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Issue 915 • May 20th to June 19th • 2026

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Strong Community Turnout for Annual Town Assembly

More than 100 residents attended Ringwood's Annual Town Assembly on Wednesday 13 May, joining councillors and community organisations at Ringwood Gateway for an evening of local discussion, celebration and community engagement.



Representatives from local organisations and community groups attended the event, showcasing their work and speaking with residents throughout the evening.

The Assembly gave local people the opportunity to hear about current Town Council projects, raise local issues and celebrate the wide range of community activity taking place across the town.



A special talk was also delivered on the 800th anniversary celebrations, reflecting on Ringwood's history and heritage and helping to mark this significant milestone for the town.



See inside for the Community Award winners

continues on page 30

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Supporting Local News: Why Community Groups and Businesses Matter More Than Ever

The R&F News plays an important role in keeping communities connected. Across Ringwood, Fordingbridge and surrounding villages there are many clubs, groups and organisations doing valuable work every week. Yet many of these stories are often unseen by local residents.

For the paper to continue thriving, we rely on strong support from both community groups and local businesses through advertising.

Community organisations such as sports clubs, schools, churches, youth groups, and societies all have stories worth sharing. Match reports, fundraising events, volunteer appeals, awards, and upcoming activities help create a true picture of local life. Readers enjoy hearing positive local news and discovering ways to get involved in the community.

By regularly submitting articles and photographs, local groups can help ensure the newspaper remains relevant, informative, and representative of the area it serves.

Local business advertising is equally important. Independent shops,

tradespeople, restaurants, estate agents, health services, and local attractions all benefit from reaching people who live and shop locally. Advertising in a trusted local newspaper allows businesses to connect directly with potential customers within the community.

Advertising with us is no longer limited to print alone. We also offer greater online visibility through our Facebook page which has around 10,000 followers providing businesses with even wider exposure and better value.

We need your help to keep reaching people and businesses within the community. By submitting local news stories and supporting advertising opportunities in both print and online, residents, clubs, and businesses can all play a part in helping truly local news continue to thrive for future generations.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Darren or Nicola

Darren & Naomi

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NEWS

Support Youth Riders: Local Charity Calls for Community Backing Through Co-op and Tesco Initiatives

A local charity dedicated to empowering and supporting young people who use the Skate Parks in Ringwood and Verwood is calling on the community for support this year as it takes part in two major funding initiatives.

Youth Riders, a charity committed to providing opportunities for young people to develop confidence, life skills, and wellbeing, has been selected as a Co-op Community Cause for 2026. This means Co-op members can choose to support Youth Riders, helping to fund essential programs and events that make a meaningful difference in young lives.

In addition, Youth Riders is currently participating in the Tesco Stronger Starts Blue Token scheme. Shoppers can vote for the charity in-store by placing their blue tokens into the Youth Riders slot, helping secure funding for projects that expand access to scooting and more learning experiences. You can vote for Youth

Riders at the following Tesco stores:

- Ferndown Superstore, West Moors Express, Poulner Express, Verwood Express and Glenmoor Road Bournemouth Express

“These initiatives are an incredible opportunity for us,” said a Charly Keith from Youth Riders. “Every vote and every Co-op member selection directly supports young people in our community, particularly those who may not otherwise have access to these experiences.”

Youth Riders works with children and young people from diverse backgrounds,

including those facing social, emotional, or economic challenges. Through structured sessions and competitions, participants build resilience, responsibility, and self-esteem.

How You Can Help:

- If you are a Co-op member, select Youth Riders as your chosen Community Cause (Cause id 94848).
- When shopping at Tesco, use your blue tokens to vote for Youth Riders.
- Spread the word to friends, family, and colleagues.

Community support is crucial in ensuring the continuation and growth of these impactful programs. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps Youth Riders create lasting change.

For more information about Youth Riders and how to get involved, please contact Charly.Keith@Youth-riders.org.uk



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Ringwood School staff to take on National Three Peaks Challenge in memory of former student Matt Dunning

Staff from Ringwood School are set to undertake the demanding National Three Peaks Challenge on Friday 5th June in a heartfelt tribute to former student Matt Dunning, while raising vital funds and awareness for the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

The team will attempt to climb the highest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales; Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon, within 24 hours. This significant physical challenge reflects both their determination and their commitment to honouring Matt's memory in a meaningful way.

Matt passed away suddenly in September 2025, aged just 20 from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS). He was a much-loved member of the Ringwood School community and is remembered for his warmth, character, and the positive impact he had on those around him. His untimely passing has inspired ongoing efforts by his family and community to prevent similar tragedies through increased awareness and cardiac screening for young people.

Funds raised from the challenge will go towards supporting CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), a charity dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac deaths in young people through awareness, research, and screening programmes. In particular, the initiative aims to contribute directly to a local cardiac screening event for young adults in Ringwood - an event that Matt's family have been tirelessly fundraising to make possible.

Leanne Symonds Headteacher of Ringwood School says "We are incredibly proud of our staff for taking on this challenge in Matt's memory. This is not only about raising funds but also about raising awareness of the importance of cardiac screening for young people.



"We hope the community will support us in helping to make a real difference."

The school community is encouraging local residents, families, and supporters to get behind the effort whether through donations or sharing the message. To donate or sponsor the team, please visit www.c-r-y.org.uk/matthew-dunning

Every contribution will help support lifesaving cardiac screening and raise awareness of CRY's vital work.



NEWS

Trinity United prepares to launch an appeal to secure future of historic church and community space

Trinity United Church in Ringwood is preparing to launch a fundraising campaign to help preserve its iconic spires and secure the future of its historic building.

The Grade II listed church and community centre is a distinctive feature of the town's skyline. Built in 1866 in the Victorian Gothic Revival style, it reflects a tradition of church architecture designed to lift the eye and the spirit, with pinnacles, spirelets and pointed lancet windows forming a striking vertical presence in the heart of Ringwood. The building is widely attributed to the Gothic Revival architect Thomas Hellyer.

While the newer part of the building serves as a flexible and well-used community space - with accessible meeting rooms, a large hall and kitchen facilities - the fabric of the main church building is in need of significant repairs. But it's the historic spires which have unexpectedly become the immediate concern, with urgent and costly work required to ensure their safety and preservation as a town landmark.

Church leaders say the aim is not only to preserve an important historic landmark, but also to sustain a living space at the heart of community life. "Whilst we do not believe God is confined to buildings, we do believe our church has an important place in the town - both architecturally and as part of the historic legacy of the non-conformist church. Trinity United is not just a building; it has a valued role in offering belonging, hospitality, and service to all in Ringwood."

The appeal also comes as Ringwood prepares to mark the 800th anniversary of its market charter, a milestone in the town's long history of gathering, trade and community life. Church members hope the campaign will resonate with that wider sense of shared heritage and continuity.

If you would like to become involved in the campaign or contribute financially or practically, Revd. Sue Baker-Maher would be happy to hear from you. She can be contacted at sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk.



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NEWS

Understanding Investments - How Best to Draw Income from Pensions at Retirement?

Retirement can be both exciting and scary and is certainly a huge decision. Understanding the effect of inflation on your future expenditure throughout retirement (at an average 3% inflation your expenditure will double over 24 years) along with other significant capital requirements needs more than a “finger in the air” analysis. At Lonsdale Wealth Management, we utilize cash-flow planning tools to help clients understand whether retirement is affordable and just as importantly, sustainable. Once affordability has been identified, decisions on the most effective way to generate retirement income can be made. There are more choices than you might think!

Retirement Income is divided into secure income and flexible income. Secure income would include Defined Benefit Pension Schemes, the State Pension and Pension Annuities. Flexible income includes Pension Drawdown and income from capital and investments, with rental income classed between the two, as it is secure but can be subject to void periods.

You can currently access your defined contribution pension savings any time after age 55 although the minimum age is increasing to 57 in 2028 and will remain 10 years below state pension age thereafter. You have five broad choices and for each option, 25% of your pension savings can be paid tax-free:

1. Secure Income-Annuity

Exchange your pension savings for an annuity provided by an insurance company which is then guaranteed for the rest of your life (with options including a dependent’s annuity). Annuity income is subject to income tax. Annuity rates are linked to life expectancy and interest rates so are now much more attractive than they were for the 14 years of ultra-low interest rates post 2008.

2. Secure Income-Temporary Annuity

Little known but can be very attractive for those who want to retire early. Can provide a higher guaranteed income for a specific number of years (perhaps until other pensions such as the State Pension commence) to allow the balance of pension funds to

remain invested. Annuity income is subject to income tax.

3. Flexi-Access Drawdown

Take the income you need when you need it. The money remains invested, and you draw a variable level of income for as long as your money lasts. Withdrawals are subject to income tax. “Sequence Risk” is the greatest risk to drawdown and something to be wary of and minimise.

4. Cash Payment

Have all your savings paid as a cash lump sum, with 75% of the fund subject to income tax.

5. Leave it for now

There is no requirement to draw your savings from your pension and the fund can be passed down to a nominated beneficiary (and through different generations). Currently this is often exempt from Inheritance Tax but that is changing in April 2027. The 25% tax free lump sum is lost if not taken during lifetime, but your funds can be paid tax-free on death before 75 (taxable on death after 75).

As you can see, there are significant choices available and pension savings are another tax advantageous wrapper to consider alongside other tax efficient products including ISAs. The upcoming changes to the IHT treatment of pensions is changing plans and behavior.

Stewart, Howard 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.

Harry 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 planning or tax advice.

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Loose Legal Welcomes Experienced Family Solicitor Peter West

Leading Family Law firm Loose Legal is delighted to announce that highly regarded Family Solicitor Peter West has joined the practice, further strengthening the firm's commitment to delivering expert, client-focused legal services across all aspects of Family Law

With extensive experience advising clients on divorce, financial remedy matters, children disputes, cohabitation issues and relationship breakdowns, Peter brings a wealth of knowledge and a pragmatic, compassionate approach to resolving complex family matters.

Peter's appointment marks an exciting period of growth for Loose Legal, which continues to expand its reputation for providing accessible, modern and solution-driven legal support to individuals and families nationwide. Speaking about his appointment, Peter said:

'I am very pleased to be joining Loose Legal at such an exciting time for the firm. The team's client centered ethos and forward thinking approach to family law align strongly with my own values. I look forward to supporting clients through what are often some of the most challenging periods of their lives.'

Naomi Loose, founder of Loose Legal, welcomed Peter to the firm, commenting:

'We are thrilled to welcome Peter to Loose Legal. His experience, professionalism and dedication to achieving positive outcomes for clients make him an outstanding addition to our growing team. Peter's appointment reflects our continued investment in

delivering exceptional family law services across the country.'

Peter is able to accept instructions from clients nationwide, although his focus will be on promoting the firm's growth across the New Forest, Hampshire and Dorset.

Loose Legal has become known for its modern and approachable style of legal practice, offering clients clear advice, strategic guidance, and tailored support throughout every stage of their case.

Peter's arrival further enhances the firm's expertise and reinforces Loose Legal's position as a trusted name in family law.

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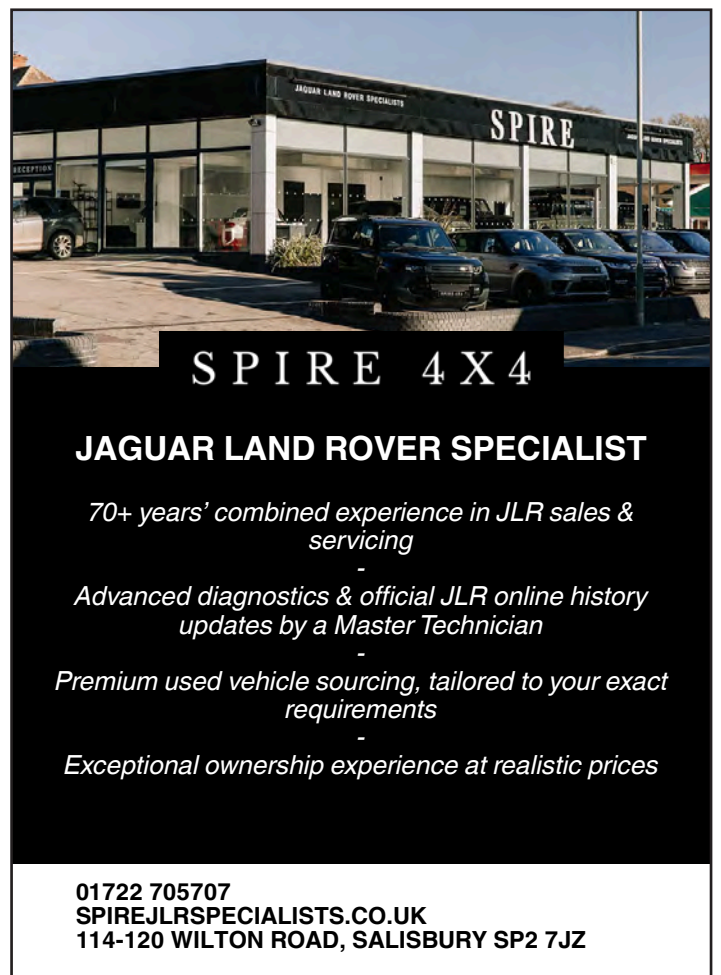



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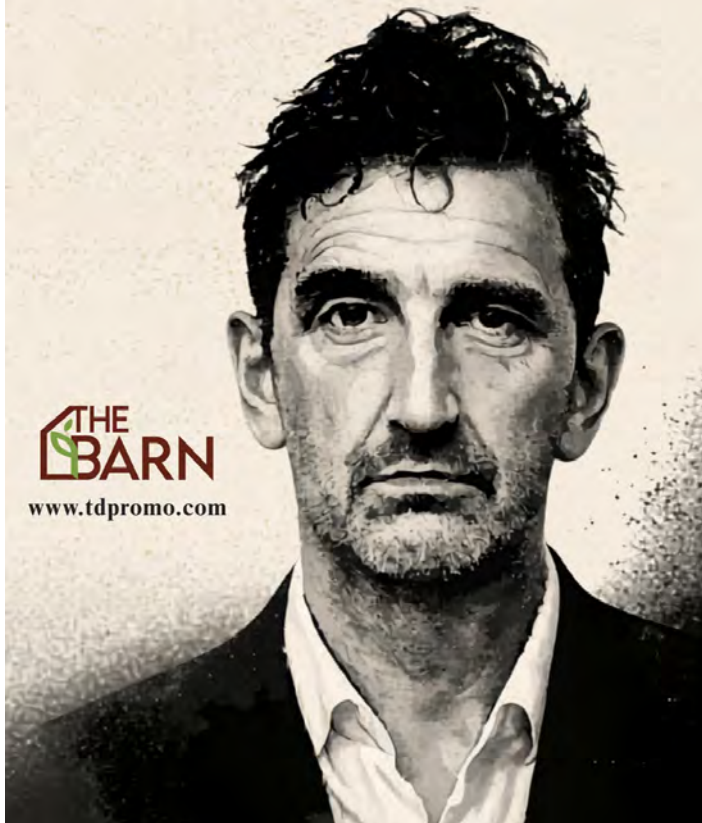
STORIES AND SONGS

5TH OCTOBER 2026

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What's on at Greyfriars!

27 May – Ringwood Antiques Club

Join archivist, Emily Naish, who will be telling us about the historical documents and other treasures held by the cathedral, including the Te Deum alter frontal. Doors open from 7pm for 7.30, FREE to members, £10 for guests.

28 May – Dance Energy

Come along and try a FREE taster session from 1-2pm at our new dance class for adults. Designed to build your confidence at a comfortable and steady pace; perfect for those looking for an introduction to dance. Contact Jazz on 07903 689824 or Karen Jane on 07949 179282.

29 May – Sound Bath & Relaxation Sessions

Led by Jayne Evans, take time to rest, reset and restore with a relaxing sound healing experience. First session is FREE, then £10 at 10am on Thursday mornings. Secure your place by emailing jayneevans111@icloud.com.

From 3 June – Beginners Photo Course

Four sessions to teach you the skills to master your camera to take amazing shots! Only £40, full details at 222.ringwoodcameraclub.co.uk.

4 June – Greyfriars Quiz

Bring your friends (max 6), and your brains and take part in the Greyfriars Quiz Night. £7 pp, light snacks and bar starting at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets from Greyfriars or TicketSource.

6 June – Ringpex

Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair at Greyfriars 10am-4pm.



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The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of The Parishes Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge and St Leonard's and St Ives warmly invite you to the Licensing of Revd Kay Pead as Associate Priest by The Rt. Revd Rhiannon King, Bishop of Southampton at The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Market Place, Ringwood, on **Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7.30pm**. Refreshments will be available after the service.

We hope to see you there.

WHATS ON

'Gardening the Globe'

Will Reid

How the Commonwealth War Graves Commission tends their gardens in 150 countries

Thursday 28th May 2026 at 7.30pm Ibsley Village Hall BH24 3NL

Free to members £3 to visitors

MUSIC at the MEETING HOUSE

Live here Friday 15th May 2026

Sara Harris & Band

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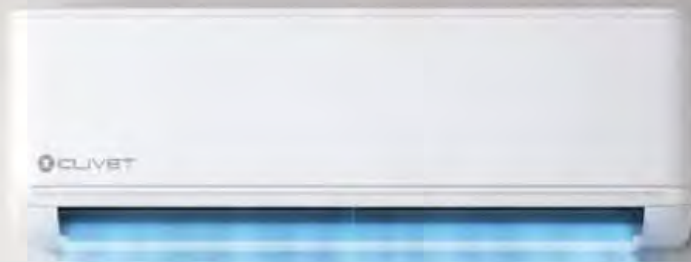
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REVIEWS



PROPERTY - AROUND THE BLOCK

Thinking of Selling, take Emma's ELEVATE approach...

I met with the team at Salt House Design, a local interior design and staging company, and we ended up talking about something that comes up again and again in property the importance of presentation when selling a home.

It reinforced something we see at BrightWater Signature Homes that in today's market, buyers don't just purchase a property they buy a feeling.

Before layouts, measurements, or even location details sink in, they're asking one question: Can I see myself living here?

To help you we have come up with an easy to remember handy guide, That's exactly where our **ELEVATE** approach comes in. So what does it stand for?

E – Evaluate: Take a Critical Look. Start by stepping back and viewing your home as a buyer would. What stands out and not always in a good way? Are there tired walls, worn carpets, or areas that feel cluttered or dark? Small issues can distract buyers and plant seeds of doubt. This stage is about honest assessment identifying what needs attention before it becomes a negotiation point later.

L – Lighten: Declutter and Simplify
Less truly is more.
Decluttering doesn't just make your home look bigger it allows buyers to imagine their own lives in the space. Clear surfaces, streamline storage, and remove excess furniture where possible. Think of it as creating breathing space. A lighter home feels fresher, calmer, and far more inviting.

E – Enhance: Improve Presentation
You don't need a full renovation to make an impact. Simple updates like a fresh coat of neutral paint, new cushions, or adding greenery can transform a space. And don't forget the exterior. First impressions start at the front door, so tidy gardens, clean pathways, and a welcoming entrance all contribute to strong kerb appeal.

V – Visualise: Reimagine the Lifestyle
Buyers aren't just purchasing a property; they're buying into a lifestyle. Help them see it.
Style your dining table for entertaining, create a cosy reading corner, or turn an unused space into a functional home office. These subtle cues allow buyers to picture how they would live in the home, making the experience more emotional and memorable.

A – Accentuate: Highlight Key Features
Every home has something special make sure it shines. Whether it's a fireplace, high ceilings, original beams, or large windows, arrange furniture and décor to draw attention to these features. Avoid blocking sightlines and let the architecture speak for itself.

T - Transform: Consider Professional Staging
For maximum impact, professional staging can be a game changer. We work closely with Salt House Design, who specialise in presenting homes at their absolute best. From styling advice to full staging solutions, they help create a polished, aspirational look that resonates with buyers and elevates your property above the competition.

E – Exchange: Achieve a Successful Sale
Presentation isn't just about aesthetics, it's about results.

Well-presented homes attract more interest, generate stronger offers, and often sell faster. By investing a little time and effort upfront, you're positioning your property for the best possible outcome when it comes to exchange.

What stood out in our conversation was how powerful thoughtful staging can be. It's not about changing your home, but to bring out its best version.

* Presentation isn't just about looking good, it directly influences perception, interest, and ultimately results.

Katherine from Salt House Design studio said "Home staging sits somewhere between storytelling and everyday living. At Salthouse Design we shape spaces so they feel both inviting and intuitive; where light, layout and small details quietly suggest how life could unfold there. It's about creating a sense of ease and connection so when someone walks through the door they're not just seeing a property, they're beginning to imagine it as home."

Ready to ELEVATE Your Sale?
If you're thinking of selling in Fordingbridge, Ringwood, or Burley, we'd be delighted to help. We offer free consultations and valuations, along with tailored advice on how to present your home for maximum impact.

Contact me at BrightWater [Signature Homes](#) on 07467 360 001 or emma@brightwaterproperties.co.uk



Emma Roy
BrightWater
Signature Homes



PROPERTY & NEWS

Your Rights as a Tenant & What you need to know as a Landlord

The Renters' Rights Act came into force on 1 May 2026. (<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/rentersrights>)

This gives tenants new rights, as well as introducing new rules for landlords. (<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/4225/Renters-Rights-Act-information-for-renters>)

It means:

- * 'no fault' evictions (Section 21) are banned
- * rent increases are limited to once per year
- * there is an Advance Rent Payment cap
- * tenants have more protection against discrimination
- * more rights for pet owners
- * stronger landlord controls, enforcement and penalties come into force

If you own a property that you rent out, it's important to comply with the new legislation. You can find information for landlords on the government website. (<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/4226/Renters-Rights-Act-information-for-landlords>)

If you are a tenant or landlord and have any questions regarding The Renters Right Act please contact BrightWater on 01425 478719 or email hello@brightwaterproperties.co.uk







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NEWS



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Ringwood and Burley Brass Band

When the rather excited 12-year-old, Vernon Riordan, played with the Ringwood & Burley Band in the 750th anniversary of the Ringwood Royal Market Charter, little did he know he would be playing with the same band 50 years later at the 800th anniversary!

Vernon, who has lived in Ringwood all his life, started playing the cornet when he was 10 before moving onto horn. He's played baritone in the Ringwood & Burley Band for 50 years, and is also their chairman. He has worked with 14 conductors during that time. In fact, the current conductor, Tony Waller, also played in the R&B band when he was a teenager.

Vernon recalls being on stage with the band in the market place to celebrate the 750th anniversary. Some of the pieces they played that day were 'When the Saints', 'Hootenanny' and 'Salute to Sullivan'. He's delighted to be playing with the Ringwood & Burley Band again for the 800th anniversary of the Market Charter.

If you played with the band in the past and have photos and memories, please get in touch by emailing Vernon vgriordan@outlook.com or Beverley Williams bawilliams221@yahoo.com

The Ringwood & Burley brass band will be playing at the 800th Anniversary at 2.15 – 3pm on Sunday 12th July, and at various other venues, including the Burley Show and Artisan Markets, throughout the summer. Do come to say "hello", and if you'd like to support us or join our friendly band, just get in touch!

The photos show Vernon now & in the 80's.





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SPORT

Young Runners Shine at Mini Marathon and Inspire Whole-School Celebration

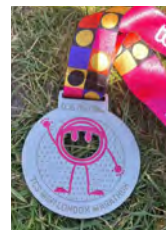
Pupils from Ringwood Junior School have been celebrating an incredible achievement after 40 of their young runners took part in the TCS London Mini Marathon on Saturday 25th April.

The determined group completed the iconic course, finishing along The Mall in front of Buckingham Palace—a moment many described as unforgettable. Running in the heart of the capital, the pupils demonstrated resilience, enthusiasm, and a real passion for sport, representing their school with pride.

Teachers and parents praised the runners not only for their physical effort but also for their commitment to fundraising. Each child's participation is helping to raise money for the school's Big Build project, which aims to enhance facilities and improve the learning environment for all pupils.

The celebrations didn't stop there. The following Thursday, the entire school community came together for a special in-school marathon event. Held on the school playing field which the school shares with Ringwood & Ellingham Rugby Club, pupils from Years 3 to 6 took part in a 2.6-mile course designed to capture the spirit of the London Marathon. Families, friends, and staff lined the route, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and excitement.

The event brought the whole school together, with children running, jogging, or walking the course while being cheered on by supporters. It was a joyful celebration of movement, commu-



nity, and achievement—mirroring the energy of the London race itself.

Headteacher Mrs Sally-Ann Evans and Sports Leader Mrs Fiona Sutton expressed their pride in all pupils involved, highlighting the determination shown by the Mini Marathon runners and the enthusiasm of the wider school community.

With funds continuing to be raised for the Big Build project, the events have left a lasting legacy—showing how sport can unite, inspire, and make a meaningful difference.

Congratulations to all the young runners on an outstanding achievement!

There is still time to support the cause via the school's fundraising link:

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



SPORT & NEWS





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* Correct at time of print.

Care South

It's the care that counts...

Regular Dementia-Friendly Events organised by Local Charity

Local charity Avon Valley Dementia Support (AVDS) is offering two regular and free events each month for anyone living with dementia.

This small charity runs a pop-up Butterfly Café at The Victoria Rooms in Fordingbridge every second Tuesday of the month. This free event offers companionship, a cuppa and live music. At some sessions, dementia specialists will be on hand to give advice and support to those caring for a loved one.

Every fourth Tuesday of the month, local musicians give up their time to create a Music for Memories session, again absolutely free to anyone living with dementia and their carers too.

Charity founder Edward Newsham said: "Living with dementia can be lonely for both the sufferer and their carer. Our pop-up events offer respite, interaction and support for those living with the disease as well as those caring for them."

The charity also welcomes care home residents and would love to hear from more care homes in the Avon Valley area who may like to attend.

This small charity is also seeking volunteers who could offer just a couple of hours a month to help put out the tables and chairs for the fortnightly sessions.

If you would like to know more, please contact Edward Newsham on 01425 473777.



Poulner Junior School staff take on The Clarendon Way

On Saturday 16th May, 5 members of the Poulner Infants and Nursery School staff took on the Clarendon way, to raise funds for a new shelter for the playground.

The Clarendon Way is 26.2 miles from Winchester to Salisbury and is a gruelling hilly route across the 2 counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire.

The group set off at 7.30am and headed across the Hampshire countryside.

The weather was good until the group reached Pitton in Wiltshire when the cold rain started to fall. It definitely didn't dampen their spirits! A large group of family and supporters were at Salisbury cathedral to meet them at the end at around 5pm.

The large wooden shelter that was in the playground was rotten and becoming dangerous so had to be taken down so fundraising has been happening to raise money to replace it. They raised over £1,200 on the day they walked but the page is still open if anyone wanted to donate.

<https://communitiesfund.avivafoundation.org.uk/p/larendon-way-marathon-walk>



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HISTORY & NEWS

What's in a Name?



We all know the name of the street where we live, but have you ever stopped to think about where that name come from? The Ringwood Society have been looking at some of the road names in Ringwood to uncover their reasoning.

Some road names are easy to work out their background. Northfield Road/Eastfield Lane/Southfield Mews all pretty straightforward being in the North, East and South of the town respectively (although Southfield Mews is a more recent addition and Eastfield is not as historic a field name as Northfield), and the obvious lack of 'Westfield' is due to the River Avon and the water meadows. Others take a little bit of digging, such as White Lion Courtyard (named for the White Lion Inn, which occupied 1 Market Place until the early 1900s), College Road (built on land previously owned by King's College, Cambridge), and Old Stacks Gardens is named after the house which used to stand there; Old Stacks, destroyed by a German bomb in September 1940. Some have been renamed; Up Street and Poulner Lane (both now

Southampton Road) and some removed entirely, for example Mount Pleasant (erased in 2014 to build Cornmantle Court). An old english dictionary is needed to interpret some, such as (The) Quomp, which is said to derive from the hollow sound when walking over swamp land below.

But there are some for which the reasoning, currently, is unknown. Why is Eynon Mews named such, particularly as it didn't come into existence until the 20th century? Carvers Lane is obviously named such as it leads to Carvers Field, but who or what was Carver? All answers welcome!

There are some notable omissions. The industrial history and contribution to the town of J J Armfield & Co, for instance isn't celebrated. Some roads even have an identity crisis, the roads up the hill and over the bridge at the A31 Poulner Junction are officially still Southampton Road, even though that road peels off eastwards at the Scout Hall...

Since 1962, The Ringwood Society has championed our historic market town and always welcomes new members to support their work with projects. The more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved! Further details can be found on their website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



The Ringwood Society

Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

SHINING IN JUNE IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
01/06/1915	Walter Peckham	Sergeant	1 st Bn, Dorsetshire Rg
01/06/1916	Edwin Dymott	Warrant Telegraphist	HMS Tipperary
01/06/1917	Ernest Pilley	Private	12 th Prince of Wales's Royal Lancers
01/06/1945	Harold Albert Plumley	Corporal	RAF Volunteer Reserve
02/06/1940	Richard Dudley Melchior Gurowski	Captain	Scots Guards
02/06/1944	Ronald George Cobb	Corporal	578 Fd Coy, Royal Engineers
04/06/1915	William Ernest Few	Lance Corporal	8 th Bn, Canadian Infantry
05/06/1916	Joseph Mew	Private	HMS Hampshire
11/06/1942	Reginald Freeman Porter	Gunner	7 th /4 th Maritime Rg, Royal Artillery
12/06/1942	Edward Newman	Gunner	3 rd Fd Reg, Royal Artillery
12/06/1943	Frederick Hawkins	Flight Sergeant	75 Sqn, RAF Volunteer Reserve
14/06/1917	James Goulding Ballard	Private	1 st /4 th Bn, Middlesex Rg
17/06/1917	Stanley Victor Coombs	Ordinary Seaman	HMS Tartar
19/06/1943	William Faulkner	Lance Corporal	Pioneer Corps
20/06/1944	Ernest Charles Bush	Private	1 st Bn, Dorsetshire Regiment
26/06/1918	Joseph Thomas Davis	Driver	28 th Army Bde, Royal Artillery

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Still Dancing at 100!

Dancers aged from 3 to 83 joined Members, their Family and Friends at the Vale of Avon Lodge's Centenary Barn Dance staged at The Burgate School, Fordingbridge. Revellers enjoyed the live music of Four Foot Four, dancing to the expert calling of Phil Preen, as well as a gourmet platter supper. The dance was the Lodge's second social event of this year and raised a further £1,000 for distribution to charity.

Vale of Avon 4859 is a thriving masonic lodge and meets in Unity Hall, Ringwood on the third Monday of the month with members drawn from men of a wide range of ages, diverse occupations and interests, irrespective of race or religion. Membership Officer Dr Mike Horswell said: 'I always describe freemasonry as fun, fellowship and funds for those less fortunate than ourselves. Vale of Avon has a reputation for being a very friendly lodge and has been delighted to welcome eight new members already this year'. Any man wishing to learn more about freemasonry and Vale of Avon can contact Mike on mike.horswell@btinternet.com. Women currently have their own lodges.



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COMMERCIAL SECTOR PICKING UP

We're really pleased to have completed the sale of a block of flats in Bournemouth. It's been a long process with a fair few ups and downs, so it's great to finally get it over the line. We've got a number of investors still looking for similar opportunities, so if you're thinking about selling a block of flats, we'd love to hear from you.

As we move through 2026, demand for office space in Ringwood remains strong, and we've successfully let a number of units across the area. With enquiries continuing to grow from businesses looking to relocate or expand, we're now actively seeking more office space in Ringwood to help meet demand in the months ahead.



We're always keen to speak with landlords, investors and business owners about commercial property opportunities. If you have premises you're looking to let or sell, please contact Jason Lewis at jason@brightwaterproperties.co.uk or Harry Loose at harry@brightwaterproperties.co.uk.

— — — — —
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Guy's Gardening Tips - 5 Ways To Keep Your Garden Looking At Its Best

After ten years working in gardens across Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding areas, one thing I've noticed is that the gardens people enjoy most in summer are usually the ones that have been consistently maintained throughout the year.

When the weather improves, gardens quickly become an extension of the home. Lawns are used more often, patios become social spaces and borders burst into colour. But without regular attention, even well-designed gardens can quickly start to feel overgrown and difficult to manage.

Our local climate in the New Forest area creates fantastic growing conditions, but that applies to weeds and unwanted growth just as much as it does to plants and lawns. Keeping on top of smaller jobs little and often can save homeowners a huge amount of time and expense later in the season.

Here are five simple ways to keep your garden looking its best as we head towards summer.

1. Keep lawns regularly maintained

Regular mowing is one of the easiest ways to improve the appearance of a garden. Cutting little and often encourages thicker, healthier grass growth and helps prevent lawns from becoming patchy or uneven during warmer weather.

2. Don't let weeds take over

Weeds grow incredibly quickly at this time of year, especially after rain followed by sunshine. Staying on top of borders, pathways and patios early prevents them from spreading and keeps the garden looking neat and cared for.

3. Trim hedges before summer growth peaks

Hedges can put on a surprising amount of growth in late spring and early summer. A professional trim not only improves appearance but also helps maintain healthy, dense growth and keeps outdoor spaces feeling tidy and open.

4. Look after patios and hard surfaces

Patios, decking and pathways often become slippery and discoloured over winter. A proper clean can completely transform the look of a garden and make outdoor areas far more enjoyable to use during the summer months.

5. Water smarter, not harder

During warmer periods, it's better to water gardens deeply a few times a week rather than little and often. Early morning or evening watering also helps reduce evaporation and ensures plants absorb more moisture where they need it most.

For many homeowners, gardening becomes much more enjoyable when maintenance is kept manageable throughout the season rather than left to build up. A well-maintained garden not only looks better, but also creates a more relaxing and enjoyable outdoor space for family and friends.

If you need a hand keeping your garden looking its best this sum-

mer, feel free to get in touch. I'm always happy to help with friendly, reliable and professional service.

Guy Payne is a local gardener with over ten years' experience maintaining gardens across the Ringwood and Fordingbridge area. GreenGuy Garden Services specialises in all aspects of garden maintenance and soft landscaping.

Readers of Ringwood & Fordingbridge News are welcome to mention RFNEWS when getting in touch for a 5% introductory discount.

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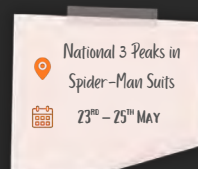
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Travel agents raise over £2,000 with charity coach trip to ABBA Voyage

A group of Ringwood travel agents have organised a fundraising coach trip which took more than 50 customers to see the virtual ABBA concert in London.

The trip organised by the team at Hays Travel on Southampton Road in Ringwood raised a whopping £2,038 for The Brain Tumour Charity, the world's leading brain tumour charity and the largest dedicated funder of research into brain tumours globally.

Travel consultant Lauren Abley's husband tragically died from a brain tumour last year. She said: "I am so pleased that we have been able to raise some much-needed funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. Having first-hand experience of how this devastating illness can tear a family apart, anything we can do to raise awareness and money for research is very much appreciated. It was a fantastic day out and shows what is possible when you work together as a team."

Hays Travel Ringwood branch manager, Joanne Valinski, said: "Everyone got in to the spirit with feather boas, sequins, groovy glasses and knee-high boots all in abundance! And the coach driver helped to get things started with an ABBA playlist!"

There was also 'Take a Chance' bingo, a raffle, drinks and snacks onboard to entertain and raise money on route to the ABBA Arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

ABBA Voyage features virtual avatars depicting the group as they



appeared in 1979 and uses original vocals accompanied by a 10-piece live instrumental band on stage.

Hays Travel is the UK's largest independent travel agent, with branches across the UK - all committed to supporting their customers and the local communities they serve. Each Hays Travel branch is provided with a £500 budget to use for fundraising and charity work in their local area; £200 of this is to be used to fundraise for charities which support young people's mental health, and the other £300 can be used for charities chosen by the branch.

In the last year, Hays Travel's Local Community Partnership initiative across its retail network has donated almost £170,000 to local charities.

THE CELLAR *in Ringwood*

PRIDE 2.0 | RINGWOOD

Ringwood will once again celebrate diversity and community this summer as The Cellar, in partnership with The COOP Bar, hosts the town's second annual Pride event on 18 & 19 July 2026.

The celebration follows the success of Ringwood's first-ever Pride in 2025. It was a landmark moment for the historic market town which united residents, visitors, performers, and local businesses in support of the **LGBTQIA+** community.

The event was officially opened by Mayor Rae Frederick and supported by venues including Flirt, Pride Bar, Easy Tiger, and PomPom London.

One of the standout moments of last year's celebrations saw resident Queen Rougie escorted through Ringwood high street in a glittering pink buggy before receiving a warm welcome at The Cellar.

Ringwood Pride 2026 will begin on Saturday 18 July with an 18+ Pride Bottomless Brunch

and Bingo at The Cellar, featuring Rougie and Billy Rose, followed by the official after-party at The COOP Bar.

New for 2026 is a family-friendly Sunday celebration on 19 July, offering inclusive entertainment for all ages, including a special performance of "Cher" by local performer Charlie Leighton.

This year's event is again supported by Flirt, Pride of Bournemouth, and Gemmy Jay Nails on Ringwood High Street.

“Pride is about celebrating diversity, creating welcoming spaces, and bringing communities together and we are proud to see Ringwood Pride becoming part of the town's cultural calendar and look forward to welcoming everyone again this July.”

Organisers hope to continue growing the event annually and invite local hospitality businesses interested in collaborating for 2027 to contact The Cellar at events@thecellarringwood.com



NEWS

Continued from page 1

Local Concerns Discussed as Community Heroes Honoured

Residents raised a wide range of local issues during the Assembly, with discussion covering topics including council tax pressures, local government reorganisation, potholes and highways maintenance, littering, and parking concerns within the town centre. Members of the Council welcomed the opportunity to hear directly from residents and discuss the issues affecting the local community.

The evening also included presentation of the 2026 Community Awards. The awards are presented annually by Ringwood Town Council to recognise individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the community.



Joint Community Award Winners 2026- Ringwood Good Neighbours

This year, Members unanimously agreed to make a joint award to Greyfriars Community Minibus Service and Ringwood Good Neighbours in recognition of the exceptional support they provide to local residents.

Both organisations play an important role in helping members of the community remain connected and independent, including assisting residents with transport to medical appointments, shopping trips and other essential journeys, as well as helping reduce social isolation for vulnerable residents across the town.



Joint Community Award Winners 2026- Greyfriars Minibus Service

Councillors recognised the dedication of the volunteers involved and the significant positive impact both organisations continue to make within the community. Congratulations and thanks were extended to everybody involved in supporting the work of both organisations.

The Council would like to thank everybody who attended and contributed to the success of the evening, including the many community organisations, volunteers and residents who helped make the event such a positive occasion.

Special thanks are also extended to Greyfriars Community Centre for kindly providing cakes during the evening and for continuing to support the local community through their new Community Café initiative. Thanks are also due to Brightwater for supporting the event with refreshments.

It was encouraging to see such strong community engagement and interest in local issues, and the Council is already looking forward to next year's Annual Town Assembly.



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SHOP LOCAL...
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Lunns Art Store & Post Office

On any high street in Britain, it's easy to overlook the quiet anchors that hold a community together. Big brands come and go, trends shift, and shopping habits move online—but family-run businesses endure in a way that feels both steady and personal. One such example is Lunns Art Store and Post Office, a business that has evolved with its community while staying true to its roots.

Run by Heidi Killen, manager and partner in this family enterprise, Lunns is more than just a shop—it's a reflection of decades of dedication. Established in October 1967 by Sheila and Denis Killen, who brought their retail experience to an area already tied to Sheila's Bournemouth roots, the business began life as a lending library, newsagents, and gift shop. Over time, it grew alongside the needs of its customers: an art shop was introduced in the mid-1970s, and in 2023, a Post Office was added, reinforcing its role as an essential local service.

Today, Lunns offers far more than products. From newspaper and magazine deliveries across Ringwood and the surrounding area to a well-stocked range of art supplies for both hobbyists and fine artists, it caters to a wide cross-section of the community. Its in-store services—printing, a working Post Office, and art classes held in a dedicated studio—make it a place where practicality meets creativity. Any ideas for classes are always welcome!

But what truly defines Lunns is its people. The business employs local staff, including young students aged 13 to 16 who often take on their first jobs delivering newspapers. For many, it's not just employment—it's an introduction to responsibility, community, and work ethic. Customers, too, are part of this extended network, from long-standing regulars to newcomers who are greeted with the same warmth and familiarity.

In an era where convenience often trumps connection, businesses like Lunns remind us of the value of human interaction—a friendly smile, a helpful conversation, a sense of belonging. Supporting



local family businesses is not just a nostalgic gesture; it's a practical investment in the vitality of the high street and the community it serves.

Lunns Art Store and Post Office stands as a testament to resilience, adaptability, and the enduring importance of local enterprise. A loyalty card has been introduced for art customers. Its story is not just about one family's business—it's about the role such businesses play in keeping our communities alive, connected, and thriving.

We love seeing regular customer and new ones too! - We appreciate the support that customers have shown over the years even in busy times with the Post office.

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Carvers Club house Oak room

NEWS

New Forest District Council invites residents to shape the future of Sandleheath

New Forest District Council (NFDC) is inviting residents and stakeholders to have their say on the draft Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan as part of a second statutory consultation.

The initial Regulation 16 consultation ran from Wednesday 5 November to Wednesday 17 December 2025, and the examination commenced on Thursday 9 April 2026.

However, as neighbourhood plans are now required to meet new Basic Conditions introduced by the Government through sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, requested an Addendum to the Basic Conditions Statement.

Sandleheath Parish Council submitted this addendum on Tuesday 28 April 2026. In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the addendum must be subject to public consultation.

To ensure full compliance with these requirements, New Forest District Council is therefore re-running the Regulation 16 consultation for a period of six weeks, after which the examination of the Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan will continue.

The second consultation opened on Friday 1 May 2026, and closes on Sunday 14 June 2026.

The addendum along with any notes from the examiner can be

viewed at <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/sandleheathplan>.

Comments can be submitted at <https://newforest.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/sandleheath-neighbourhood-plan-consultation>.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by email to policyandplans@nfdc.gov.uk.

All comments submitted during the initial consultation period will be considered as part of this Regulation 16 consultation and have already been forwarded to the examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft.

If residents and stakeholders have already submitted comments, there is no need to respond again unless they wish to make additional representations specifically relating to the Addendum to the Basic Conditions Statement, which is the only new document.



FREE ENTRY

Ringwood Bells. 8 coming out, 10 returning

Ringwood is a market town located in the Southwest of Hampshire on the river Avon. The parish church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It was constructed between 1853 and 1855 and is the third church on the same site with church building dating from the 11th century.

The earliest record of bells at Ringwood is dated 1552, following an order for an inventory of Church Possessions. At that time there were five bells. In 1763 the bells were recast into six and the following year two new trebles were added. Over the years some of the bells were recast. By 1934 the bells needed further attention. It was decided to rehang them with the financial aid of the Barron Bell Trust. In 2000 the bells were getting hard to ring, so they were sent to John Taylor Foundry for overhaul and repair the ringers at Ringwood tower continue to ring Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Although the eight bells are usually only rung to rounds and call changes, a variety of doubles and minor methods are often attempted

In 2023 it was felt by Alan Bentley, the then Ringing Master and John Davey, Steeple Keeper that the bells were in need of maintenance with the two heavier bells in particular needing more attention. It was also proposed that two new lighter bells be added to make a ring of 10. This would give a lighter ring of 6 or 8 bells which would assist learner ringers. It also gave the area a ring of 10 bells. The aim of the project was to future proof ringing for the next 50 to 100 years.

With the Church's approval an estimate of costs was obtained and fund raising began. With the death of Alan in 2024, John Davey took over the role of Project Lead. By 2025 the money was raised and the necessary Faculty obtained so it was all systems go. The existing 8 bells will be removed from their wheels, lowered into the church and taken to Whites of Appleton Ltd during the week of 11th May 2026. The 10 bells will be returned 17th September 2026 and raised back into the tower during the following week.

Bell Frame

Remove and separate all positive fixings, brackets and joints of the 6th, 7th and Tenor pits so that the framesides and cills of the Tenor and 7th/6th pit can then be moved eastwards by the required measurement to allow a space to be created to the west of the Tenor pit, still leaving access space in the staircase area on the east side of the tower.

Extras required

1) Bell Wheels

Fit a new set of traditional hardwood wheels each with a pair of steel angle braces and stainless steel rim fixings to the back eight bells.

Ball Races

If, upon inspection, the main ball races are found to be worn, fit new ball races and seals.

2) Tenor Clapper

Fit the Tenor with a new clapper with a timber shaft and a ductile iron ball and flight, fitted with a machined Tufnol bush at its point of swing and a greasing point.

3) Tenor & 9th Headstocks

Supply and fit new cast iron hollow-section headstocks with fixed steel gudgeons for the Tenor and 9th bells, to be of optimum revised leading dimensions. Fit the existing refurbished main bearings, as per the main estimate (or replaced if required as per Extra (2)). Balance and centre on the bells and fit new support bolts. Rehang the bells as detailed in the main estimate.



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SMALL ADS * BEREAVEMENTS * ANNOUNCEMENTS

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of 'Hope'?

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expectation for a particular
thing to happen and a feeling
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both of these things. When
people have no hope, it can
lead to anxiety, depression
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have hope means our older
generation can feel
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donate, please visit our web-
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BEREAVEMENTS

Byrne

Ishbel

Passed away on 10th April 2026 at Wickmeads care home,
aged 83 years. Wife of the late Michael Byrne and mother to
Julia, Helen & Robert.

Funeral has already taken place.

Donations in memory of Ishbel can be made to MacMillan
cancer support, Marie Curie, Redwings Horse Sanctuary and
the RNLI. These can be made online via:

<https://ishbelbyrne.muchloved.com>

Enquiries C/O: Co-op Funeralcare, 36-38 High Street,
Ringwood, BH24 1AG Tel: 01425 473434

Waterman

Violet

Violet passed away peacefully at Oak Mount Care Home
on the 28th April 2026 aged 102. Now re-united with her
beloved husband, Ted, and her wonderful mother, our Nan.
Much-loved mother to Tony and auntie to Sandy, she will be
greatly missed by family and friends. Donations in memory of
Violet can be made to Cancer Research or the RSPCA.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Paul and Geraldine Britton celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary

On the 18th April with family and friends at The Pour House Pub,
West Street, Ringwood. Their son Michael says his dad spotted
his mum when she was a Baker Dancer in a show by Mrs Pats
Players the local Drama and Revenue Group. He saw her again
at Fordingbridge Carnival and was encouraged by family friend
Helen Nutburn, who was known as Nutty by her friends, to go and
talk to her. A couple of months later He invited her to his home in
Jubilee Road, Fordingbridge, she left after a little wind up !! Uncle
Barry and Dad went after her, things were put right and the rest is
history!! Dad worked initially sweeping the roads in Fordingbridge
before moving from Sandy Balls near Fordingbridge to Ringwood
and was well known for keeping our town clean and tidy.



**RINGWOOD 2026
Carnival**
Saturday 19th September

**Take part in our
Processions**

2pm, 7:15pm or both?

**It's FREE to Enter
WIN up to £500 for your
chosen charity!**

TO REGISTER visit:
ringwoodcarnival.org f

#ringwoodcarnival2026 #notjustaprocession

A festival of fun supporting the local community

SPONSORED BY BURLEY'S HOME CARE,
AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

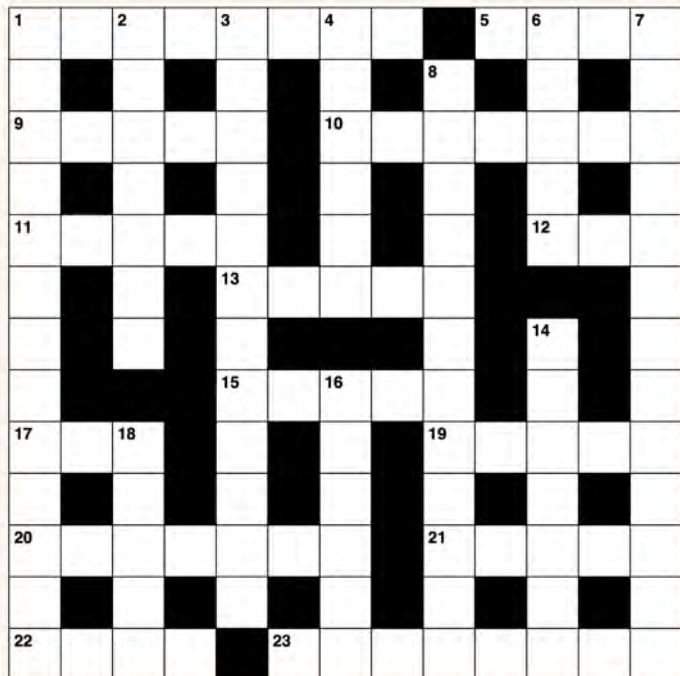
Puzzle Corner



BURLEY'S
HOME CARE



Crossword



Across

- 1 - Inopportune (8)
- 5 - Musical staff sign (4)
- 9 - Concerning (5)
- 10 - Cautious (7)
- 11 - Strong thick rope (5)
- 12 - Dry (of wine) (3)
- 13 - Small circular bands (5)
- 15 - Outdoor fundraising events (5)
- 17 - Mock (3)
- 19 - Tease or pester (5)
- 20 - Lets in (7)
- 21 - Stringed instrument (5)
- 22 - Challenge (4)
- 23 - Judges (8)

Down

- 1 - Alone (13)
- 2 - Chest for implements (7)
- 3 - Unemotional and practical (6-2-4)
- 4 - Composite fungus and alga (6)
- 6 - Raises up (5)
- 7 - Congratulations (13)
- 8 - Overwhelmingly compelling (12)
- 14 - Former student (7)
- 16 - Browns bread (6)
- 18 - Sea duck (5)

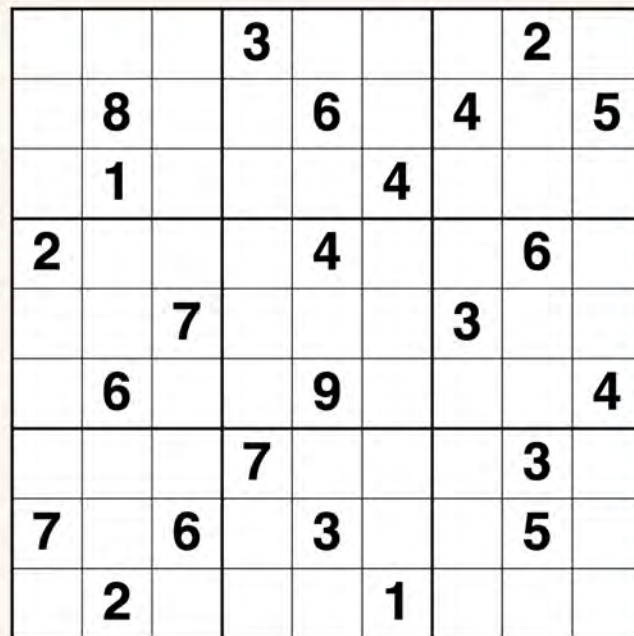
Answers for last the last issue:



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

Sudoku

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GUIDE PRICE £435,000

Detached bungalow in Aspen Drive, Verwood | Three bedrooms | One bathroom | UPVC double glazed conservatory | Summer house | Front and rear garden | Modern kitchen | Open plan living | Driveway parking.



GUIDE PRICE £325,000

Semi-detached house located in Forestide Gardens | Three bedrooms | One bathroom | Re-decorated throughout | Front aspect sitting room | Garage | Private rear garden | Located in quiet cul-de-sac | NO CHAIN.



Guide Price £229,950

Semi-detached house in Victoria Gardens | One bedroom | One bathroom | Short walk to town centre | Rear garden | Allocated parking space for two cars | Double glazing throughout the property | NO CHAIN.



**St Ives Wood, St Ives
GUIDE PRICE £669,995**



A spacious and well-appointed four-bedroom detached bungalow, offering flexible and versatile accommodation, set within an impressive plot of approximately 0.34 acres. The property enjoys attractive, mature gardens to both the front and rear, a generous driveway, and double integral garage.

MEET THE TEAM



Darren



Jo



Amelia



Jenny



Lucy



Harry



Jason

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HIGHWOOD PRICE GUIDE £1,100,000

An exceptional opportunity to purchase a detached character 4 bedroom bungalow offering immense scope for enhancement/enlargement in beautiful elevated gardens (0.68 of an acre), garage, outbuildings & ample parking, within the heart of the open New Forest National Park. EPC Band E



RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £295,000

A well appointed 2 bedroom end of terrace town house offering modern kitchen & bathroom, with off road parking and south facing courtyard garden set within popular cul-de-sac. No onward chain. EPC Band D



RINGWOOD CENTRE - £269,000

A premier town centre 'house managed age 55 plus' ground floor apartment, living room with direct access to private patio & communal gardens, 2 bedroom, 2 shower rooms, 164 years lease remaining. No onward chain. EPC Band C



NORTH POULNER PRICE GUIDE

£395,000 - A 3 bedroom house with good size private south facing garden situated within popular residential development, garage & parking, close to local schools and borders of the New Forest National Park. EPC Band C



HIGHWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £700,000

A delightful 2 bedroom, 2 reception room cottage style bungalow with scope for improvement in stunning rural location in gardens and field totalling 1.44 acres, backing onto Linbrook Stream. No onward chain. EPC Band E



RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE £775,000

A bespoke designed detached chalet residence offering versatile accommodation, open plan kitchen, dining room & vaulted ceiling oak framed living room, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, enjoying south facing garden in highly desirable location. EPC Band C

The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1AT
www.grantsofringwood.co.uk
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team
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