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Making Tax Digital is Here!

Are you ready?

Making Tax Digital for Income Tax is no longer on the horizon - it's here. From April 2026, sole traders and landlords earning above £50,000 in gross income must keep digital records and file quarterly updates with HMRC. This threshold drops to £30,000 in April 2027 and £20,000 in April 2028, so the majority of self-employed individuals and landlords will be caught within two years.

We've put together our most comprehensive MTD guide yet - because the questions we're getting from clients tell us there's still real confusion about who it affects, what it involves, and how to prepare.

One of the most common questions we've had is around deposits and advance payments - particularly from clients in hospitality, tourism, and service businesses. The answer depends on the accounting basis you're using, and we've broken it down clearly in the blog, alongside a full explanation of cash basis versus accruals and why the choice genuinely matters.

We also cover who is and isn't in scope - including limited companies, partnerships, and landlords with mixed income - as well as the new points-based penalty regime replacing the old fixed £100 fine.

The quarterly deadlines, the Final Declaration, software options, and the soft landing for 2026-27 are all covered too. Whether you're already in scope, coming into scope next year, or simply want to understand the rules before they apply to you, this is the guide to read.

If you'd like us to manage your MTD submissions on your behalf, or if you want to talk through how the changes affect your specific situation, get in touch. We're already working with clients through the transition and we're here to help.

Want to read more?

Read our full blog here:



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Stronger Together

I have attended a few networking events recently and heard from so many people how they and their businesses are struggling.

Rising living costs, financial uncertainty, and the pressures of everyday life are taking their toll on individuals, families, and businesses alike. Alongside these challenges, many are quietly struggling with their mental wellbeing, often carrying burdens that others may never see.

What continues to inspire me, however, is the strength of our local communities. Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge, we see examples every day of people supporting one another, whether through a kind word, volunteering their time, supporting local businesses, or simply checking in on a neighbour. These small acts of kindness can make a bigger difference than we often realise.

Difficult periods remind us that we are stronger when we work together. No one should feel they have to face life's challenges alone. By being a little more understanding, a little more patient, and a little more generous with our time and support, we can help create communities where everyone feels valued and connected.



As we move through the months ahead, let's continue to look out for one another and celebrate the community spirit that makes Ringwood and Fordingbridge such special places to live and work. Together, we can help ensure that those who are struggling know they are not alone and that support, friendship, and hope are never far away.

Darren & Naomi

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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NEWS

COMMUNITY RALLIES TO “BRING SAM HOME” WITH MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Ringwood community has come together in an extraordinary show of support for the “Bring Sam Home” campaign, helping raise funds for 23-year-old Sam Wheeler following a devastating traumatic brain injury.

Sam, from Ringwood, suffered a life-changing brain injury after a fall, requiring emergency surgery and ongoing specialist treatment. He is currently undergoing neurorehabilitation in London while his family faces the enormous challenge of adapting his home and funding the specialist equipment and support needed for his long-term recovery.

In response, the campaign has already raised almost £40,000 towards its £80,000 target, with local businesses, pubs, friends and residents uniting behind a growing programme of fundraising events and endurance challenges.

Community events already held include a hugely successful quiz night at The Fish Inn, with further fundraising quizzes planned at The Cellar and The Railway.

Close friends and supporters are also taking on major physical challenges in Sam’s name. Plans include the demanding Three Peaks Challenge, which will see Sam’s sister and friends climb the UK’s three highest mountains dressed as Spider-Man to raise funds and awareness.

Another major fundraiser will see local lads Ben Cook and David Edmunds undertake an epic London-to-Ringwood run – a powerful demonstration of determination, resilience and solidarity with Sam’s recovery journey.

On June 20, The Elm Tree, Tithe Barn will host a special DnB Day Rave starting at 2pm in Sam’s honour. A keen amateur DJ himself, the event will celebrate Sam’s love of music while bringing the



 bringsam.home

community together to continue raising vital funds.

The campaign has rapidly become far more than a fundraiser, uniting businesses, friends and families across the New Forest. Companies including Churchill Retirement Living are supporting through fund matching, while Cinergi, Sam’s employer, will also take on an additional Three Peaks Challenge in September.

Rhi Wheeler, Sam’s sister, who is leading the campaign, said:

“Every donation, event attendance and shared post continues to make a difference. The support from the community has been incredible and we simply cannot thank everyone enough. So many people have gone above and beyond for us – Will Wallace, Bonny Greenfield and Archie Smith, you know what you have done for our family, thank you.”

Anyone wishing to support the campaign or get involved can find more information at:

www.bringssamhome.com

Any business or individual that would like to get in touch with Rhi or the team please contact them via the website or email address. bringssamhomefund@gmail.com

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Forest Forge Theatre Company to close after 45 Years

Forest Forge Theatre Company to close after 45 Years

Forest Forge, the New Forest's longest standing professional theatre company, is set to close after 45 years.

The company, which is known throughout the South West for touring theatre productions to rural venues including village halls, will stop all public activity in August before finally closing in the autumn.

Founded in 1981 by Karl Hibbert, Forest Forge was originally based in New Milton before later moving to Ringwood. There the organisation developed an extensive participation programme, encompassing a Youth Theatre, Young Company and groups for adults over 55 and those with learning disabilities. The company also worked with patients at Salisbury Hospice, schools throughout the region and young people who struggled within the education system. Alongside its touring and participation work, the company has supported hundreds of writers, designers and actors via its artist development programmes.

The registered charity announced the closure today, citing a

challenging cultural and economic landscape. Lizanne Smith Head, Chair of Trustees of says:

"Forest Forge was created to tour professional theatre productions into village halls and rural venues. At the time access to theatre productions was more limited than it is today. The world in which the company was created no longer exists and whilst we have developed over the years to match the changing needs of our audiences and participants, we cannot continue to do so without negatively affecting the original aims and core purpose of the organisation. We continue to be very proud of the work we have made over our long history."

Lucy Phillips, Co-Artistic Director says: "We are not prepared to reduce our activity or to lose the heart of the Forest Forge people know and love. The impact we have had over many years will not disappear and we are pleased to know that the theatre we have created, friendships we have supported and connections we have made will outlive our organisation."

The company will wind up solvently with remaining funds transferred to other charitable organisations as part of the closure process.



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NEWS

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After ten years training Arabic Military & Police in the Middle East & Iraq, I became involved in rescuing street dogs—an experience that shaped my future. Back in the UK, I qualified as a City & Guilds groomer and founded Eden Beau to provide calm, compassionate grooming.

As the owner of four rescue dogs I flew back, my goal is simple: to create a welcoming community where every dog is treated with kindness, patience, and care.

Please visit my website for a guide on services and location.
Edenbeau.uk

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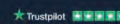
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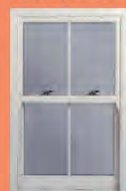
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NEWS

Understanding Investments - Create a Plan to Mitigate Inheritance Tax

I have met many people over the years who know they need to do something to reduce the value of their estate as they don't want their estate to become liable to a high Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability, but they fail to act in good time. It wasn't because they weren't aware of IHT (often they had been thinking about what to do for years), but they didn't understand how much money they would need for their own financial needs and were afraid to take action.

I help clients by creating a financial plan, which enables them to understand whether their own retirement and lifetime needs are secure and if so, how they can best help their families and mitigate future IHT on their estate. I will share this with you.

1-What do you need? We run cash-flow projections (including inflation assumptions), based on your regular expenditure, predicted ad-hoc expenditure and later life planning needs such as care fees. This is a critical part of the process and provides the evidence that enables action.

2-Identify surplus capital or income. The cash-flow projections help identify 3 categories of capital/income; what you will need, what you won't need and what you may or may not need.

3-Utilise annual gift exemptions. Usually, you need to live for a further 7 years from the date of any gifts for them to fall outside your estate, but there are currently several exemptions which result in immediate removal from the estate. These are important to use.

4-Solutions to mitigate your estate's IHT liability. Potentially Exempt Transfers (PET) & Chargeable Lifetime Transfers (CLT) into Trusts (Discretionary including Discounted Gift) may be suitable for capital that you won't need. Loan Trusts may be suitable for capital that you may or may not need. There are a number of

solutions available and the most appropriate will be dependent on your personal situation.

5-Insuring any remaining liability. Whole of Life cover can pay a future IHT liability and if written in trust, is paid out immediately without the need for probate. It can provide liquidity to the beneficiaries to pay any IHT liability. It can also be a very cost-efficient wealth-transfer mechanism.

6-Ensure Wills are up to date and tax efficient. This is done by referral to a solicitor and includes ensuring they allow the estate to benefit from all relevant IHT exemptions, including the Residence Nil Rate Band (RNRB), where available.

Sometimes, making simple changes to your current investments and planning is sufficient. For example adjusting investments targeting growth to target income and then using annual exemptions to gift the surplus income.

My colleagues Stewart Sims-Handcock, Howard Goodship and I are available for a no cost or obligation initial chat to discuss your personal requirements.

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 Plans, Cash Flow Modelling, Will Writing and Trusts.

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New Chalk Stream Challenge Launches in Fordingbridge to Inspire Young River Explorers

Uniform, youth groups and families in and around Fordingbridge are being invited to step outdoors and discover the hidden wonders of one of the UK's rarest habitats through an exciting new community initiative from Wessex Rivers Trust.

The newly launched Chalk Stream Challenge offers an engaging and educational adventure along Sweatfords Water, a beautiful local chalk stream teeming with wildlife and natural history. The challenge funded with the generous support of Fordingbridge Rotary Club follows the footpaths along stretches of the stream that have only recently become accessible.

Created especially for youth organisations, families, and home educators, the challenge combines outdoor exploration with hands-on learning. Participants can follow a specially designed route while completing fun activities, identifying wildlife, and uncovering fascinating facts about chalk streams – globally rare habitats found almost exclusively in southern England.

The project was developed by dedicated volunteers Hazel and Sarah as part of the Watercress and Winterbournes Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Wessex Rivers Trust currently have six Chalk Stream Challenges and have plans to offer more routes across the Wessex region.

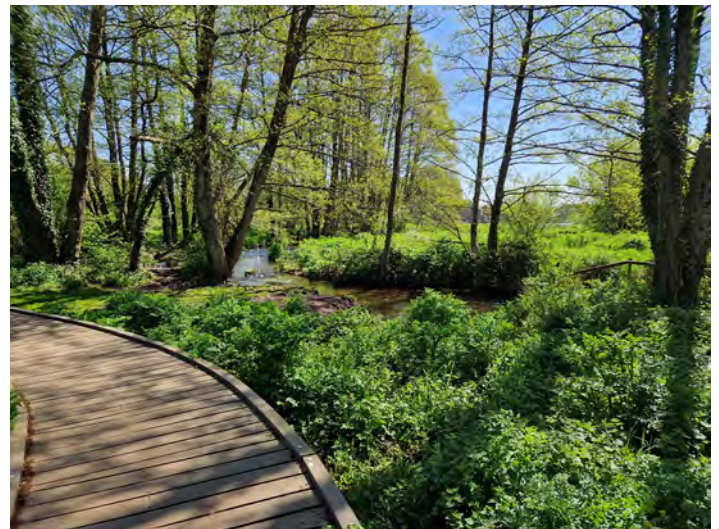
Challenge packs are available to download online and include:

- A route map along Sweatfords Water
- Chalk stream facts and information
- Wildlife spotter guides
- Interactive activities for groups and families
- A printable completion certificate
- The option to purchase embroidered badges for a small

fee, although participation is open to everyone free of charge

The challenge is designed not only to encourage outdoor activity and environmental awareness, but also to foster a deeper connection with local rivers and wildlife at a time when chalk streams face increasing environmental pressures. Full details and downloadable challenge materials can be found on the engagement page of our website <https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/> Wessex Rivers Trust is an environmental charity dedicated to protecting and restoring rivers and streams across Wessex, working towards healthy rivers for both wildlife and people. Alongside conservation projects and catchment partnerships, the Trust delivers inspiring education programmes for schools, youth organisations, and home education groups across the region.

For more information, visit <https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/> or email info@wessexrt.org.uk.





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Sensory play
Small world play
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Cosy reading corner
Private parties




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WHATS ON

HONKY TONK HOEDOWN

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 1PM-6PM

AT STABLE FAMILY HOME TRUST
THE STABLES, BISTERNE, RINGWOOD BH24 3BN

LIVE MUSIC

7-PIECE COUNTRY BAND
'BATON ROUGE UK'

'DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE' BY **CARRIE-ANNE RENDELL**

'SHANIA TWAIN TRIBUTE' BY **SARAH O'SHEA**

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RODEO ROADHOUSE

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SPONSORED BY **Frampington's**

DJ T BIG

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BURGER & HOT DOGS

COUNTRY STALLS

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KIDS ACTIVITIES
REFRESHMENTS & ICE CREAM

DOGS WELCOME K9 BAR
TREATS & PHOTOS

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01425 478043 www.sflht.org.uk

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Damerham Fair & Horticultural Show

Saturday 25th July 2026 11-4pm

NEAR FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 3HQ

A traditional village fair and a fun day out for all the family!

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre displays
- The infamous Damerham Derby
- Horticultural Show
- Food & Drink - Bar, BBQ, Teas and Cake
- Fun Dog Show and Dog training display
- Countryside area
- Classic Cars
- Children's fun and games
- Bouncy Castle
- Craft and Trade Stalls
- Evening Tent Dance








DAMERHAM
Near Fordingbridge
SP6 3HQ

FREE PARKING
Entry £5,
under 16s free

FREE BUS SERVICE
from Fordingbridge
and nearby villages

www.damerhamfair.co.uk

Be a 'Time Traveller' and walk through the historic town of Ringwood hearing stories of.....

Murder, Mystery, Secret Agents, Execution, Heroes and Heroines.

TIME TRAVELLER'S WALKS

FREEbut donations in aid of the Meeting House are much appreciated.

**Next TTW walk coming up :-
Saturday 27th June
at 9.30am.**

(Meet outside the Gateway Building)

**Please text or call :
07934 318151
to book or for further information**

Greyfriars Book Sale & Craft Fayre

Saturday 1 August 9-1

WHATS ON



LIVE MUSIC - COMEDY - THEATRE - AND MORE!

View all upcoming events and book tickets on our website
www.thebarnringwood.co.uk

ON STAGE

- 17 JUL** DAVID OLUSOGA
The global history of the british cup of tea
- 12 SEPT** RICKY TOMLINSON
Retirement 'My Ar*e'
- 17 SEPT** AN EVENING WITH DANNY MCNAMARA
From Embrace
- 18 SEPT** CAN YOU CATCH A SERIAL KILLER?
The UK's first interactive Serial Killer investigation



LIVE MUSIC

- 21 AUG** THE ERAS EXPERIENCE
Taylor Swift tribute by Xenna
- 5 SEPT** ULTIMATE COLDPLAY
with the award winning Bouncing Beamz laser display
- 11 SEPT** UNPLUG'D
A tribute to MTV Unplugged
- 3 OCT** K-POP LIVE
A high-energy, full-throttle tribute to K-Pop



What's on at Greyfriars!

21 June – Paella on the Lawn

Emma & Ian from Idelica will be setting the stage for Spanish fiesta and siesta vibes **from 12.30** on the Greyfriars lawn. Tasty paellas, tapas and delicious sangrias and cervezas with a little latin soul guitar. Register via www.idelica.com by 20 June and you'll receive £1 off your standard paella portion on the day.

21 June - Chess Club

Join in the 'Rapid Play' tournament **from 9.45am-6.00pm**. Competitors will vie for a guaranteed £600 prize fund, inc. £100 for first place. Entry £16 adults, £12 juniors. Register/learn more, call 07788 792527 or via www.ringwoodchessclub.org.uk/rapidplay.

21-25 July – RMDS Summer Show '26

Tickets are now on sale for this year's productions, staged across 3 different halls with delicious canapés served **all for £20!** A distinctive experience with live music and dance; a vibrant evening is promised. A highlight of the Ringwood social season, book your ticket now via TicketSource to avoid disappointment.

1 August – Summer Book Sale

Having a clear out of your puzzles and books, Greyfriars welcomes your donations for the next Summer Sale. We will also host the craft fayre on the day, not to mention another opportunity to visit our Pop-up Community Café on **31 & 1 August**.

From 28 September – Music Appreciation Study Group

10 weekly classes from 10-12 noon, Ian Lowes will be exploring the symphonies of Gustav Maler. Fee £95 from Greyfriars and TicketSource.

SMALL ADVERTS

You can advertise any business in the small ads (page 42) from only £24 per month!!

Contact: sales@rfnews.uk
for more information

FREE FILM SHOW AT FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Episode 7 of
Season 3 of
"THE CHOSEN" on
the Big Screen
SATURDAY
5 SEPTEMBER
7.30 for 8pm
Free Refreshments



WHATS ON

RINGWOOD KERBSIDE FREecycle RETURNS THIS JULY

Give unwanted items a new home and discover hidden treasures for free!

Following overwhelming public demand, Greening Ringwood is delighted to announce the return of the popular Ringwood Kerbside Freecycle event this summer.

Taking place on Sunday 5 July 2026, residents across Ringwood and the surrounding villages are invited to clear out their homes, garages, sheds and lofts, and place unwanted but usable items outside for others to collect – completely free of charge.

The event is a simple, community-led way to encourage reuse, reduce waste and help keep perfectly good items in circulation.

WHEN

Date: Sunday 5 July 2026

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

WHERE

Ringwood and surrounding villages

On your own driveway, porch or front garden

HOW IT WORKS

- Declutter your home, shed or garage.
- Place unwanted, usable items outside your property.
- Browse participating households and pick up items for free.
- Help support a more sustainable and connected community.



Please note: The sale of goods is strictly prohibited. All items must be offered free of charge.

REGISTER TO TAKE PART

Residents wishing to be included on the official event map should register by emailing their Name Address and Postcode to ringwoodkerbsidefreecycleuk@gmail.com

The official map will help visitors find participating properties on the day.

Greening Ringwood hopes this year's event will be the biggest yet, bringing neighbours together and proving that one person's unwanted item can become another person's treasure.

Let's get Ringwood sharing, reusing and discovering hidden gems this summer.



Hampshire Swifts

SWIFT AWARENESS WEEK 2026

AT
RINGWOOD MEETING HOUSE



SWIFT EXHIBITION (FREE ENTRY)
Monday 29th June – Friday 31st July
Mon-Sat 10am-12pm. Wed 10-2.30



HAMPSHIRE SWIFTS TALK
Wednesday 1st July
7pm – 8.30pm



Discover the fascinating world of swifts with Hampshire Swifts trustee **Wendy Reid**.

-  Learn about the incredible lives of these remarkable birds
-  Find out about the threats they face
-  Discover how you can help support swift conservation in Ringwood



BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS AND FIND FULL DETAILS
Search **Ticket Source Ringwood** or scan the QR code





HAMPSHIRE SWIFTS POP-UP STALL
Outside Ringwood Meeting House
Sat 4th July 10am – 4pm

Let's stop the decline of these beautiful birds.

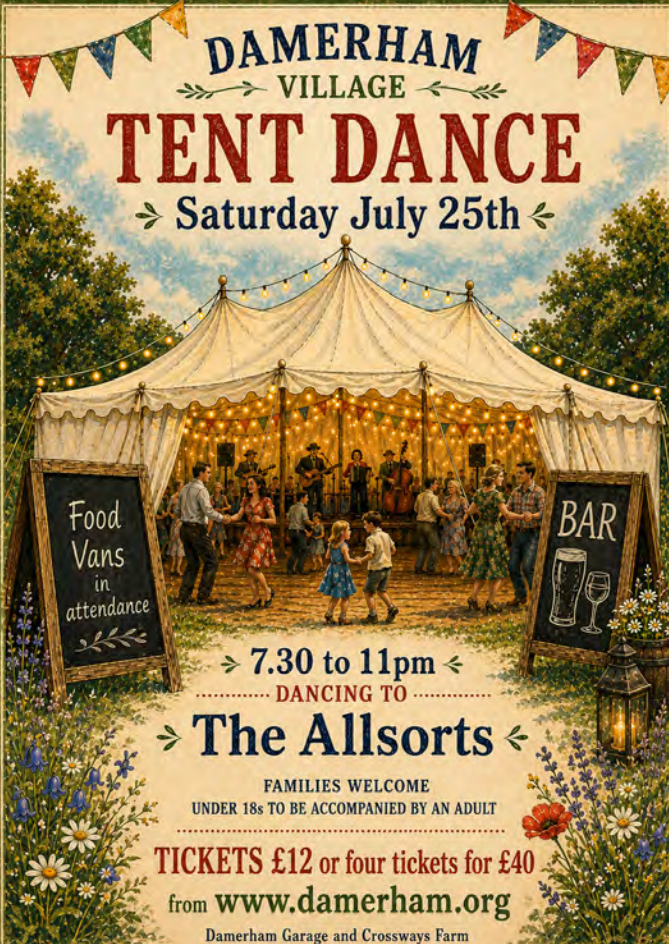


www.hampshireswifts.org.uk | Hampshire Swifts

DAMERHAM VILLAGE

TENT DANCE

➤ Saturday July 25th ◀



➤ 7.30 to 11pm ◀
DANCING TO

The Allsorts

FAMILIES WELCOME
UNDER 18s TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TICKETS £12 or four tickets for £40
from www.damerham.org

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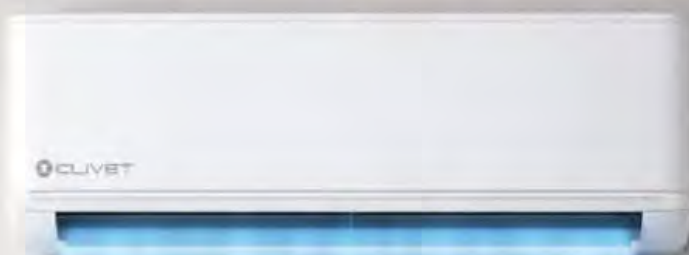
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REVIEWS



PROPERTY - AROUND THE BLOCK

A Welcoming Arrival: Why Kerb Appeal Makes All the Difference

When it comes to selling your home, first impressions really do matter. Many buyers start forming an opinion before they've even stepped over the threshold, which makes the entrance one of the most important areas to get right.

At the heart of it all is the front door. It sets the tone for the whole property.

A door that looks tired or neglected can raise doubts, while a freshly presented entrance immediately feels more welcoming and reassuring.

A simple coat of paint can make a big difference, with colours like navy, sage green, charcoal or classic black offering a clean, modern look, while traditional shades suit older properties beautifully.

It's also worth paying attention to the finer details. Updating door furniture such as handles, knockers, letterboxes and house numbers, is a quick and affordable way to create a more polished finish. These small touches often have more impact than people expect.

Lighting can further enhance the space. Well-placed exterior lights not only improve security but also create warmth, particularly during evening viewings. Adding a few plants or hanging baskets can soften the look and bring a sense of life and care to the entrance.

Finally, don't overlook the approach to your home. A clean,

well-maintained pathway, free from weeds and loose paving, subtly signals that the property has been looked after.

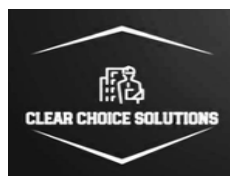
None of these improvements require a large investment, but together they can significantly improve kerb appeal, helping your home stand out and attract more interest from potential buyers.

Thinking of selling?

For tailored advice on presenting your home at its very best, contact BrightWater Estate Agents on 01425 478719. The team offers expert guidance to help you showcase your property, attract the right buyers and achieve a strong result.



BRIGHTWATER



Clear Choice Solutions Ltd

Karl Scriven's family run business with over 20 years of experience based in Ringwood serving all Dorset, Hampshire & Wiltshire

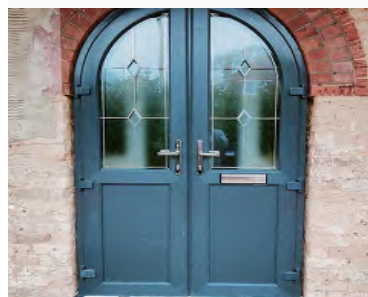
- **uPVC Windows & Doors**
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BRIGHTWATER

Residential & Commercial Property Agent



GUIDE PRICE £399,950

Detached 4 bedroom house in Ringwood | Triple garage | Two bathrooms | 3 Reception rooms | No onward chain | Front, rear and side gardens | Ground floor shower room | Open plan family room | 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 £615,000

4 bedroom chalet bungalow in Verwood | Four bedrooms | Two bathrooms | Located close to amenities | Secluded rear garden | Driveway parking for multiple vehicles | Double glazing throughout the property | Garage.



Southampton Road, Ringwood
GUIDE PRICE £540,000



Situated on the ever-popular Southampton Road in the historic market town of Ringwood, this attractive Victorian semi-detached home offers spacious and versatile accommodation, a generous south-facing garden, detached double garage and off-road parking, all within easy walking distance of the town centre and local senior school.

MEET THE TEAM



Darren



Jo



Amelia



Jenny



Lucy



Harry



Jason

SCAN HERE
to see more
available properties



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brightwaterproperties.co.uk

2 High Street, Ringwood,
Hampshire
BH24 1AF



NEWS

PIMM'S IN THE GARDEN

Imagine a perfect Summer Sunday afternoon. Combine that thought with a glass of Pimm's, a cream tea and some musical interludes and you have pictured "Pimm's in the Garden".

Come and experience "Pimm's in the Garden" (organised by Hale and Woodgreen Churches) by joining us on **Sunday 26th July from 2pm to 4pm at Woodgreen Village Hall**. Spend a few hours relaxing in the delightful grounds, listening to live music performed by Meraki Brass. The band (a small group of friends drawn from a variety of brass bands across Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire) is back by popular demand. And, maybe, you could be a lucky winner in the raffle!

What better way to help raise funds to contribute to the cost

of Phase 2 of Hale Church's much needed roof replacement? This fabulous little church is Grade 1 listed with architectural features of national importance, some fascinating monuments and an attractive interior.

Tickets for "Pimm's in the Garden" (just

£12.00 each) are available from the Woodgreen Community Shop and the AVC Charity Shop, High Street, Fordingbridge (next to the Co-op).

Further information from Lynda Warne on 07799 542707 or Ruth Crosland on 07855 210769



BRIGHTWATER

COMMERCIAL * LAND * NEW HOMES

Portfolio Purchase Opportunity



Delighted to present a freehold residential investment portfolio across Poole, New Milton, and Bournemouth, comprising 20 fully let units generating £286,920 per annum. Available as individual assets or a portfolio purchase, the scheme includes Buffalo Mews (7 houses), Shanock House (10 apartments), and Wharf Mews (3 units). Offered at £5.1 million with a 5.59% yield, this is an attractive opportunity to acquire quality South Coast residential investments.

We currently have a range of development land opportunities available across the South Coast and are actively seeking additional sites for our clients and investor network. Whether you are looking to acquire land for development or considering the sale of a site with potential, we'd be pleased to discuss how we can help.



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.

BRIGHTWATER

COMMERCIAL * LAND * NEW HOMES

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Ringwood
Hampshire
BH24 1AF

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to see more
property details



WANTED

TO RENT

Barn/Garage with or without open storage. Secure; dry; 24-hour access needed- Electric and Water preferred.

Please contact Mark on
07788 208 586

RED EXPRESS TAXIS

DRIVERS WANTED

Looking for a full or part-time job?

Based in Ringwood, we are recruiting drivers for a range of shifts including school runs, day and evening shifts during the week or weekend.

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Local knowledge is desirable. Minimum age of 25.



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Fordingbridge Rotary Duck Race

The Fordingbridge Rotary Club will once again be hosting their much-loved Annual Duck Race, which is part of the wider Fordingbridge Park Fest—a celebration of community, sport, and the arts beginning from 12:00 noon on the sports ground. The event will include two races:

* A corporate-sponsored race, featuring up to 100 large yellow ducks launched from a horse and cart into the river beneath the bridge

* The main event, where up to 3,500 smaller ducks—each linked to tickets purchased by the public—will race downstream

Depending on the river's flow, the race can be particularly exciting and unpredictable. The winning duck carries a £500 prize, adding to the anticipation for participants and spectators alike.

All proceeds from the event go toward supporting local charities through the Fordingbridge Rotary Club, making it not only an entertaining afternoon but also an important fundraiser for the community.



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ROTARY ANNUAL DUCK RACE

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

1ST PRIZE
£500

2ND PRIZE
£200

3RD PRIZE
£100

RACES
3PM

RECREATION PARK

FORDINGBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB
SUPPORTING
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

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website: www.economyhire.co.uk

Royal Market Charter Event Programme

Join us in Ringwood Market Place to celebrate
800 years of Ringwood's Market Charter



MARKET PLACE STAGE

10.30am - 11.30am

Churches Together

Church service

11.30am - 12pm

New Forest Meddlars

Morris dancing in front of the church wall.

12.15pm - 1pm

The Bobbies

Singing country themed songs.

1pm - 1.30pm

New Forest Meddlars

Morris dancing in front of the stage.

1.30pm - 2.15pm

Farm Yard Circus

Spectacular farm themed acrobatics show for all of the family.

2.30pm - 3.15pm

Dark Sheep

Celtic Rock Quartet

3.30pm - 4pm

Live Auction

Hosted by Ringwood Auctions

4.15pm - 5pm

Farm Yard Circus

Spectacular farm themed acrobatics show for all of the family.

5pm - 5.45pm

Dark Sheep

Celtic Rock Quartet

6pm - 7.30pm

Fairvue

Trio

THE MARKET PLACE

11.30am - 2.30pm

Petting Zoo

Provided by Riverside Lakes, enjoy a free hands-on petting zoo experience for the whole family! Kindly sponsored by Ringwood Rotary Club.

11.30am - 7.30pm

Interactive Stalls

Stalls include beekeeping demonstrations, blacksmithing, willow basket making and woodwork.

Village Games

Traditional village games provided by local girl guides and scouts groups. **Collect your Ringwood Bank Note from Ringwood Town Council's stand to use at the village games.**

Face Painting

Children can transform into their favourite farmyard animal with a variety of fun and imaginative designs to choose from. Provided by Headturners.

Harpist

Wendy Morrow playing along the Market Place from **12.30pm-1.30pm and 3.30pm-4pm**

MERCHANDISE

Visit the Ringwood Town Council stand within the Market Place to buy your commemorative products specially designed to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of our Market Charter event. Merchandise includes limited edition whisky tumblers, coasters, calendars, pin badges and more.

FOOD & DRINK

11.30am - 7.30pm

Hog Roast

Provided by South Paddocks

BBQ

Provided by Ringwood Round Table

Bar

Provided by Ringwood Carnival

THE FURLONG

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Steamship Circus

Walkabout entertainment provided by Steamship Circus, co-sponsored by The Furlong

2.15pm - 3pm

Ringwood and Burley Band

Playing in The Furlong, Ringwood and Burley Band will be providing musical entertainment.



THE BICKERLEY

11.30am - 9.30pm

Funfair

From family favourites to heart-racing attractions.

THE VILLAGE GREEN

2pm - 5pm

Free Inflatables

Family friendly inflatables providing by Churches Together



THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to our local groups for supporting this event,
Churches Together
Culture in Common
Forest Forge Theatre Company
Ringwood Auctions
Ringwood Carnival
Ringwood Girl Guides and Scouts
Ringwood Rotary Club
Ringwood Round Table
The Furlong Shopping Centre

Ringwood 800th Market Charter event is proudly brought to you by Ringwood Town Council.

www.ringwood.gov.uk

Facebook: Ringwood Town Council

Instagram: @ringwoodtowncouncil



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Ringwood
Town Council

St IVES HOUSE
COUNTRY HOUSE CARE

A Care South home for
residential and dementia care



**Your trusted local care home in the
heart of your community**



CQC rating

Good

November 2023



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to find out more,
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01425 209464 | care-south.co.uk

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.

**Care
South**
It's the care that counts...

Celebrating 10 Years of Serving Our Community

This month marks a very special milestone for me as I celebrate **10 years in business in Ringwood**. When I first picked up the keys to the lovely little cottage-style premises that is now Eden, I could never have imagined what the next decade would bring. Like any small business owner, when I opened the doors, I had hopes for the future (alongside the nerves!) but the support I have received from local people, local businesses and the wider community has exceeded anything I could have expected.

Over the last ten years, I have had the privilege of meeting so many wonderful people and building relationships with families across the area. Being part of a local community means so much more than simply running a business; it is about trust, friendship and supporting one another through life's important moments. Of course, as a funeral director, many of those moments come at a difficult and emotional time, and it has been an honour to help families create personal and meaningful farewells for their loved ones. I always remain grateful for the confidence that families place in me when they need support the most.

No business succeeds on its own, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported and worked with me throughout the last decade. Whether through recommendations, practical help, professional services or simply words of encouragement, your support has played an important part in the journey, and I have made some very good friends along the way.

I am also incredibly proud of the recognition Eden Funeral Directors has received in recent years, including awards for customer service and family business. These achievements are a reflection of the trust and support of the community that a funeral director has the privilege of serving.

As I look ahead, I remain committed to providing the same personal, caring and professional service that has been at the heart of the business from day one. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting a local independent business for the past ten years, I am truly grateful, and look forward to continuing to support the local community.



SMALL ADVERTS

You can advertise any business in the small ads (page 42) from only £24 per month!!

Contact: sales@rffnews.uk



EDEN
Funeral Directors

Ringwood Business Awards-
Excellence in Customer Service-
Gold Award 2024

Family Business of the Year 2023
Business of The Year Runner-up 2023

01425 837080



ROSE COTTAGE, CASTLEMAN WAY,
RINGWOOD BH24 3BA
www.edenfuneraldirectors.co.uk

HISTORY & NEWS

Fancy a Cup of Ringwood?



The upcoming 800th anniversary of the Market Charter for Ringwood is seeing a range of events to celebrate it, including the Fair Day on July 12th, an exhibition and talk at the Meeting House on the history of the market during August, and the opportunity to acquire a commemorative Ringwood mug!

The Ringwood Society have commissioned a special commemorative mug to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Market Charter. These are 25cl fine bone china mugs and will shortly be available to purchase on general sale, after a sell out exclusive members sale period.

The mugs have been crafted by the talented designers and ceramicists at People Will Always Need Plates, who produce works for organisations such as the V&A Museum, the National Trust and Heal's. Their design for Ringwood includes a specially created rendering of the Market Place which includes an 'Easter Egg' nod to an unusual piece of Ringwood history. These premium mugs make an excellent addition to your morning tea or coffee routine

or are a perfect gift for those who live or love our beautiful market town. The mugs are priced at £14.00 each and will be available shortly. If you are interested in purchasing, please contact The Ringwood Society through their website for further details. Only a limited number of these mugs are being manufactured, and the initial batch were oversubscribed, so do act quickly if you'd like to secure one, or two!

The Ringwood Society is also organising the exhibition on the history of the market in Ringwood, since 1226, throughout August in the Ringwood Meeting House and History Centre. This will be accompanied by an interesting and informative talk at the Meeting House by local historian and committee member; Mary Baldwin on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm. Tickets for members are free and non-members just £6 each.

Since 1962, The Ringwood Society has championed our historic market town through a variety of endeavours, and always welcomes new members to support their work with projects and by joining the executive committee. The more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved! Membership is only £10 a year per person, and students receive free membership. Further details can be found on their website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



The Ringwood Society

Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance SHINING IN JULY IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
01/07/1916	William James Cummings	Private	1 st Bn, Hampshire Regt.
01/07/1916	Ethelbert Young	Private	1 st Bn Hampshire Regt.
02/07/1944	Arthur Ernest Steele	Driver	234 FCE, Royal Engineers
04/07/1943	Roy Ernest Debben	Flight Sergeant	51 Sqdn, RAFVR
07/07/1915	Herbert Street	Private	2 nd Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/07/1944	Henry Roy Herbert	Corporal	7 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
13/07/1915	Frederick EV Willcox	Corporal	Royal Marine Light Infantry
14/07/1942	Arthur Dennis Meech	Sergeant	18 Sqdn, RAFVR
15/07/1916	Harold Jerrold Spurgin	Corporal	9 th Bn, Royal Sussex Regt.
21/07/1916	George Seymour	Private	12 th Bn, Devonshire Regt.
21/07/1943	Donald Lawford	Private	2 nd Bn, Wiltshire Regt.
23/07/1915	Harold Courtney Guy	Private	3rd Bn, Grenadier Guards
25/07/1916	Edward Patrick Healy	Private	2 nd Bn, Royal Scots
28/07/1916	Ernest George Brown	Gunner	14 th Div. Royal Field Artillery
31/07/1944	John Grimes Champion	Flight Lieutenant	198 Sqdn, RAFVR

Lest We Forget

Gorley Road Bus Stop Upgraded with New Shelter

A new, larger bus shelter has been installed on Gorley Road, next to the local shopping parade, thanks to funding from New Forest District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Local Infrastructure Fund.



The upgraded shelter replaces the previous structure and has been designed to better meet the needs of passengers using this well-used stop. The new facility offers improved protection from the weather, upgraded seating, and enhanced accessibility for all users.

The bus stop is regularly used by local residents, including those travelling on the popular Ringo circular routes. The improvements will help enhance passenger comfort, safety, and overall experience, particularly for elderly residents, families, and those with mobility needs.

This investment reflects an ongoing commitment to improving local infrastructure and supporting sustainable transport options within the community.

Ringwood Town Council would like to thank New Forest District Council for its support through the CIL Local Infrastructure Fund, which has made this project possible and helped deliver a practical improvement for residents and visitors alike.



A 'Final Salute' to Meeting House Archivist, John Hawkins

Ringwood Meeting House would like to raise a 'Final Salute' to John Hawkins, our prominent volunteer archivist of Meeting House for many years, John sadly passed away this April aged 97 years. We are proud and grateful for the significant contributions John made to our town archives; he created a poignant legacy for our town. He will be greatly missed!

John joined the local history group in 2006 who researched Ringwood's History. At the Meeting House, where Ringwood's archives are stored, he would eagerly conduct research on properties in the local area at the owner's request. He gave talks and more recently discussed 'WW2' and 'D- Day' with local children.

John was one of the main contributors for the regular Meeting House Memorial Exhibition 'Lest We Forget'. His respect for the Ringwood fallen heroes led him to exacting research and interesting exhibits about both wars. This exhibition has been a regular feature of our Meeting House throughout November every year. We intend to honour John's legacy, and you will see the exhibition continuing as part of our Meeting House calendar every year. He was



Ringwood Meeting House & History Centre

also part of the team who created the original list of our fallen heroes, whose anniversaries Ringwood honours with the lighting of our unique lantern.

John took on the responsibility of erecting our beautiful 'Christmas Crib montage' which can be seen exhibited in the Meeting House window every Christmas during December. The picture accompanying this article shows a very proud John having completed his mission of erecting the crib scene last December 2025!

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NEWS

We are now a Veteran Friendly Care Home

Boost for Armed Forces veterans living at Bickerley Green Care Home in Ringwood

Former members of the Armed Forces living at Ringwood's Bickerley Green Care home, will benefit from enhanced person-centred care and support after the care home they live in achieved the standards required for the Veteran Friendly Framework (VFF).

The aim of the VFF is to better support the practical, emotional and social needs of the Armed Forces community, in residential care homes across England, by providing training and resources to assess and improve the care they offer. It will help tackle loneliness and has the scope to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the 25,000 veterans living in care homes in England.

To achieve their Veteran Friendly status, Bickerley Green was required to meet eight standards. These included: noting Armed Forces status within care plans; addressing social isolation; and signposting to support services, such as their local Royal British Legion branch, and other charities that provide support for veterans or partners of veterans.

Tracy Flint, the registered manager of Bickerley Green, spoke of how proud she was to receive such an award. "We have always valued and supported our veterans who live with us. However, we wanted to explore other ways which may enhance and be of benefit to those veterans and their spouses. Working with Emma and Kathryn from the VFF, we have learnt a lot more about the support and additional services which our veterans can access. We already had our veteran residents attend Ringwood's excellent weekly Veteran's Hub. This wonderful organisation has been of tremendous benefit for our veterans. Here, they all come together with other veterans, for friendship and camaraderie. Having Bickerley Green accredited with the VFF means we are now more proactive in finding out who has served in the armed forces, and how we can best support them with accessing additional services and support networks." We are also very excited to become the first



council run care home in the country to receive Veteran Friendly recognition and one of the few care homes in Hampshire with this accreditation. I must mention that two colleagues deserve much praise for Bickerley Green to achieve VFF status. Thanks go to Tracey Cee, our Community and Wellbeing Manager, and Phil Grant, one of our residents' companions. Without their support we would not have achieved this valued accolade.

The VFF is a collaboration between Armed Forces charities Royal Star & Garter and Royal British Legion, and NHS Veterans' Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA), with funding support from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

Kathryn Glass is the VFF Project Lead at Royal Star & Garter and responsible for supporting and assessing care homes going through the scheme. She said: "We're delighted that Bickerley Green has achieved VFF status. This is a great commitment to their continuous improvement in the delivery of person-centred care for veteran residents and their partners. This programme will benefit both current and future residents, along with current and future staff at Bickerley Green who are able to access enhanced training and guidance to better engage with the unique military experiences that their residents and partners have lived through. Being a VFF care home means that there is an increased understanding and recognition for the veteran community at Ringwood's Bickerley Green.

Green Gram Gives Back

The Green Gram Community Refill Shop on Fordingbridge High Street is inviting grant applications from local good causes. As a Community Benefit Society, we prioritise benefit to the wider community rather than maximising profit. Any surplus we do make is reinvested into the Society or the local community—not distributed to shareholders. Investing in the community takes the form of outreach work and grants when possible. Thanks to the success of the shop over the last year, we are excited to be able to share up to £2,000 in grant funding and we're keen to support projects that align with our aims.

This is the second time that The Green Gram has been able to offer grants. In the past we have funded the Building Together project by Avon Valley Community Matters parent support group, an events shelter for 1st Fordingbridge Scout Groups, and contributed towards the installation of a wheelchair accessible composting toilet at Project Manna.

Are you seeking funding for a project that benefits residents or the environment in Fordingbridge or the surrounding area? For more information and an application form, head to our website <https://www.thegreengram.org/grants>, email Jo Anderson at team@thegreengram.org or pop into the shop. The closing date for applications is 30th June 2026, and grants will be awarded



following our Annual Members' Meeting in September.

Guy's 5 reasons why now is one of the best times to pay attention to your hedges

After more than ten years working in gardens across Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding areas, I've learned that some of the most important gardening jobs are often the ones homeowners don't think about until it's too late.

Hedges are a perfect example.

At this time of year, many hedges are growing at their fastest rate. What starts as a neat boundary in spring can quickly become overgrown by late summer, blocking light, encroaching onto paths and driveways, and making the whole garden feel less tidy and well-maintained.

While flowers and lawns often grab the attention, well-managed hedges provide the structure that holds a garden together throughout the year.

With summer now in full swing, here are five reasons why this is one of the best times to pay attention to your hedges.

1. Keep gardens looking neat and cared for

A freshly trimmed hedge can completely transform the appearance of a property. Clean lines and defined shapes give a garden an immediate sense of order and make the whole outdoor space feel more attractive.

2. Prevent hedges becoming difficult to manage

Regular trimming helps maintain a hedge's size and shape. Leaving growth unchecked for too long often means more aggressive cutting is required later, which can be more expensive and less beneficial for the plant.

3. Allow more light into the garden

Overgrown hedges can quickly begin shading lawns, borders and seating areas. Careful trimming allows more sunlight to reach the garden and can improve the health of surrounding plants.

4. Protect paths, driveways and boundaries

One of the most common summer complaints I hear is hedges spilling onto footpaths, driveways and neighbouring boundaries. Keeping them under control improves access and avoids potential disputes with neighbours.

5. Prepare for the seasons ahead

Although it may seem early to think about autumn, work carried out now helps gardens transition more smoothly into the cooler months. A well-maintained hedge will hold its shape better, stay healthier and require less corrective work later in the year.

The gardens that look their best year-round are rarely the result of one big annual tidy-up. More often, they benefit from regular attention to the features that provide structure and definition throughout the seasons.

As summer progresses, now is an ideal time to get on top of hedge maintenance before growth starts to slow and autumn arrives.

If you'd like help with hedge trimming or any aspect of garden maintenance, 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.



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SPORT

BKO Rising Warriors

The RKO squad stepped onto the mats today at the BKO Rising Warriors event, bringing courage, determination and true team spirit.

Five of our young fighters Gianni Brown, Richie Ollington, Avery Ollington, Harley Saville, and Oscar Lee represented RKO with pride and gave performances that showed growth, bravery and heart.

Standout Performances

- Oscar Lee: Faced two opponents who were noticeably larger, but refused to be intimidated. Despite nerves, Oscar fought smart, stayed composed, and came away as winner of his category. A brilliant achievement.
- Avery Ollington: First-time fighter and understandably nervous, but after a deep breath Avery stepped up with confidence and delivered a fantastic performance, earning first place in her category.
- Harley Saville: The birthday boy brought energy and focus to the mats. Harley worked his area beautifully and threw some seriously loud back fists they must have heard them in the next town. He finished with a well-deserved bronze medal.
- Richie Ollington: Showed real grit and determination. Although he didn't place today, Richie pushed himself, tried new strategies and gained valuable experience that will strengthen his future performances.
- Gianni Brown: Entered one of the biggest categories of the day. Gianni didn't place, but he showcased excellent skill, stayed positive, and most importantly had fun, exactly what development at this stage is all about.

Every RKO fighter tried something new today.

They challenged themselves, adapted under pressure, and showed the kind of resilience that makes champions not just in



medals, but in mindset.

Thank You to Our Parents

A huge thank you to all the parents who drove, supported, encouraged and cheered. Your commitment makes days like this possible, and the fighters feel that support every time they step onto the mats.

Ringwood care home resident sets sail again thanks to special wish initiative

A sailing enthusiast living in a Ringwood care home was provided with the opportunity to return to the water once again and fulfil her special wish.

Liz, who lives in St Ives House in Ringwood, which is owned and operated by not-for-profit charity Care South, shared stories with the care home team about her love of sailing and previous adventures on the water in both the UK and America. Inspired by Liz's passion, the team arranged a special visit to Spinnaker Sailing Club in Blashford, where she was able to get back out on the water with qualified sailing instructor Graham Stones, RYA Principal at the club.

Liz said: "I loved feeling the wind on my face when we were sailing. It makes you feel so alive."

During the session, Liz and Graham bonded over their shared enthusiasm for sailing, while enjoying time out on the lake. Liz was also joined by some other residents from the care home on Horton Road, who then also had the opportunity to experience sailing under Graham's guidance.

The special visit was arranged as part of Care South's 'Make a Wish' initiative, which encourages residents to share hobbies and passions they once enjoyed but are now unable to pursue without the home's support. The care home team then works to bring the special wishes to life.

Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, said: "Seeing Liz back out on the water doing something she truly loves was incredibly special. The day was not only a chance for Liz to revisit a hobby she loves, but also an opportunity for some of our other residents to enjoy a shared experience together. At Care South, we believe it's important that residents feel supported to continue pursuing new and existing passions, hobbies and interests, while



receiving great care tailored to their individual needs."

St Ives House provides residential, respite, and dementia care. Residents enjoy a daily programme of events organised by the dedicated activities team to enable residents to socialise and build friendships.

Care South is a not-for-profit provider of high-quality residential care homes across Dorset, north Devon and Somerset, and care at home offices covering Dorset and Somerset.

For more information about the care services available at St Ives House, visit care-south.co.uk or call 01425 209464 to book a tour.



SPORT & NEWS

Ringwood Junior School compete in Premier League Primary Stars Tournament

A team of players from Ringwood Junior School competed in a local tournament in January against other local schools with the chance to represent AFC Bournemouth in the National Finals.

Travelling by coach the day before and staying overnight in a hotel only added to the excitement as the squad prepared to represent AFC Bournemouth at the Premier League Primary Stars tournament after coming through the regional competition so successfully in January.

Playing at Molineux Stadium, home of Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C., made the occasion even more special for the boys. Bertie, Dougie, George, Jake, Luke, Ted, Milo and Rocco arrived ready to test themselves against some of the best school teams from around the country and they rose to the challenge. Under the guidance of managers Mrs Cleeve and Dean Potter, the boys played with confidence throughout the tournament, playing some outstanding football.

Three wins from four matches was a tremendous return and left the Ringwood boys agonisingly close to a semi-final place, missing out on top spot in their group by just a single point.

The boys competed brilliantly, showed fantastic character making friends and supporting other teams. They represented both Ringwood Junior School and Ringwood Town Football Club with enormous pride. They had a great day and created memories that will stay with them for years to come.





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NEWS

Run a Way Success for New 'Double-Header' Business Awards

This week a large gathering of local business people celebrated and applauded the winners in the 2026 Verwood Business Awards and also the first Fordingbridge Business Awards.

The two awards came together to hold their respective awards ceremony on the same day, at the same venue, the lovely Crane Valley Golf Course.

Attendees were joined by Verwood Mayor, Cllr Simon Gibson, and the leading local businesses that sponsor the event and in doing so shine a light on local business success and endeavour.

Organiser Lindsay Jones from marketing West SW said 'A phrase often used is that local businesses/SMEs are the backbone of the economy – it's true and it's also true that successful vibrant businesses make vibrant thriving towns. We hope that these awards show gratitude and encouragement to the many independent business owners in the two areas helping to achieve just that'

The wide range of winners included local cafes and bars, financial advisers, vets, taxi/executive travel companies, health & fitness, education, marketing, PR, fashion, and hairdressing businesses all receiving recognition for the impact they have in making the business community diverse and strong in the two towns.

The top honours went to Run Fit Fordingbridge and Ocean Vets Verwood who both were crowned as the 'Business of the Year' in their respective towns.



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B2B Business Sponsored by CxO Executive Travel

- Padua Communications

Community Service Sponsored by Bournemouth One

- Avonway Community Centre

Overall Business of the Year Sponsored by MWSW

- Run Fit Fordingbridge

A full list of Winners including Verwood can be seen at:-
<https://www.marketingwest.co.uk/verwood-business-awards>

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Gemmy Jay Nail Artist & Training Academy

Name: Gemma Jones

Business Name: Gemmy Jay Nail Artist & Training Academy

Address: 30 High Street, Ringwood, BH231AF

Many local residents will remember the former Chocolate Box shop on Ringwood High Street. Today, that same building is home to Gemmy Jay Nail Artist & Training Academy, a thriving salon and training centre that has quickly become a hub for beauty professionals and clients alike.

I opened the salon in December 2024 after more than 25 years in the nail industry. Having first picked up a nail brush as a teenager, I always dreamed of creating a space that combined professional nail services with high-quality education. Ringwood felt like the perfect place to bring that vision to life.

When I first viewed the premises, it was in need of significant renovation, but I could immediately see its potential. After months of planning, decorating and hard work, the building was transformed into the vibrant floral-fronted salon that now proudly stands on the High Street. My aim was to create more than just a nail salon. I wanted to build a welcoming environment where clients could relax, feel valued and enjoy professional treatments in a friendly and supportive setting.

At Gemmy Jay Nail Artist & Training Academy, we offer professional nail services from acrylic, builder gel, gel polish, nail art, waxing, lash lifts and tints. Alongside our salon services, we also provide accredited training courses for aspiring and established nail technicians looking to develop their skills, confidence and career opportunities within the industry.

As the business has grown, so has the community within it. In December 2025, Rebecca Witt joined the salon with her independent business, Bare & Buff Beauty. With over 15 years of experience in the beauty industry, Rebecca specialises in intimate waxing alongside a range of beauty and nail treatments. In March 2026, Hannah Percy joined with her independent business, Gloss & Polish. Hannah is a Master Nail Technician with more than 13 years of experience and specialises in Russian manicures, builder gel and advanced nail services.

One thing that makes us unique is that we are three independent business owners working alongside one another under one roof. We support each other's growth while providing clients with a wider range of professional beauty and nail services. It is a collaborative approach that benefits both our businesses and our clients.

Education has always been at the heart of my career. I am proud to be an educator for Hazel Dixon's HD Professional, one of the UK's leading professional nail brands, where I help train and mentor nail technicians across the South Coast. Whether I am working with a client in the salon or teaching a student in the academy, my goal is always the same: to raise standards within the industry and help others succeed.

In 2026, I was honoured to receive the South England Prestige Award for Nail Artist of the Year and was also named a finalist in Scratch Magazine's Social Media Star category. These achievements reflect not only my dedication to the industry but also the support of my wonderful clients, students and local community.



Business has been fantastic since opening and the support from Ringwood residents has been incredible. Every appointment booked, recommendation shared and local business supported helps independent businesses continue to thrive. We are proud to be part of Ringwood's High Street and look forward to serving the community for many years to come.

As a thank you to readers of this feature, new clients mentioning this article will receive 10% off their first appointment.
Gemma Jones 07515 484123

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Ringwood Appoints New Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor

Ringwood Town Council is pleased to announce the appointment of **Cllr Mary DeBoos** as Town Mayor and **Cllr James Swyer** as Deputy Town Mayor for the coming year.



The appointments were confirmed at the Council's Annual Meeting held on 27 May 2026, where members elected its Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the year ahead.

Cllr DeBoos takes on the role during a particularly significant year for the town.

"As my hometown, Ringwood has a very special place in my heart and I'm delighted to be Town Mayor this year as we celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Market Charter. I look forward to serving our residents, supporting local businesses and organisations, and working alongside councillors and volunteers to continue making our town a wonderful place."

Supporting her as Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Swyer expressed his commitment to the community:

"It's an honour to be asked to represent this wonderful community alongside our new Town Mayor and I'll do all I can to ensure all those in the town are heard and supported."

The Council would also like to extend its sincere thanks to Cllr Rae Frederick for her two years as Town Mayor and for the energy and commitment she brought to the role.

Residents are encouraged to join in welcoming the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and to take part in the town's events and celebrations throughout the coming year, particularly as Ringwood marks the 800th anniversary of its historic Market Charter.



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Hi, and welcome to what I hope will be a regular article over the coming months. In this spot, I will endeavour to bring you news and updates about county council issues that may affect the residents of Ringwood and surrounding villages.

It's been a month since my induction as County Councillor for Ringwood and so far I have attended five local council meetings and three meetings at Winchester. It's been busy, but I have enjoyed meeting all of the councillors and officers involved and look forward to working with them in the future. I have also answered and resolved several residents' queries with one or two still outstanding, but I'm working on them! I have also had a good meeting with a local charity and hope to help them gain some funding.

So that you are aware, I shall be serving on the following committees: Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, Universal Services Select Committee, New Forest National Park Authority and as a substitute on the Regulatory Committee. So far I have attended the first meeting of the Regulatory committee, with the first meetings of the others to take place over the next few weeks.

My duties also involve acting as intermediary between the Quarry sites to the west of our region and the local residents; something I wasn't expecting but am looking forward to.

Just to close, if you should know of any local issues you think I should be aware of, please email me at martin.eyre@hants.gov.uk. Please note: I won't respond to malicious or politically biased mail, I'm here to help the residents.

Cllr Martin Eyre



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donate, please visit our web-
site www.hopenewforest.org
or call 01425 629 009**BEREAVEMENTS****Phillips****David (Dave)**Passed away peacefully on 1st June 2026 at Poole Hospital,
aged 91 years. A much loved husband to Linda and dad to
Tracey and Steven. He will be greatly missed by his
grandchildren, family and friends.Funeral service will take place at Poulner Baptist Chapel,
Linford Road, Hangersley, Ringwood BH24 3HZ, on
Monday 29th June 2026 at 12:00 noon.Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for
Parkinson's UK and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People can be
made online at:www.funeraldirector.co.uk/dave-phillipsor sent c/o Ives & Shand Funeral Service, 568 Ashley Road,
Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH14 0AG. Tel: 01202 716500**Doris****Champion**It is with sadness that we inform you that at the age of 103
years 5 months she passed away peacefully in her sleep in
Lymington Hospital on Tuesday 26th May early morning. She
remained in her own home until going into
Hospital on Thursday 21st May.**ANNOUNCEMENT****Norman Jenkins- Celebration of Life**Come and celebrate on what would have been Norman's 100th
birthday! Wednesday 24th June @ 2:30 pm at Bickerley Green
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enjoy an afternoon tea to honour and celebrate Norman's life.
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Puzzle Corner

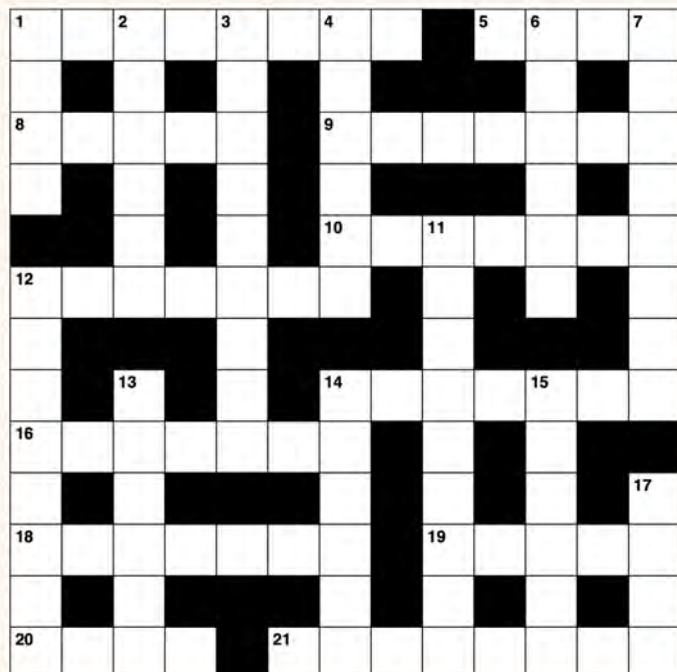
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Crossword



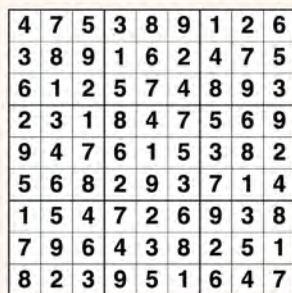
Across

- 1 - Elks idea (anag) (8)
- 5 - Flaring star (4)
- 8 - Small primate (5)
- 9 - Volcanic crater (7)
- 10 - Tragedy by Shakespeare (7)
- 12 - Temporary way of dealing with a problem (7)
- 14 - Pungent gas (7)
- 16 - Crossbar set above a window (7)
- 18 - Permitted (7)
- 19 - Triangular river mouth (5)
- 20 - Quantity of bread (4)
- 21 - Beginning (8)

Down

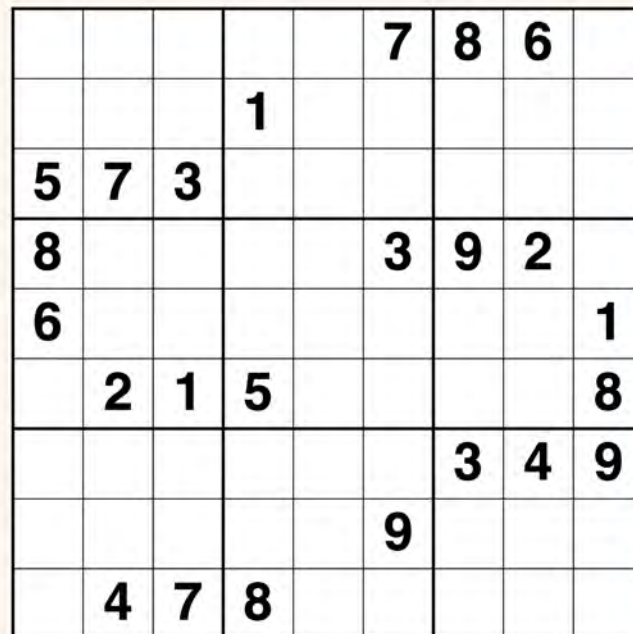
- 1 - Quieten down; send to sleep (4)
- 2 - Japanese robe (6)
- 3 - Unknown people (9)
- 4 - Depart suddenly (6)
- 6 - Took the lid off a jar (6)
- 7 - Detested thing (8)
- 11 - Naval officer (9)
- 12 - Sport (8)
- 13 - Spanish rice dish (6)
- 14 - Surrounded by (6)
- 15 - Central parts of cells (6)
- 17 - Warbled (4)

Answers for last the last issue:



Sudoku

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