

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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Paying HMRC this month? Your tax bill might be too high!

If you're self-employed or a landlord, you may have a tax payment due by 31 July - your "second payment on account".

What most people don't realise is that this bill is based on last year's income (24/25), not this year's. HMRC assumes you'll earn the same again and asks for tax in advance on that basis. If you earned less in the year to 5 April - fewer jobs, a lost customer, a rental property sold, time out for family or health - you could be about to overpay by hundreds or even thousands of pounds.

And HMRC won't reduce the bill on

its own. Unless you act, the full amount is collected and you wait months to get it back.

There are two ways to put it right. The best is to file your tax return now. The tax year ended in April, so your real figures already exist - once your return is in, HMRC recalculates and your July payment drops to what it should be. Filing early doesn't mean paying early, either: anything else you owe still isn't due until 31 January. You simply get certainty six months sooner.

The alternative is a claim to reduce your payments on account based on

an estimate. That works too - but pitch the estimate too low and HMRC charges backdated interest, so the numbers need to be realistic.

And if the bill is right but money's tight, don't just miss the deadline. HMRC will usually agree instalments if you contact them before the due date, not after.

We've written a plain-English guide covering how payments on account work, who can reduce them, and the traps to avoid. Scan the QR code below to read more:



Is your July tax bill too high?

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Happy Summer

The summer holidays are finally here, bringing six wonderful weeks of opportunities for families to slow down, reconnect and make lasting memories. Whether you're a parent looking to keep energetic youngsters entertained or a grandparent keen to spend quality time with the grandchildren, we're fortunate to have the beautiful New Forest right on our doorstep.

You don't need to spend a fortune to enjoy the holidays. A picnic in one of the Forest's many beauty spots, a woodland walk to spot the famous ponies, or a cycle ride along the network of family-friendly trails can provide hours of fun. The coast is only a short drive away too, with beaches at Barton-on-Sea and Mudeford offering the perfect setting for sandcastles, paddling and ice creams.

Closer to home, our towns and villages have plenty to offer. Local parks, community events, libraries and summer activity programmes provide entertainment for all ages, while independent cafés and attractions welcome visitors throughout the season. Why not encourage children to swap screens for scavenger hunts, bug spotting or simply exploring nature? The memories



made together often become the ones they treasure most.

If you're enjoying a quieter summer without children, catch up with friends, it's the perfect time to discover a new walking trail, linger over lunch at a local pub or café, browse our independent shops, visit a local garden or simply soak up the beauty of the Forest at a gentler pace.

However you choose to spend the summer, we hope it's filled with laughter, adventure and plenty of time together.

From everyone at the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News, have a safe, happy and memorable summer.

Darren & Naomi

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

Publishers:

Darren & Naomi Loose

Advertising:

Nicola Matthews
07881 270844
sales@rfnews.uk

Distribution:

Rae Frederick
office@rfnews.uk

Editorial:

editor@rfnews.uk

Telephone:

01425 563111

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NEWS

Ringwood Twinning Association

2026 marks the fortieth anniversary of Ringwood's association with Pont Audemer in Normandy. 14 members of the Ringwood Twinning Association travelled to France this May as guests to commemorate the occasion. There were a number of events over the four day visit, including a civic reception, trips to Rouen and a cider farm, as well as a celebratory meal marking the anniversary. The English members were made very welcome and a good time was enjoyed by all.

Earlier in April, the majority of the association members gathered at St Tropez Lounge in Poole on the actual date both towns formalised their twinning. They toasted this milestone event and after a delicious French-themed meal the group was entertained by an accordionist.



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NEWS

Fordingbridge Musical Theatre Choir International Tour

Excitement is mounting in Fordingbridge as the Musical Theatre Choir puts the finishing touches to their programme of songs from the shows before heading off on-tour to Paris in a week's time.

45 members from Fordingbridge Musical Theatre Choir will spend four days on tour, from 25 to 28 June, performing two programmes as well as enjoying the Parisian art and culture.

After almost a year of preparation the choir is nearly ready to give two, contrasting performances. They have secured a spot at the Kiosque en Fête au parc Montsouris, a historic bandstand in Montsouris Park, one of the largest green spaces in Paris. This performance, on Friday morning at 11am, will include an extended Les Misérables medley featuring many of the famous songs from the hit musical, as well as songs from Footloose, Hamilton and

Sweet Charity.

Following a challenging but ultimately successful audition process, the Choir was delighted to have been chosen by the performing arts team at Disneyland to appear in one of the coveted spots on the main Videopolis stage. They've been called to arrive early on Saturday morning for blocking on-stage and a sound and lighting check. The choir will then perform at 12.30pm, providing a spectacular show which will include hits from The Sound of Music, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid and Hercules.

Choir director, Olivia Sparkhall, said, "I'm incredibly proud of the hard work the choir has put into preparing for this tour, and of the high standard they are now achieving. We've been together for nearly three years and it's remarkable how much progress the group has made in that time."

Follow along on Instagram and Facebook by searching for the hashtag #Fordingbridgeontour

Instagram: @singspacefordingbridge

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Fordingbridge Park Fest, Saturday 18th July. 12-5pm at Fordingbridge Recreation Ground

Excitement is building for this year's Fordingbridge Park Fest Event, taking place on Saturday 18th July from 12pm to 5pm at the Fordingbridge Recreation Ground.

Fordingbridge Town Council can now unveil a packed timetable of live performances, arena attractions, and family entertainment.

The free community festival will celebrate sports, arts and culture, bringing together local performers, community groups, sports clubs, independent traders, artists, and food & drink vendors, for an afternoon of summer fun.

The entertainment begins at 12pm on the Main Stage with a live performance from Hyde Band, setting the tone for a lively and energetic day.

At 1pm, the Fordingbridge Players will take to the Main Stage with a special performance, while at 1.15pm visitors can head to the Main Arena for a spectacular birds of prey demonstration from Liberty's Birds of Prey.

Musical entertainment continues at 2pm with the Fordingbridge Musical Theatre Choir performing on the Main Stage before a fantastic Dog Show begins in the Main Arena at 2.30pm. To enter this fun Dog Show, head over to The Duck Pond stall on the day! At 3pm, local favourites Star Cast will entertain crowds on the Main Stage, followed at 3.30pm by an exciting Taekwondo demonstration in the Main Arena.

The afternoon concludes with another appearance from the Fordingbridge Players at 4pm before live



FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

cover band Loose Chippings close the festival with a live set from 4.15pm on the Main Stage.

Alongside the scheduled performances, visitors can also enjoy free activities including climbing wall sessions and archery, as well as live skate park demonstrations and a graffiti artist showcasing creative street art throughout the day.

Community favourites will also return, including the Rotary Club's two heat raft races at 2.30pm and 4pm and their infamous duck races at 3pm and at 3.30pm the corporate duck race. Tickets will be available to purchase on the day.

Fordingbridge Turks and Fordingbridge Rugby Club will also host a variety of sports-themed activities and competitions, including a tug of war challenge.

With free entry and entertainment for all ages, Fordingbridge Park Fest promises to be a fantastic celebration of community spirit and one of the standout events of the local summer calendar.

Come along, bring a picnic and enjoy!



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NEWS

Understanding Investments - Pension Taxes on Death

From April 6th 2027 pension values will to be included in an estate value for Inheritance Tax (IHT) purposes.

What does this mean?

If your total estate including pension values is under your IHT allowances then there is no change to the way they are taxed currently. This will only affect clients whose estates exceed their IHT allowances when including pension assets along with all other assets. For this article we are focusing on pension taxes only and not wider IHT rules.

Death Pre Age 75:

Inheritance tax applies unless the nomination on death is to a spouse or charity. There is no income tax charge or lump sum charge unless the proceeds exceed the Lump Sum Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA) of £1,073,000. The Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) of £268,250 still applies to tax free cash.

Death post age 75:

As above other than the fact that an income tax charge would also apply at the beneficiaries marginal rate of tax. This could mean that two tax charges will apply-IHT and income tax on the beneficiary. The ability to control the way income is paid out to the beneficiary could be very important to mitigate the tax rate paid. For example if a pension provides only for a lump sum death payment and is valued at say £150,000, that is added to the beneficiaries income in that tax year so part of the payment would then be taxed at additional rate tax and higher rate tax. Under beneficiary draw-down the beneficiary can choose the level of income they draw out and do this over a number of years to control the income tax charge. Many pension plans don't offer beneficiary drawdown so this should be checked. We also recommend seeking the advice of an accountant for tax calculations/liabilities should they apply.

A change in the way wealthy clients treat pensions?

Pensions are still very tax-efficient saving vehicles. You receive tax relief on the way in, money then grows tax free, and on the way out you receive a lump sum tax free with the remainder taxable at your marginal tax rate (often lower than the tax you saved on the way in).

Many clients will still need their pensions to pay for their own retirement needs and will draw money out from them via drawdown or the purchase of an annuity. In this case client behavior is less likely to change due to a potential IHT charge on death.

The changes do affect clients who have surplus assets for their own needs and up to now had expected to leave their pension pots to their children or grandchildren IHT free. It's those clients who need to review their planning as the tax rate on death post age 75 could be as high as 67% (assuming the pension is liable to IHT and the beneficiary is not a spouse or charity and is an additional rate tax-payer).

The positive news is that there are multiple planning strategies that can be used now to mitigate the effect of the upcoming change and there is some time to put these into place.

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.

A pension is a long-term investment not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028). The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up which would have an impact on the level of pension benefits available. The tax implications of pension withdrawals will be based on your individual circumstances, tax legislation and regulation which are subject to change.

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Second Truck Pull on Ringwood High Street – with a spidermen twist

Ringwood High Street was disrupted again on a Saturday morning in May, but for a good reason: members of the Ringwood Carnival team were pulling a huge truck down the street for the second year running, to cause a stir as part of their 'JOIN THE PROCESSION' campaign.

Last year's PR stunt saw the team pulled a 10ton truck, kindly supplied by Elvy International Marine Heavy Haulage – so this year had to be different. And have some surprises!

Members of the Ringwood Carnival crew - dressed as Where's Wally - pulled the beloved Bournemouth Carnival Band on a flat bed truck, generously lent by Economy Van Hire. They were joined by the newly appointed Ringwood Town Mayor, Cllr Mary DeBoos and Deputy Mayor James Swyer – along with many friends of Carnival!

Carnival Chairman said: "We loved creating a commotion with the huge truck last year, and thought that if we had to shock the people of Ringwood on a Saturday morning, what better way than to bring them the familiar sounds of the Spidermen – members of Bournemouth Carnival Band! Synonymous with Ringwood AND Carnival Day, the sentiment of the stunt is to raise awareness and encourage involvement in our Carnival parades later in the year"

Ringwood Carnival takes place annually on the third Saturday in September, this year on the 19th September -with two processions; one afternoon parade at 2pm, and an illuminated procession at sundown, starting at 7:15pm.

The Carnival team are raising awareness and encouraging people to join in and take part in the Carnival in either procession, but particularly in the evening illuminated parade. It's FREE to enter and with up to £500.00 prize money for the best in show for participants' chosen charity or good cause, it is a great way to have fun for clubs, groups, schools, sports teams, charities or business-



es. With up to 10,000 onlookers throughout the day, it's a great way to take in part in something special, promote your club or business, have a fun time and be part of this enjoyable spectacle – the biggest event on the Ringwood town calendar.

With a full guide, containing 'tricks & tips,' together with risk assessment templates and insurance guides on the Carnival website, entering is made simple via the interactive form - But that's not all, If advice, guidance or contacts are needed, the Carnival team can provide assistance.

So why not get your big truck, dress it up, think of a fun theme and run it through Ringwood on Carnival day?

Special thanks to Economy Van Hire, Trevor Pogson, Harrison Hoyle, Ringwood Scaffolding, Ringwood TV, Bournemouth Carnival Band, Trevor Pogson and Jacob & Isac Smith.

Credit for photograph to be given to: Trevor Pogson (Ringwood Camera Club)





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What's on at Greyfriars!

21-25 July RMDS summer Show

The return of the spectacular RMDS Summer Show, brings 3 unique performances of live music and dance across 3 different halls, with delicious canapés served between acts. Tickets are running out fast, get yours now: £20 from Greyfriars or TicketSource.

31 Jul & 1 Aug – Pop-Up Café & Paul Martin

The Pop-Up Community café returns to our Courtyard. Join us to enjoyed a freshly brewed coffee and delicious cakes and pastries. **Paul Martin** joins us on 31 July from **10.30** for valuations. All are welcome **from 9-1 each day**.

1 Aug – Summer Book & Craft Sale

Filling the halls with books and outside on the lawn will be our craft stalls and live music (weather permitting)! Bring your bags, trolleys and your friends between **9-1pm**, we have plenty of books, puzzles for your delight!!

18-31 Aug – Summer Art Exhibition

Ringwood Art Society showcase local talent at this annual exhibition, celebrating the regions diverse create spirit via original paintings, and other unique mediums. Open daily from **10am-4.45pm** and is fee entry. More details on www.ringwoodartsociety.org.

12 Sep – SongBirds

Known for their beautiful harmonies, the SongBirds will entertain with a mixture of pop, jazz, musical theatre and more from **7.30pm**. Supporting Greyfriars Community Café, tickets at £10 are available from reception and TicketSource.



Ringwood Carnival – 19 September

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WHATS ON

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**EX
AND
DRUGS
AND
ROCK 'N'
ROLL**

RMDS SUMMER SHOW

Greyfriars Community Centre
21st - 25th July
7.45pm

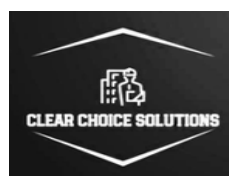


Three shows. Three casts. One unforgettable evening.

Ringwood Musical and Dramatic Society's unique Summer Show returns to Greyfriars Community Centre from 21–25 July, with this year's production, 'Ex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll. Unlike a traditional theatre production, the RMDS Summer Show is made up of **three separate shows performed by three different casts in three different spaces at the Community Centre.** Audiences are split into groups and rotate around the venue during the evening, experiencing all three productions. This year's theme, 'Ex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll, provides the inspiration for the directors, who have each created their own original show around one element of the title. The result is three completely different productions – 'Ex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll – each with its own style, humour, music and surprises. The Summer Show has become one of RMDS's most popular and talked-about events, giving directors, performers and audiences the chance to enjoy something a little different. Expect laughter, memorable characters, great music and plenty of unexpected moments along the way. With three shows for the price of one ticket, it's a theatre experience you won't find anywhere else in the area. Plus there is a cash bar and complimentary nibbles available in each interval. 'Ex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll runs from 21–25 July at Greyfriars Community Centre, starting at 7.45pm each evening.

Book tickets now at rmds.org.uk

For more information, please contact:
Ringwood Musical and Dramatic Society
Email: info@rmds.org.uk
Website: www.rmds.org.uk



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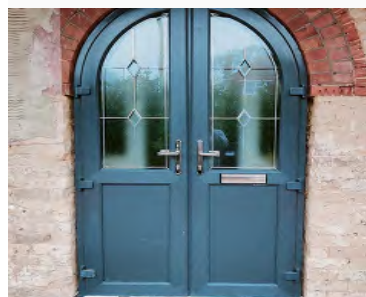
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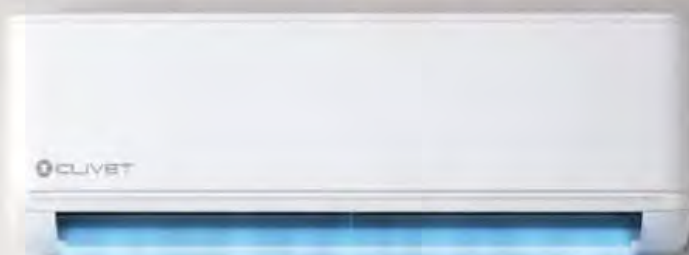
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REVIEWS



NEWS

After more than 25 years of dedicated service at Poulner Infant School, Dawn Pepperell, a very special member of the community is preparing to retire at the end of this school year.

Having lived her whole life in Ringwood, she has spent decades helping shape the lives of local children as a teaching assistant - offering kindness, compassion, patience and unwavering support to generations of pupils and families.

She has always gone above and beyond in her role, giving her time, energy and care to every child she has worked with. Her dedication has made a lasting difference to so many young lives, and her impact reaches far beyond the classroom.

To those who know her, she is hardworking, selfless and truly inspiring. To the children she has supported over the years, she has been a friendly face, a listening ear and someone who helped them believe in themselves.

As she reaches this well earned retirement, her family, friends and colleagues simply want to say THANK YOU!

Thank you for your years of dedication, your endless kindness and for everything you have done for the children and families of Ringwood. You should be incredibly proud of the difference you have made.



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NEWS

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As I sit writing this, I can hardly believe where the time has gone. This July marks the 20th anniversary of Eyecatcher Signs. Since then, we have branded thousands of vehicles, produced signage for countless shops, and transformed many commercial units and offices.



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Dog Vaccinations: A Guide for Owners

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect your dog from serious infectious diseases. While vaccinations are not legally required in the UK, they are strongly recommended by veterinary professionals to help keep dogs healthy and prevent disease outbreaks.

Core vaccines routinely given to dogs protect against:

Canine Parvovirus – causes severe vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration.

Canine Distemper Virus – a serious disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems.

Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Adenovirus) – can affect the liver, kidneys and eyes.

Leptospirosis – a bacterial disease spread by rats that can affect both dogs and humans.

Additional vaccines may be recommended depending on your dog's lifestyle:

Kennel Cough – important for dogs attending kennels, daycare or training classes.

Rabies – required for dogs travelling abroad.

Puppies are usually vaccinated at around 8 and 12 weeks of age. Booster vaccinations are then given throughout life to maintain protection. Some vaccines provide longer-lasting immunity, while others, such as leptospirosis, require annual vaccination.

Keeping vaccinations up to date is an important part of responsible pet ownership. Combined with regular flea, worm and preventative healthcare, they help keep your dog healthy and protected throughout their life.



To find out more about vaccinations or our Ocean Paws Plan, speak to a member of the team at Ocean Vets 01425 654202 or 01202 829436 or visit www.oceanvets.uk



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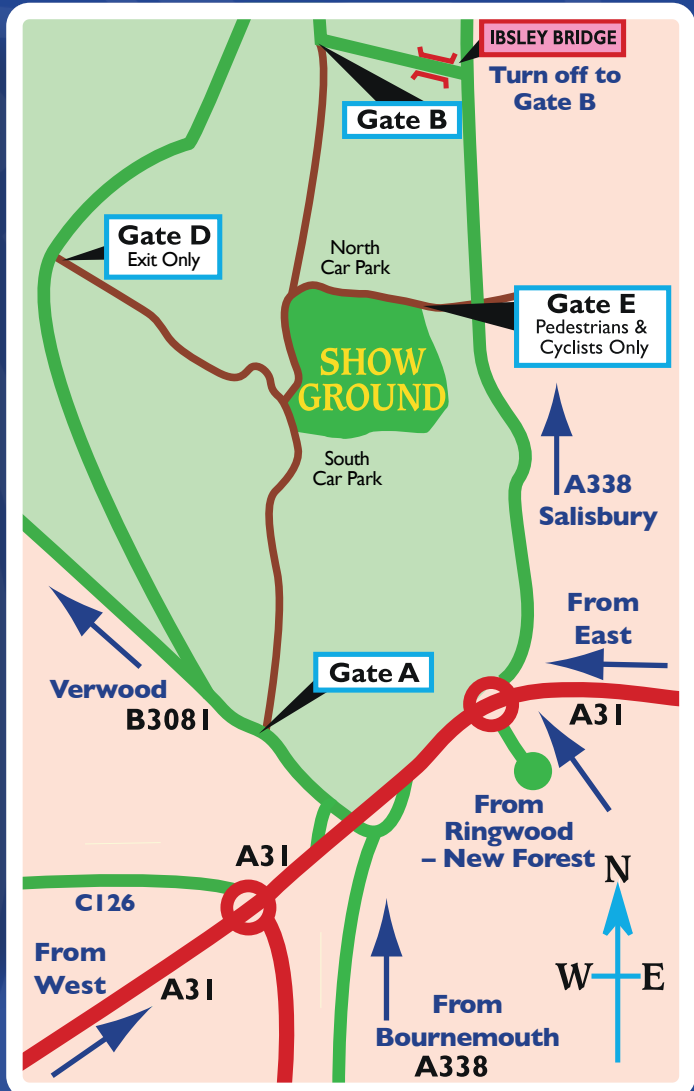
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How to get to the Show

Follow signs directing you to
Somerley P via the A338 Ringwood to Salisbury Road
and the B3081 Ringwood to Verwood road.

The Showground is also signposted from the A31.

For information about the Show and to obtain tickets,
please visit the website
www.ellinghamshow.co.uk





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CQC rating

Good

November 2023



**Care
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Armed Forces Day at Bickerley Green

On Saturday 27th June, Bickerley Green Care Home, celebrated Armed Forces Day in their own lovely grounds. It was a lovely meeting of the generations, as we were fortunate to have 9 air cadets from 2515 Squadron (Ringwood and Fordingbridge) appropriate songs, poems, read by the cadets and one very eager Brownie, the daughter of Flight-Lieutenant Baker. Songs from the era of World War II were sung by Bickerley Green's very own residents' choir, led capably by Pam Raymond. The event raised £80 for the work of 2515 squadron's cadet activities.

One of the organisers, Phil Grant, Companion to the Residents' said: "We wanted to commemorate Armed Forces Day and bring the 'old and the young' together. The cadets worked hard, chatted to everyone and they were a credit to themselves and 2515 Squadron. We wish them every success for their future whether it be in the Royal Air force or elsewhere. The day was quite an occasion, and the Armed Forces afternoon is just one of many things which we do to involve the residents, their loved-ones and the local community here at Bickerley Green."

Also commenting was Flight-Lieutenant Becky Baker, "It was an honour to have some of our cadets supporting the event and chatting and listening to many veterans gathering at Bickerley Green Care Home. I had a great sense of pride when our veteran's took part with the various readings during the commemoration service." Bickerley Green is a lovely place and The Ringwood and Fordingbridge Air Cadets, 2515 Squadron, were only too pleased to lend our support to such an important event, and all the cadets were a credit to the service that they were representing.

Also present was newly elected Ringwood Mayor, Cllr. Mary DeBoos who gave a short address and commented upon what a superb way the afternoon was to welcome young people, who may be considering a future career within our Armed Forces. Also present, were members of Ringwood Veteran's Hub, who meet weekly at Greyfriars Community Centre. They too, where full of praise for the work, enthusiasm and conduct of all 9 air cadets.



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HISTORY & NEWS

Travel at 800 Years Per Hour!

The upcoming 800th anniversary of the Market Charter for Ringwood continues even after the celebrations held on Sunday, with an upcoming exhibition and talk to be held at Ringwood Meeting House and History Centre and organised by The Ringwood Society.

Throughout August an exhibition on the history of the market in Ringwood since 1226 will take place offering an illuminating look back at the 800 years which have passed since the granting of the first market charter in that year. The exhibition will include rarely seen images and informative text looking at the evolution of the market in our town from 1226 through to the present day.

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. Mary's talks are ever popular and tickets always sell quickly. Tickets for members are free (membership is just £10 per person per annum) and non-members just £6 each, and available to purchase online through Ticketsource. The booking website is available at www.ticketsource.com/the-ringwood-society



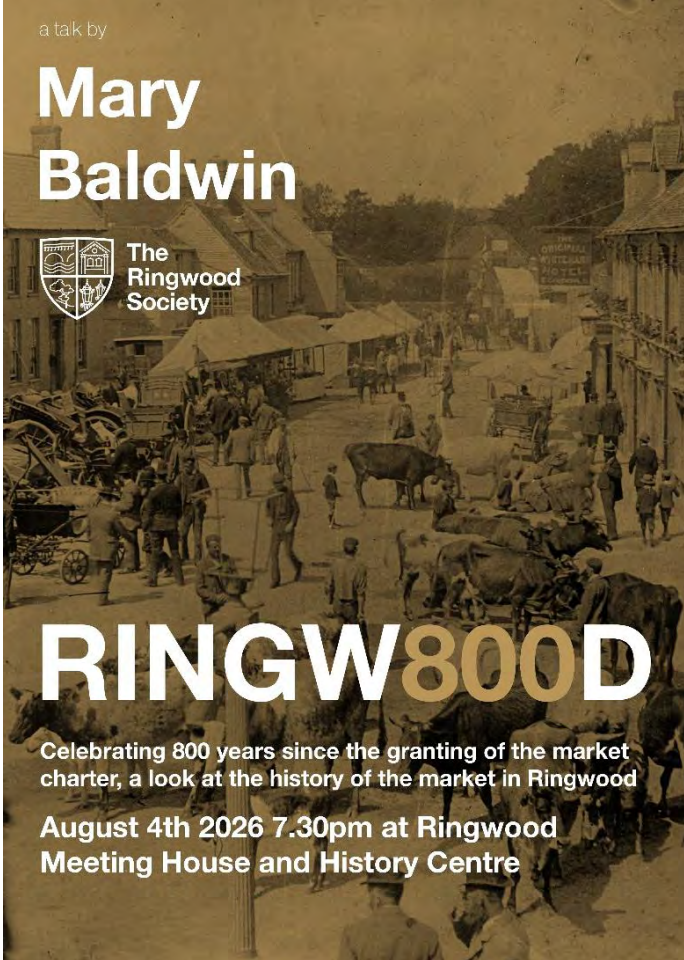
**The
Ringwood
Society**

a talk by

Mary Baldwin



The Ringwood Society



RINGW800D

Celebrating 800 years since the granting of the market charter, a look at the history of the market in Ringwood

August 4th 2026 7.30pm at Ringwood Meeting House and History Centre

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Summer concerts

The Ringwood based 'Chamber Maids' Choir will be giving their summer concert in two venues this year.

They will once again be performing 'with Canzona Brass

The programme is varied, from classical and traditional to gospel and pop. Essentially something for everyone

The choir will be accompanied by our brilliant pianist Jo Kent whilst keeping us all in order is our wonderful MD Ivy Tan.

The two opportunities to hear this beautiful concert are:
Saturday 8th August at St Michael's Church, Verwood at 7.30
Sunday 9th August at Trinity United Church, Ringwood at 7.30

Tickets are on sale from trybooking.com or on the door.

We look forward to seeing you there.





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Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

SHINING IN AUGUST IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
02/08/1943	Reginald Frank Small	Private	2 nd /4 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
06/08/1915	Harry Charles Guy	Private	2 nd Bn, Australian Infantry
07/08/1917	Edwin Charles Brent	Private	1 st Bn, Devonshire Regt
07/08/1944	Dorothy Anyta Field	Sister	SS Amsterdam Hospital Ship
08/08/1918	Michael Edward Gonne	Captain	55 Sqdn, RAF
08/08/1918	William Charles Weston	Serjeant	9 th Bn, Essex Regt.
09/08/1919	Augustus William Long	Private	Machine Gun Corps
10/08/1915	Ernest Barrow	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/08/1915	Albert Samuel Faulkner	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/08/1915	Alfred George Mills	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/08/1915	George Amey	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/08/1915	Charles Dean	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
11/08/1915	Harry Witt	Private	15 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
13/08/1915	George Stanton	Private	2 nd Bn, Hampshire Regt.
13/08/1915	Frank Daniels	Private	2 nd Bn, Hampshire Regt.
18/08/1920	Walter C Rawlins		Bedford, Hants and Essex Regiments
19/08/1944	Jack Jones	Sapper	Royal Engineers
21/08/1915	Arthur Lewis Henbest	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
21/08/1915	Walter James Shutler	Lance Corporal	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
21/08/1918	Albert Gibbs	Private	38 th Bn, Machine Gun Corps
21/08/1915	James Henry Whitfield	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
23/08/1916	Frederick John Tanner	Private	1 st Bn, Oxford and Bucks LI
26/08/1918	Leslie Ronald Steele	Private	Wiltshire Regiment
26/08/1943	Charles Brian Field	Civilian Test Pilot	Miles Aircraft Company
27/08/1919	W W Middleton	Lance Corporal	14 th Bn, Welsh Regt.
30/08/1918	EG Hart	Lieutenant	13 th Kensington Bn, Ldn Regt.

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Independent Audit Gives Ringwood Town Council a Positive Financial Health Check

Ringwood Town Council has received a positive independent internal audit report, giving residents reassurance that the Council has strong financial management, governance and internal controls in place.

The audit, carried out by the Southern Internal Audit Partnership as part of the Council's annual governance review, concluded that there is "a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place" and found no high-priority issues requiring immediate action.

For local people, the report provides independent assurance that public money is being properly managed and that the systems and controls behind the Council's services are operating effectively.

The review looked at a wide range of Council activities, including budgeting, financial reporting, procurement, income collection, payroll, asset management, risk management, information governance and legal compliance.

Auditors noted several areas of good practice, including:

- Regular and detailed financial monitoring by councillors;
- Strong compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations;
- Effective controls over payments, income collection and VAT accounting;
- Robust payroll arrangements;
- Well-maintained asset registers and bank reconciliations;
- Effective risk management processes; and
- Compliance with data protection and information governance requirements.

Only two improvement points were identified, relating to the Council's investment strategy and procurement framework. These were classed as observations for improvement rather than significant concerns, and action plans are already in place to address both recommendations.

The positive report is particularly welcome during a year of change for the Council, following the appointment of a new Town Clerk, Finance Manager and other members of the management team. Town Clerk Charmaine Bennett said:

"Most residents do not see the day-to-day work that goes into managing a local council's finances, but it matters enormously. Public money must be handled carefully, openly and properly, and this independent audit provides reassurance that the Council has strong

arrangements in place."

"I am especially pleased that this positive outcome has been achieved during a year of change. It reflects the hard work of staff, the oversight of councillors and the Council's commitment to good governance, transparency and accountability."



Ringwood Town Council Mayor, Cllr DeBoos, who chaired the Policy & Finance Committee during the period covered by the audit, said:

"This report provides independent reassurance that the Council is managing public money responsibly and that appropriate financial controls are in place. Good governance is not always visible, but it is essential to maintaining public confidence and ensuring resources are used effectively for the benefit of the community."

"I would like to thank both councillors and officers for their work in maintaining these standards during a year of change for the Council."

The internal audit forms part of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), which is submitted each year as part of the statutory audit process for local councils.

Residents will also be able to inspect the Council's accounts during the annual public inspection period, in line with the statutory arrangements.

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DELIVERY TEAM

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

Email: office@rfnews.uk

NEWS

Busy Times at Ringwood Meeting House

Nestled in the heart of our wonderful market town is our unique 'Ringwood Meeting House'. All of Ringwood pass by our doors along 'Pedlars Walk' on their way, down to Sainsbury's or the High Street. Why not pop inside? Did you know we are open every morning and into the afternoon on Wednesdays? We serve refreshing cold drinks, teas, and coffees and our very reasonably priced menu includes delicious tea cakes. The cool and peaceful tranquillity of the Meeting House offers a welcoming sanctuary during this very hot Summer.

The Ringwood Meeting House Trustees were thrilled to host nearly a hundred children from **Poulner Junior School's** Year 5, back on Monday 22nd June. The day's outing to Ringwood, with a history focus on their local town, involved rotating groups coming into the Meeting House where they listened avidly to talks about the 'History of the Meeting House' and 'Ringwood in World War 2'. The children took great interest in our upstairs galleries showing Ringwood's history and enjoyed completing a Meeting House Quiz.

The Meeting House will always host 'children's educational groups' for **free**. Please contact us if your school or organisation would like to come. We have an adaptive education program for different age groups.

'Hampshire Swifts' visited us just last week to deliver a fascinating talk about 'Swifts' and the sad decline of numbers due to loss of habitat. Wendy Reid spoke engagingly about how we can support these incredible birds by putting up 'Swift Boxes'. Attendees learned much about the Swift's journey back and forth to Africa each year and intricacies of their 'flight mode' and lifestyle. Clearly 'Swift bricks' are a fantastic asset for swifts and an essential ingredient for new housing developments. If you would like to **learn more** and purchase a 'Swift Box', which includes

installation, please go to: www.hampshireswifts.org.uk.

'Music Nights' at the Meeting House have been a constant monthly staple of our 'Events' program for many years and we are drawing ever larger audiences. Our bands cover a variety of genres including Jazz, Blues and Soul. Our building provides an incredible acoustic atmosphere and audiences, of all ages, are known, at times, to 'sing along' and, on occasion, even get up and boogie. We have already hosted 6 different band groups at our Friday night, monthly gigs this year.



Our own 'in house' **licensed bar** means that audiences can enjoy their favourite tipples, brought to their seats via our waiter service, while enjoying the band. We are looking forward to welcoming a new band, the phenomenal 'Third Degree'. They will perform on Friday 31st July 7.30pm. Entry on the door £10. (Doors open 7pm) **Chit Chat Club**, every Wednesday from 1pm to 2.30pm is open to **everyone** who fancies refreshments and a good old 'chit chat' with others. We have a very sociable group of regular members. This club has been going since September last year and is increasingly popular, participants enjoy **free homemade cake**, occasional quizzes, draughts and dominoes. We would love to welcome you; no one should feel lonely.

As you will have gathered the Ringwood Meeting House is far more than just a 'Grade 2 listed building', it is the beating heart of our town! Please support us with your custom. If you would like to host an event or a meeting, hold a regular club booking here or apply to be a volunteer, please contact our operations manager, Bryan, via email: ops@ringwoodmeetinghouse.org or phone: 01425 480656.

Keep the home fires burning with our quality logs...

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For more information or a free quote please call Jason on 07860 467 952 or 01425 483331 Ringwood, Hampshire




Transform your garden into the ultimate entertaining space with these tips

Now that summer is finally just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about guests in your garden. No matter what size your outside space is, there are plenty of options for relaxed seating, formal dining, lounging or just coffee and a catch-up. The key is to consider your space as an outdoor living room, with functional furniture as well as all the finishing touches needed to add atmosphere and personality. From texture to tablescaping, it's all about giving family and friends that full outdoor entertaining experience. Here's how to get the look..."

Get in the zone

Use different areas within your garden to create outdoor 'rooms' where you can relax, cook, eat and entertain. Start your zoning with the big-ticket items – furniture, including sofas, table and chairs, modular outdoor kitchens and so on – then add the finishing touches with outdoor rugs, cushions, lighting and tableware. Having defined spaces helps keep alfresco cooking safe out of harm's way and allows you to position seating areas in the shade.

Holiday at home

Make your outdoor table look as inviting as possible with a relaxed yet refined Mediterranean feel. Layers are key to creating an easy, breezy warmth inspired by coastal living and lazy summer days, enjoying great food and company with family or friends. Think soft blues, gentle greens and zesty lemon tones mixed with warm browns and natural textures. Striped tablecloths, ceramics and glassware never go out of style, and you can add jugs of fresh juice, platters for artisan meats and cheeses and huge bowls for salads and crusty bread.

Light the way

Give your garden plenty of atmosphere after dark with layers of outdoor lighting. Whether you're hosting a family barbecue, a special occasion with friends or an intimate evening meal, use different styles and heights of lighting to add interest. Candles, wreaths, festoon strings, lanterns and solar lights will all enhance your garden space and make guests want to linger long after the sun goes down.

Think personality, not perfection

It can feel overwhelming sometimes when you're planning a summer get-together, but just remember: it's all about personality,



not perfection. Your guests are coming to spend time with you, so don't worry about whether the linen napkins are perfectly pressed. Instead, add lots of accessories that will make your life easier and save you from dashing back inside for extra glasses, a blanket or a cushion. Let everyone help themselves to drinks by supplying a big trug or bucket full of ice and bottles, stack glasses, have a pot of cutlery at the ready and add a few serving trays, then relax and enjoy!

Buy once, use it twice

You don't need to splash out on a whole new kit for your garden hosting, and if budget is tight, look for accessories that you can use inside the home, too. You can't go wrong with a simple cushion and quilt, perfect for chilly evenings outdoors and cosy nights in.



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NEWS

Care South's Community Fund donates £1,755 to Truth Be Told storytelling project

Residential and care at home provider and registered charity, Care South, has donated £1,755 to storytelling project Truth Be Told. The cause provides interactive, Christian-based storytelling sessions to residents in care homes based across Dorset. Each session is attended by local families and children and has a different theme with props to spark the imagination of residents and children.

Residents at St Ives House care home, on Horton Road, in Ringwood are now looking forward to a year of storytelling every Friday following the donation from Care South's Community Fund. The sessions will be led by Charlotte Leighton, Community Worker at Pinehurst Community Church in West Moors. Please email Charlotte on Community@pinehurst.org.uk to register an interest in attending the storytelling sessions at St Ives House.

Another Care South home, Castle Dene, which is based in Bournemouth, already enjoys a partnership with Truth Be Told which sees the residents enjoy storytelling sessions with local nursery school children each week. Truth Be Told is the latest beneficiary of Care South's Community Fund, operated by the not-for-profit care provider, which gives back to community groups, services and organisations which directly benefit Care South's care home residents, care at home clients, or staff.

Rachel Theunissen, Chief Operating Officer for Truth Be Told, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to enable St Ives House residents to enjoy the magical experience of our storytelling sessions. We love working with the residents at Castle Dene and are looking forward

to seeing the positive impact this will now have on St Ives House residents over the next 12 months. The sessions will help to spark memories and discover different ways to use their imaginations alongside local children and their families."



Care South's Community Fund donation was presented to Rachel, Charlotte and Adam Parrett, Pastor of Pinehurst Community Church by Simon Bird, CEO of Care South, Emma Cotton, Home Manager at St Ives House, Charlotte Mitchell, Resident Activities & Lifestyle Lead and several St Ives House residents.

Simon Bird, CEO of Care South, said: "We are delighted to further support Truth Be Told to deliver their fantastic sessions for more residents to enjoy, explore their creativity and experience the joy of reading with children. At Care South, we love to support our residents to enjoy a wide range of activities, which includes those who enjoy continuing to share in their faith, whatever that may be. We know that at St Ives House, residents particularly love it when children and families come into the home to join in with their activities."

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.

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Opened 20th September 2014



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The one below is myself and Stuart and we would like to welcome you to our dream come true

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NEWS

Health Impacts of Climate Change

The Peoples Emergency Briefing Film Screening - Tuesday 21 July 7 pm at Trinity Church Centre, Ringwood BH24 1DH

Heatwaves, Droughts, Floods, Severe Weather Events - as we enter maybe the hottest June and July temperatures in 50 years, and these extreme weather events are happening more and more, then it seemed pertinent for Greening Ringwood to organise this.....

A special community screening: The People's Emergency Briefing #PEBuk

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?

Join us for a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing - an eye-opening 50-minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like:

- * Extreme weather
- * Food security
- * Health Cost of living

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK.

After the film there will be an open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally.

We have invited our local MP, Sir Desmond Swayne and his wife Lady Moira, and are optimistic that they will join with constituents for this important discussion about our future.

Seats are free but limited so please book in advance here <https://buytickets.at/greeningringwood/2276917>

If after booking you are unable to attend, we'd be very grateful if you could let us know so that we can re-allocate your ticket to someone else. Bring a friend, neighbour or family member: everyone is welcome.

This Peoples Emergency Briefing film is the first part of our newest project - forming and putting into action Ringwood's Climate Adaptation Plan.

Greening Ringwood

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/greeningringwood>

<https://greening-ringwood.org.uk/> is one of 4 Hampshire Communities working with Hampshire's Greening Campaign, the Met Office, two members of the Climate Action Team and Emergency response team at NFDC, and 2 Ringwood Town Councillors.

We are part of a pilot - looking at past extreme weather events, and gathering stories from folk in Ringwood on these events, but especially looking at the impact of these extreme events on vulnerable groups - such as the elderly, babies and young children, the homeless, the disabled, those with additional needs and those with long term health issues - which is where you come in!

The Met Office are asking us to share these sociological impacts of extreme weather events, in order to better forecast and plan for future events, enabling us to start to formulate a Climate Adaptation Plan for Ringwood.

New Forest Business Partnership hails huge success of relaunched New Forest Business Show

More than 1,000 business people and 120 exhibitors descended on the New Forest Showground on Thursday 18 June 2026 for the relaunched New Forest Business Show, in what organisers are describing as the most successful and best attended show to date. Held in glorious sunshine and set against the New Forest's distinctive landscape, the event saw exhibitors and visitors alike praise the warmth of the atmosphere and the quality of local business on display.

Matthew Lawson, Chair of the New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP), said: "The New Forest Business Show was everything we dreamed it would be and then some. To every one of our 120 exhibitors, thank you. You showed up, you shone and you made this the most impressive array of local business talent we have ever put on display. To the more than 1,000 business people who walked through the marquees, thank you for coming, for connecting, for supporting and for making the atmosphere buzz all day long."

He continued: "None of this happens without our extraordinary NFBP volunteer team, who gave their time, energy and dedication before, during and after the show. We are deeply and genuinely grateful."

NFBP has announced planning is already underway for the 2027 show. Businesses that exhibited this year, as well as those who attended as visitors and are considering exhibiting next time, are being encouraged to register their interest early. Next year's date will be announced shortly, and organisers expect spaces to be in high demand.

Matthew concluded: "The New Forest Business Show next year is going to be extraordinary. Watch this space."

Businesses wishing to register interest in exhibiting at, sponsoring or attending the 2027 show can do so by emailing show@nfbp.org.uk

FREE

National Emergency Briefing

GREENING RINGWOOD

People's Emergency Briefing

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?

Ringwood

Tuesday 21st July at 7.00pm

Film screening followed by a brief discussion sharing community ideas.

16

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Dreams Come True for Yarnley House Resident with Thrilling Ferrari Experience

A lifelong love of fast cars was brought back to life for a 92-year-old dementia resident at Yarnley House Care Home, after the home's dedicated Activities Team made one of her dreams come true with a surprise visit to Thruxton Race Circuit.

Tish Mack, who has been a resident at Yarnley House Care Home in Ringwood, Hampshire, since September 2025, has always had a passion for motorsport. During a recent visit to a local supercar show at a nearby vehicle wrapping workshop, organised by the home's Activities Team, Tish began sharing treasured memories of travelling to race circuits across Europe with her late husband, Peter.

As she admired the incredible vehicles on display, Tish spoke fondly about the excitement of those days and how much she missed being around fast cars. Moved by her stories, Activities Lead Paola King and Activities Team member Justine Thorpe set out to make her wish a reality by arranging a special surprise experience at the iconic Thruxton Race Circuit.

The excitement began long before they arrived. Throughout the journey, Tish repeatedly asked where she was going, unable to believe that her dream was actually coming true. As the circuit came into view and she caught sight of the impressive line-up of supercars, her eyes lit up with delight.

"They are beautiful, absolutely beautiful," she said over and over as she admired the cars.

The highlight of the day came when the Ferrari driver walked over to greet her. Without hesitation, Tish swiftly handed him her handbag and, with a huge smile, declared, "Come on darling; we're taking the red one."

The unforgettable experience brought treasured memories flooding back and demonstrated the power of person-centred care, showing how understanding a resident's life story can create moments of genuine joy and connection.

Tish's family were absolutely delighted that the team had gone above and beyond to make such a meaningful wish come true. Rebecca Hebditch, Home Manager at Yarnley House Care Home,

said:

"Tish Mack's experience is a wonderful example of what truly matters to us at Yarnley House. We believe that every resident has a unique life story, personal interests and aspirations that continue to shape who they are. By taking the time to understand those individual wishes, we can create meaningful experiences that bring joy, purpose and treasured memories.

Seeing Tish reconnect with something she loved so deeply was incredibly special, and it reflects our commitment to ensuring that every resident enjoys an enriched, fulfilled life where their interests, passions and dreams continue to be celebrated. We are always looking for opportunities to make individual wishes come true, helping our residents live life to the fullest and creating moments that have a lasting impact on both them and their families."



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

On the 8th July, I was taken on a site tour of the quarry sites at Plumley, Nea Farm and Blashford, followed by a tour of the landfill site, Blue Haze, near Verwood.

The purpose behind the day was so that I could familiarise myself with the current status of the quarries prior to a Liaison Meeting to be held later this month.

I was very impressed with how the quarries are being managed in order so that the land could be returned to either usable farmland or as ecological sites for wildlife once the sand and gravel had been extracted. Each stage of the process was explained and how it was managed. Something I wasn't aware of was that all of the aggregate produced was sold and distributed locally for building and landscaping.

During the tour of the Blue Haze Landfill site, I expected to see masses of domestic rubbish coupled with the usual associated smells and dust. Nothing could be further from the truth! The only sign of landfill was at the far corner of the site, with only a slight smell in the air. Several large water sprinklers, positioned around the site, suppress any dust and smells. Part of the site is used for recycling incinerator ash where metals are extracted for recycling, and the resultant ash and clinker are used for road base material.

Finally, the engineer in me had to have a look around the site's 3

electrical generators that run on the methane gas collected from earlier landfill. They produce several hundred MegaWatts each year which is used on-site or exported into the National grid.

My thanks to Richard and Steve for giving up their busy time to show me around. If you are interested, you can see more about this on my facebook page: Councillor Martin Eyre: Ringwood.

Keep safe
Martin Eyre



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BEREAVEMENTS**Michael Charles Drew Patterson****Memorial Service**

Monday 27th July 2026 @ 11.30am

St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church

Market Place

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Saturday 19th September
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We are looking for people to join the delivery team in Ringwood & Fordingbridge. Once a month on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Interested, please contact us at.

Email: office@rfnews.uk

Puzzle Corner

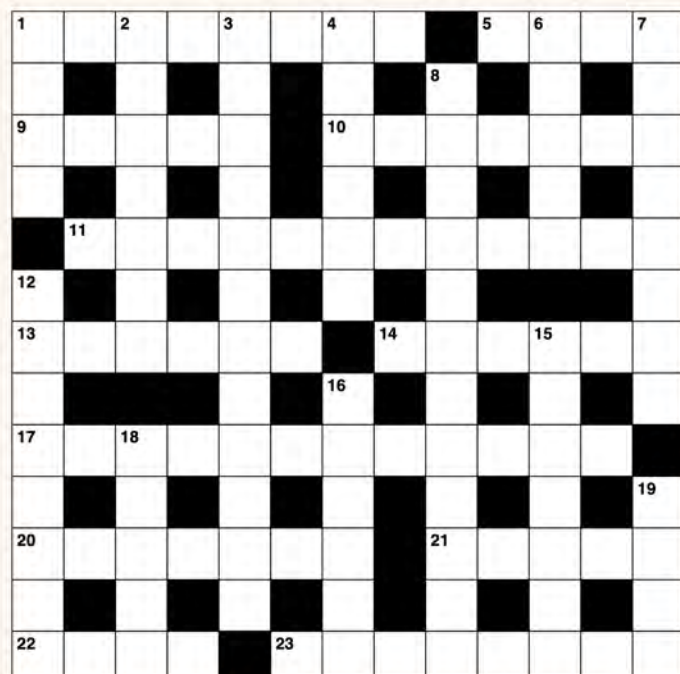
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Crossword



Across

- 1 - Withdraw (4,4)
5 - Poses a question (4)
9 - Draws into the mouth (5)
10 - Item used by asthma sufferers (7)
11 - Importance (12)
13 - Month (6)
14 - In functioning condition (6)
17 - Comprehensible (12)
20 - Bed covering (7)
21 - Very loud (5)
22 - Pitcher (4)
23 - Acceptance of something as true (8)

Down

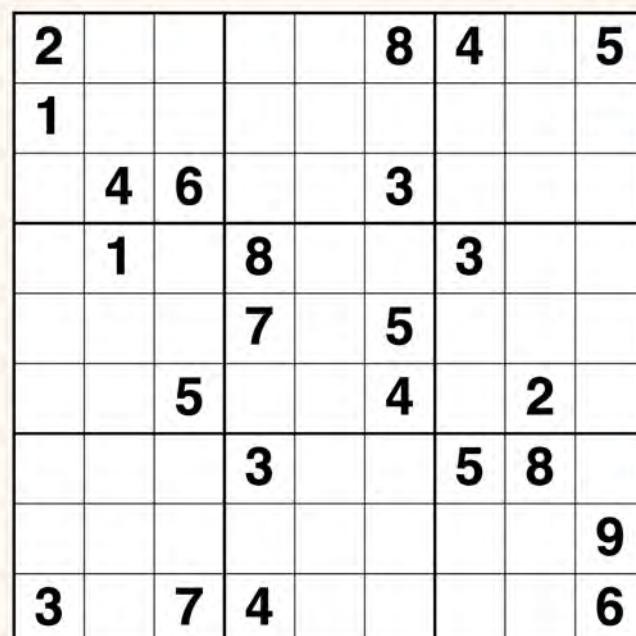
- 1 - Opposite of pull (4)
2 - Wanting (7)
3 - Having an efficient approach to one's work (12)
4 - Leaders (6)
6 - Elegant sitting room (5)
7 - Showed a TV show (8)
8 - Insensitive to criticism (5-7)
12 - Changeable (8)
15 - Gold or silver in bulk (7)
16 - Female sibling (6)
18 - Commerce (5)
19 - Ancient harp (4)

Answers for last the last issue:



Sudoku

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PROPERTY - AROUND THE BLOCK

Understanding the Local Property Market

As we move through July, many people are asking the same question: **Has the property market slowed down?** Compared with the fast-paced market of recent years, it certainly feels quieter. That doesn't mean the market has stopped, but it does mean that buyers and sellers are approaching things rather differently. Across Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding villages, we're seeing buyers take more time to make decisions. Viewings are often more widespread; negotiations have become more common, and many properties are taking longer to sell than they did a couple of years ago. For sellers, that can feel frustrating, particularly if they remember the post-pandemic market when homes are often sold within days.

One noticeable change is that buyers generally have more choice than they have had for some time. With more properties available, many purchasers are comparing homes carefully and taking a more considered approach before making an offer. Affordability also remains an important factor, meaning buyers are understandably thinking carefully before committing to what is often the biggest financial decision they'll make.

Pricing has become increasingly important. Homes that are well presented and marketed at a realistic asking price are generally more likely to attract interest, while properties that are priced too ambitiously may take longer to generate viewings or secure a sale. Every property is different, but setting realistic expectations from the outset can make a significant difference.

This time of year, can also make the market feel quieter. July and August are often influenced by school holidays, family commitments, and annual leave. People are away, routines change, and moving house naturally slips down the priority list for some. That's a seasonal pattern many local agents have seen over the years. Of course, there are still people actively looking to move. Families

hoping to be settled before the new school year, those looking to downsize, first-time buyers and people relocating for work or lifestyle reasons continue to make enquiries. They may simply take longer to reach a decision than they would have made a few years ago.

One thing that remains consistent is the appeal of our local area. Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding villages continue to attract people looking for a combination of countryside living, good local amenities and easy access to both the New Forest and the coast. For homeowners considering a move, the quieter summer months can provide an opportunity to prepare. Gardens are looking their best, smaller maintenance jobs can be tackled, and there is time to ensure a property is presented as well as possible before coming to market.

No one has a crystal ball, and the property market is influenced by many factors beyond any one person's control. What we do know is that people continue to move because life changes, whether that's a growing family, retirement, a new job, or simply the desire for a different lifestyle.

If you're thinking about buying or selling, it's worth looking beyond the national headlines. Every local market is different, and every property has its own story. Taking advice from someone who understands the local area can help you make informed decisions based on current market conditions rather than assumptions. At Bright Water Properties, we believe in offering honest, straightforward advice that reflects what's happening here in Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding villages. Whether you're planning a move now or simply exploring your options, we're always happy to have a conversation.

Emma Roy- Brightwater Signature homes
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PRICE GUIDE

£1,150,000

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RINGWOOD CENTRE - PRICE GUIDE

£200,000 - A unique well presented three storey one bedroom purpose built maisonette with spacious accommodation in the heart of Ringwood centre. External covered entertaining area, communal gardens and parking available. EPC band F



BURLEY - PRICE GUIDE - £425,000

A charming one bedroom end terrace character cottage with private delightful garden set within the heart of Burley village centre. No onward chain. EPC band E



RINGWOOD - PRICE GUIDE - £350,000

An opportunity to purchase a well-proportioned 3 bedroom character cottage requiring some modernisation, good size private garden, garage & off road parking, easy walking distance of Ringwood centre. No onward chain. Viewing Strongly Recommended. EPC band E



ASHLEY HEATH - PRICE GUIDE £875,000

An impressive detached four/five bedroom family house with numerous features, versatile living accommodation & 'Park Like' gardens totalling 0.27 of an acre, double garage and large paved driveway. No onward chain. EPC band C



RINGWOOD CENTRE - PRICE GUIDE £450,000

A substantial semi-detached four bedroom family house requiring modernisation, with off road parking and garage, within the heart of Ringwood centre. EPC Band E

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