do join us on Monday 13 April, from 7.30pm (please note this is an evening meeting) in Avonway Community Centre, Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1JF to find out more.

Cheryl's talk is free to FHS members. Visitors are most welcome to be part of the evening for a small fee (£5 per person). After the talk there will be complimentary refreshments and the opportunity to have further discussions with both Cheryl and other members and guests. The FHS Committee will also share ideas for the Summer visits programme.

There is a large public car park just a few minutes from Avonway and a drop off facility in front of the building.

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

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**NEWS**



**Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery**

have a vacancy for an

**Honorary Secretary**

and also for two

**Trustees**

**The positions will be vacant from the Annual General Meeting on 15th April 2026**

Further information can be obtained from:  
 Judy Poore – fofs.ppg@gmail.com  
 or Jane Marlow – fofs2jm@gmail.com

Raising funds to purchase equipment to benefit the patients of Fordingbridge Surgery

FOFS Patron  
 Mr Ian Newman

fofs.ppg@gmail.com

Registered Charity  
 Number 1094882

**Joy and Graham Ledbrook - 70th Wedding Anniversary**

They met in Michael Gwynn's Dance Studio in Bournemouth Square. Graham was at this time in The Royal Navy based in Devonport but was home on leave visiting his parents and sisters in Christchurch. Joy was from Boscombe and worked in the ice cream department in Woolworths in Bournemouth.

They married on 2nd April 1956 at St Mary's Church Boscombe when Graham was 22 and Joy just turned 21.

They had 2 children and the family has grown to include 7 Grand Children ( plus their husbands, wives and partners ) and 1 Great Grandson.

Graham's Career after he left the Royal Navy was in Computer Programming and support and he was the first to design a spreadsheet programme for computers dating back to the late 1950's and continues to help people update laptops and advise on computer related problems.

They have always enjoyed travelling the world and even lived in Cape Town, South Africa for nearly 3 years. Whilst living there, their interests and hobbies were collecting rocks and mineral specimens which expanded to collecting fossils on their return to UK. They have lived in many different parts of the UK but returned to live closer to their siblings, finally settling in St Leonards in 1994.

They will be celebrating their special day at The Old Beams, Ibsley with all their family.



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## Ringwood to Celebrate 800 Years of Its Historic Market



This year marks an extraordinary milestone for Ringwood as the town celebrates 800 years since it was granted the right to hold a weekly market, a tradition that has shaped the community for eight centuries.

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

To celebrate this historic anniversary, a special community celebration will take place on Sunday 12 July in Ringwood Market Place.

The day will begin with a church service in the Market Place from 10.30am to 11.30am, followed by the official event hosted by Ringwood Town Council from 11.30am onwards. Celebrations will continue throughout the afternoon and evening until 7.30pm, followed by a funfair on Bickerley Green. The event promises a full day of family friendly entertainment and traditional festivities.

Visitors will be able to enjoy spectacular performances and a variety of live stage entertainment throughout the day. Additional attractions will include Morris dancers, traditional village games organised by local Guides and Brownies groups, interactive market stalls, and a selection of hot and cold food alongside arts and crafts. A bar will be provided by Ringwood Carnival, while visitors can also enjoy an animal petting experience hosted by Riverside Lakes.

Ringwood Town Council recognises the importance of celebrating the town's rich heritage and has worked closely with local community groups, stall holders and businesses to ensure the event reflects the spirit and history of this significant occasion. Local clubs, organisations and community groups are encouraged to mark the anniversary in their own way. The Town Council will be pleased to help promote related activities through its social media channels, and a commemorative logo is available for organisations wishing to support and celebrate the anniversary.

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

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## PROPERTY - AROUND THE BLOCK

### How to Sell a Home That Won't Sell

If your home has been on the market for a while and hasn't sold, what can you do to get it sold? Here are our thoughts.

#### Give it a refresh

Be objective. Take a long, hard look at your home. A lack of kerb appeal, clutter, broken stuff and dated décor are the main things that put buyers off, in our experience. Potential buyers (and sometimes agents too) are often too polite to say so.

Ask a friend you can trust to be honest (you know, the one who isn't scared to say you've put on weight) for their help.

#### Cut the price

But whoa, not so fast. It's not a silver bullet. It could make your home look like a lemon. It will be hard to raise it again later.

If you think price is the problem, talk to your agent. They should be able to tell you about the current market in your area. They'll know (or should) about what similar homes have sold for recently. They'll help you develop a plan.

#### Sack your estate agent

We're sticking our fingers in our ears now, singing la-la-la and pretending we didn't say that.

But it's true that some agents put more passion into selling a property than others.

Again, it's not that simple, though. Different agents do better with some types of property than others. They attract different types of buyers. They have different marketing strategies.

So changing your agent and having a bit of a relaunch could help.

This is another example of when you absolutely must talk to your agent first. Explain your concerns. See what they have to say. Check the contract you have with them, too. In case it has a long lock-in period. (Ours don't, by the way.)

#### Have a strategy

In our experience, a well-presented, properly priced and marketed property will find a buyer.

So choosing the right estate agent in the first place can save you from the headache of all headaches further down the line.

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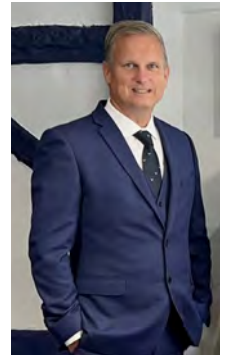
We'll give you our very best advice on prices and suggest a pricing strategy.

We'll put our heart and our soul into finding you a buyer. (Hopefully, one who's red hot and raring to go.)

We don't have long lock-in periods.

In the unlikely event things don't go to plan, you can always bid us a fond (or not so fond) farewell. It's your home, and it's entirely up to you how it's sold.

If you've yet to put your home on the market and would like a free market appraisal and valuation, please feel free to give BrightWater a call on 01425 478719



Darren Loose  
BrightWater

The image shows a formal award certificate with a decorative border. At the top center is the BrightWater logo, which includes a stylized house icon and the text 'BRIGHTWATER Residential & Commercial Property Agent'. Below this, the text reads 'BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS 2025-2026 GOLD WINNER FOR LETTING AGENT IN RINGWOOD'. On the right side, there is a vertical banner featuring the Union Jack flag, the text 'BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS', the years '2025 - 2026', five stars, and a gold bar with the words 'GOLD WINNER' and 'LETTING AGENT IN RINGWOOD'. At the bottom, there are two signatures: 'STEPHANIE HUGHES HEAD JUDGE BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS' and 'ROBERT McLEAN DIRECTOR BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS'. A gold circular seal with 'BPA' and '2025-2026' is also present.

## INTRODUCING WINNER FOR RINGWOOD

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BrightWater have just won The British Property Lettings Award for Ringwood.

Their team performed outstandingly throughout the extensive judging period, which focused on customer service levels.

BrightWater have now been shortlisted for a number of national awards which will be announced shortly.

The British Property Awards provide agents throughout the UK with an invaluable opportunity to compare the service that they provide against the service provided by their local, regional and national competition.

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BRITISH  
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AWARDS

2025 - 2026



**GOLD WINNER**

LETTING AGENT  
IN RINGWOOD

## Ringwood Mayor opens outdoor amphibian photo gallery

Councillor Rae Frederick, Mayor of Ringwood Town Council, was chief guest of honour at the official opening on Valentine's Day of "Amphibians are friends" - a unique large scale outdoor photo gallery at Moors Valley Country Park and Forest.

The event was also broadcast simultaneously on Philip Webster's Hiker & Co Saturday morning show on Forest FM.

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

The gallery is the brainchild of Louis Pulford, a keen local wildlife photographer, creative professional and regular volunteer with Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol.

The launch event took place on Valentine's Day, Saturday 14th February. Volunteers from Ringwood and Poulner Toad Patrol teamed up with rangers from Moors Valley to host the event, which was also attended by Cllr Tracy Monkcom, Chairman of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council, as well as other local wildlife and conservation organisations.

Opening the gallery, Cllr Rae Frederick said "Caring for our local environment is one of the most important things we can do as a community. I would especially like to recognise and thank our incredible volunteer toad patrollers. Toads may be small, but they play a big role in our ecosystem, and their annual journeys are a



remarkable reminder of how closely connected we are to nature. And a special thank you to Louis Pulford for developing and bringing this fantastic display Amphibians are Friends together."

Cllr Frederick pulled the official ribbon in two with the help of two giant toads.

The gallery will be on display for six months until July at a purpose-designed setting close to the popular Play Trail at Moors Valley.

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.

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

For more information email [rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com](mailto:rptoadpatrol1@gmail.com)



### Prime Location Retail Unit Available Now!!

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We currently have some development land available locally and are keen to find more opportunities in the area. If you own land that you think might have development potential, or you're considering selling, we'd be very happy to have a chat.



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## R&F Lions Bookstall in Ringwood on Easter Saturday collecting for New Forest For Ukraine



On Saturday 4th April Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club will be holding their monthly bookstall in Ringwood Town Centre on Meeting House Lane. All the monies collected that day will be donated to New Forest For Ukraine. The Lions Club will also be accepting any donations of food, clothing, blankets, duvets, pillows, sleeping bags, and toiletries at their Bookstall that day.

Members of Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club will be travelling down to the New Forest For Ukraine (NFFU) Warehouse in Lymington to help package boxes of aid destined for war torn Ukraine and would welcome any donations you want to drop off at the bookstall to take with them. Pictured above is the club helping to package boxes at their warehouse last year.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club President Alastair Ward explained "We cant believe the war has been continuing now for 4 years. We are humbled at the amazing work of NFFU in maintaining a steady stream of humanitarian aid to those struggling in and around Ukraine. We are honoured to help them where we can".

NFFU accept a wide variety of donations which will be shipped out to aid centres and hospitals in Ukraine and Poland for families in need. There are collection points assembled all over the New Forest for anyone who would like to donate items needed for aid centres and hospitals in Ukraine. Anyone wishing to know more about either organisation or how they can help or volunteer can find out more at their respective websites: <http://www.newforest-forukraine.org/> & [www.randflions.org.uk](http://www.randflions.org.uk).



## Souper Saturday

Join us on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
11.am to 1pm at Ringwood Library



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**NEWS**

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## New Forest Business Partnership celebrates with 150 women for International Women’s Day

The New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP) marked International Women’s Day 2026 with a highly successful event at Balmer Lawn Hotel, bringing together 140 female business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals - and a few men - from across the region to explore this year’s theme: Give to Gain.

Held on the 6th of March, the event encouraged attendees to imagine a gender-equal world free from bias, stereotypes and offered guests an opportunity to learn, reflect and connect with one another.

NFBP welcomed Hony Premlal, a widely respected authority in the social housing sector, as keynote speaker for the event. Hony’s professional journey spans organisations of all sizes, where she has held diverse leadership and board positions. A passionate advocate for women’s empowerment, Hony volunteers as a mentor with both the Housing Diversity Network and Women in Social Housing (WISH). Her achievements were recognised with the Woman of the Year Award at the 2025 Women in Housing Awards, and she was also shortlisted in the 2025 Inspiring Women in Property Awards and The WOW Awards.

Following networking and a buffet lunch, the event featured a charity raffle, raising £1,100 for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance in support of their Operation Airbase appeal, which

helps reduce response times across the New Forest.

Matthew Lawson, Chair of NFBP, said: “International Women’s Day is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people come together with purpose. The ‘Give to Gain’ theme highlights how generosity, collaboration and support create real progress - not only for individual women, but for the wider business community. This year’s event brought that spirit to life, and we are proud to celebrate the women who are shaping the future of our local economy.”




## Bigger buns and big heart in Calendar Girls – The Musical


RMDS is bringing *Calendar Girls – The Musical* to Ringwood. Ringwood Musical and Dramatic Society is bringing warmth, wit and a few larger-than-life buns to The Barn this April with its production of *Calendar Girls – The Musical*. Performing from 8–11 April at The Barn, Ringwood School, the much-loved musical tells the true story of a group of ordinary women who set out to raise money for charity in a rather unexpected way. What begins as a simple fundraising idea soon grows into something far bigger – and yes, that includes the buns. Audiences can expect plenty of laughs (and not just at the baking references), alongside moments of real tenderness. At its heart, *Calendar Girls – The Musical* is about friendship, resilience and the strength found in community. The show combines sharp humour with an uplifting original score that brings both energy and emotional depth to this remarkable story. RMDS's production features a talented local cast who have been busy in rehearsal bringing the WI members of the story to life. From lively ensemble numbers to quieter, reflective moments, the musical captures the spirit of women who refuse to fade politely into the background. While the show may be known for its cheeky premise, it is ultimately a celebration of courage, compassion and standing together when it matters most. Expect laughter, a few tears, and songs that will stay with you long after the curtain call. *Calendar Girls – The Musical* runs from 8–11 April at The Barn, Ringwood School. Tickets are available now at [ticketsource.co.uk/rmnds](https://ticketsource.co.uk/rmnds).





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**BEREAVEMENTS****Munro****Ian John**

Ian passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Bickerley Green Nursing Home on 17th February aged 77 years. Now re-united with his parents Roy and Muriel, he will be very sadly missed by his brothers Geoff and Stuart, his sister Jill, and all his family, friends and those who knew him.

The funeral service has taken place, but any enquiries may be made to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood, BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080

**Hughes****Doris Irene**

Doris passed away peacefully at home on 13th February aged 98 years. She will be sadly missed by her niece Rosemary and friend Ann, and all her friends. The funeral service has taken place, but if you would like to make a donation in memory of Doris, these may be made to 'Friends of Greyfriars' and sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood, Hants, Bh24 3BA Tel-01425 837080

**Byron****Lorna May**

Lorna passed away at home on 23rd February, after losing her long battle with Alzheimer's. She will be very sadly missed by her husband Stephen, son Robin, and all her family and friends. There will be a private family funeral service, but donations, if desired, in memory of Lorna may be made to the 'Coda Music and Arts Trust' online via the charity's website at 'coda.org.uk', or sent to Eden Funeral Directors, Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 3BA Tel 01425 837080.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The family of the late Tony Parker would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral service and for the many kind messages and cards received. With so many people present it was not possible to speak to everyone personally, but your support and kindness are deeply appreciated. If you would like to make a donation in memory of Tony, these may be made to 'Macmillan Caring Locally' and made online at <https://anthony-cyril-parker.muchloved.com/>, or sent to

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# Puzzle Corner

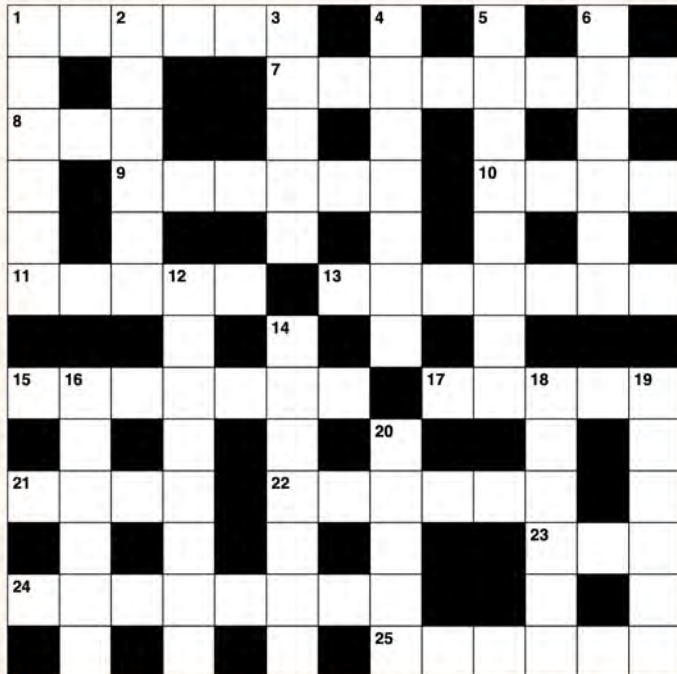
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## Crossword



### Across

- 1 - Church instruments (6)
- 7 - Hot and humid (8)
- 8 - Rodent (3)
- 9 - Catch or snare (6)
- 10 - Not hard (4)
- 11 - Reject with disdain (5)
- 13 - Having sharp features (7)
- 15 - Writes untidily (7)
- 17 - Chooses (5)
- 21 - Caribbean country (4)
- 22 - Archimedes' famous cry (6)
- 23 - Domestic animal (3)
- 24 - Protects from the elements (8)
- 25 - Well-being (6)

### Down

- 1 - Female monster (6)
- 2 - Rich cake (6)
- 3 - Set out (5)
- 4 - Jumping on one leg (7)
- 5 - Midwestern US state (4)
- 6 - Type of palm tree (6)
- 12 - Legible (8)
- 14 - Changed (7)
- 16 - Expels air abruptly (6)
- 18 - Place of worship (6)
- 19 - Steal; seize suddenly (6)
- 20 - Recently made (5)

### Answers for last the last issue:



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

## Sudoku

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

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## ASHLEY HEATH PRICE GUIDE £1,100,000

A superb detached four/ five bedroom bungalow & various outbuildings, within a prestigious residential crescent, the property offers many internal and external design features, completely secluded sylvan gardens totalling 0.74 of an acre. EPC band D



### ST IVES - PRICE GUIDE £320,000

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### RINGWOOD - £279,950

End of terrace 2 bedroom bungalow, requiring updating, set on a corner plot, garage, popular development, porch, living room, kitchen, shower room/w.c., gardens, no chain Epc band G



### RINGWOOD PRICE GUIDE £400,000

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### RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £450,000

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### RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £750,000

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