

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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Teenager staying on at school? Tell HMRC before 31 August

As results land this week and families work out what happens next, there's a deadline at the end of the month that catches thousands of parents out every year.

Child Benefit stops automatically on **31 August** on or after your child's 16th birthday. It only continues if you tell HMRC your child is staying in approved education or training. There's no warning letter at the time and no phone call - the payments simply stop.

It's worth £27.05 a week for an eldest or only child, £1,406.60 over a year, and £17.90 a week for each additional

child. For a family with two children, that's **more than £2,300 a year**.

Approved education means full-time, non-advanced study - more than 12 hours a week on average. A levels, T levels, GCSEs and most vocational courses up to level 3 all count. University degrees, access courses and standard apprenticeships do not. Extending **takes a few minutes** on the HMRC app or at GOV.UK, and only the person claiming can do it.

Two other things worth knowing. If you or your partner earns over £60,000, some Child Benefit is clawed back through a tax charge — but

that's based on income after pension contributions and Gift Aid, so the figure isn't always what you'd expect. And if you've never claimed at all, a non-working parent with a child under 12 may lose National Insurance credits towards their state pension.

We've written a plain-English guide covering all of this, plus the childcare top-up that many working parents don't realise covers after-school and holiday clubs.

Scan the QR code, or call us on 01425 480814 if we can help you.



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Keep Going - Even When the Result Isn't What You Hoped For

As I sit down to write this month's thoughts, I have been reflecting on something I think many of us experience in life: you can work incredibly hard towards a goal and still not get the result you hoped for.

I have certainly experienced this through playing tennis tournaments this Summer. I have had the joy of winning some and the disappointment of losing others. Each match teaches you something, and perhaps the losses teach you the most. You learn to pick yourself up, look at what you could have done differently, learn from the experience and, most importantly, keep going.

I have watched Charlotte experience those same emotions through her passion for riding. She worked incredibly hard with her pony, putting in countless hours of training and competing with the dream of qualifying for HOYS. Sadly, despite all that dedication, she didn't achieve her goal. Understandably, she is disappointed. When you have worked so hard for something, it is difficult to accept when it doesn't quite happen.

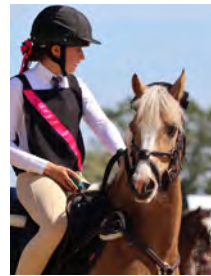
But perhaps not reaching the goal does not mean the journey was unsuccessful. The skills, resilience,

discipline and memories gained along the way are achievements in themselves.

And through the highs and lows, one thing has been especially important to us: family support. Having Naomi and our family around who encourage us, pick us up when things don't go your way and remind us to keep believing makes such a difference. We are incredibly grateful for the support our family has given us.

Life will not always give us the result we deserve or expect. What matters is having the courage to try again. We may need to work harder, change our approach or simply be patient. Goals are not always reached on our timetable, but that should never be a reason to stop trying.

Sometimes the greatest victory is simply refusing to give up.



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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A festival of fun supporting the local community

NEWS

Celebrating 37 Years: The Ibsley & District Horticultural Society Annual Show Returns

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 5th September 2026, as the Ibsley & District Horticultural Society holds its 37th Annual Show at Ibsley Village Hall. A true highlight of the local calendar, this popular event is a vibrant celebration of harvest time and the remarkable creativity of our community.

There is no denying that this year's growing season has brought its fair share of challenges for local gardeners. However, erratic weather is all the more reason to celebrate our collective efforts and enter your produce! Anyone can enter—wherever you garden, the show is open to all. Every entry counts, and you certainly don't need a greenhouse full of show-bench specimens to take part; sometimes the simplest garden harvest or a single bloom brings home a prize.

The show is far broader than just fruit and vegetables. With dedicated classes for home preserves, baking, floral arrangements, and photography, there is genuinely something for everyone to enter. Children are also encouraged to get involved with special classes designed just for young growers and crafters. Best of all, if you enter any class in the show, you receive free admission (saving the £2 entry fee!).

If you prefer to simply admire the displays, the hall opens to the public at 2:00 PM, with free admission for children. It's a wonderful opportunity to see the fine selection of local produce, baked goods, and crafts before the afternoon culminates with the prize giving at 3:30 PM.

Ready to have a go? You can pick up a physical show schedule—

complete with an entry form inside—from Hockeys, Englands Garden Machinery, Baskets and Blooms, and various other local stores. For further details or any questions regarding entries, please email idsinfo19@gmail.com. The schedule can also be viewed on our web site www.ibsleygardenclub.co.uk

Ibsley and District Horticultural Society

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SHOW

Sat 5th September



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Prize giving at 3.30pm
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NEWS

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Local Residents Letter regarding the closure of Forest Forge Theatre Company

It's always sad to see good things come to an end.

As a mum of a daughter who so enjoyed her time in the Forest Forge Youth Theatre over many years, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for all the commitment, dedication and care Lucy Phillips gave to all the youngsters involved in Forest Forge. Where singing and dancing is not every child's thing, Lucy provided that extra dimension of expression and encouraged all her youth at some point to take centre stage and not be in the shadows. I truly believe the years my daughter spent in Forest Forge have contributed to the confident and beautiful woman she is today. Bless you Lucy, you truly made a difference in many young people's lives.

Thank you very much

Anne Melrose

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Fridays brings Small Plates, Live Music and Something New to Ringwood

Three weeks after opening its doors, Fridays Small Plates & Bar is settling into Ringwood High Street, the response from the local community has already given the new independent venue plenty to celebrate.

Located at 5-7 Christchurch Road, Fridays offers a relaxed take on eating and drinking out, centred around small plates designed for sharing, alongside a carefully selected range of wines, cocktails, beers and spirits.

Rather than the traditional starter-main-dessert format, guests can order a selection of dishes for the table, making Fridays equally suited to a full evening of food, a few plates over drinks, or simply popping in for a glass of wine or cocktail.

Since opening three weeks ago, the team have been delighted by the support received from Ringwood and the surrounding community, welcoming guests through the doors for everything from casual drinks and dinners to birthdays and celebrations. There is plenty happening beyond the food too. Friday evenings feature live music, with Fridays Frolics on a Saturday, held on every 2nd Saturday bringing a lively afternoon of bottomless drinks, food, music and entertainment to the venue. With its monthly Quiz Night on the last Wednesday of each month with further events and special evenings planned throughout the year.

For those planning something of their own Fridays welcomes enquiries for private parties, celebrations, staff events and private hire, with food and drink packages available to suit different occasions and group sizes.

The venue is currently open Tuesday to Thursday, 5pm-12am, Friday and Saturday, 12pm-12am, and Sunday 12pm-6pm for drinks, with Fridays Bottomless Brunch packages, also now available on selected days.



We are currently taking bookings for Christmas Parties (from 24th November), Christmas Wreath making (2nd & 9th December), Friday Frolics on a Saturday (12th September) and New Years Eve. For more information, please visit our socials or contact us.

Bookings & Enquiries:

* Fridays Small Plates & Bar, 5-7 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DG

* 01425 561491

* web: fridaysringwood.co.uk

* email: info@fridaysringwood.co.uk

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NEWS

Understanding Investments - Business Owner's Retirement Planning

As a business owner (self-employed or limited company) you have a greater degree of flexibility over how you are remunerated but also greater responsibilities for your staff, customers and the future success of the business. What can often be missed is the responsibility to focus on your own retirement planning.

The big picture:

The first stage is to quantify what level of income you will need in retirement, and what other capital events you need to account for during your retirement (eg dream holidays, house renovations, financial support for children for house deposits & weddings etc). Once established, it's possible to work backwards and identify how much you need to have saved to meet your retirement aspirations. We utilize market-leading cash-flow software to quantify this, taking into account inflation assumptions and projected investment returns.

It's possible to model different scenarios; for example we can run one scenario to include a business sale, and another to assume the business continues under management to continue to generate revenue for the owner.

The role of pensions:

Whilst we would all hope that the business thrives and provides the capital needed to retire, sadly this isn't always the case. Like all things in life, it's sensible to diversify your options and saving into a pension can be a very effective way to provide further flexible capital for retirement with many advantages.

1-Tax Efficient: Pension contributions are treated as a business expense so save corporation tax for limited companies. They are a very effective way to draw excess profits from the business without the need to pay corporation tax on those profits or income tax/dividend tax if drawn personally. The self-employed qualify for tax-relief so in effect pay no tax on contributions. There are annual allowances of £60,000 to consider but it's possible to go back up to 3 years if full contributions haven't been made and use "carry-forward" to make higher contributions in the current tax year.

2-Secure: Pension schemes are protected to varying degrees, with some insured schemes offering 100% protection in the event of provider default. In addition, money held in a pension is secure and separate from your business. In the event of the failure of your business, pension savings are secure.

3-Lower Charges: Since workplace pensions were introduced, competition has increased and charges have reduced. This is great for the consumer but sadly many existing pension schemes still charge the same as they always did. It is possible to consolidate and switch pension providers to save money after full analysis to ensure valuable benefits aren't being lost.

4-Death Benefits: Pension savings will be included in the value of your estate for IHT purposes from April 6th 2027. However they would still benefit from spousal exemption if a spouse is the nominated beneficiary. The pension fund can also be passed down to nominated beneficiaries on death in a tax efficient manner (tax-free pre age 75 and taxable at the nominated beneficiaries own income tax rate post age 75).

To summarise, with sensible planning it's possible to pay less tax and keep more of your hard earned money to fund your financial future. Hopefully this means you may either retire sooner, or enjoy an improved lifestyle during retirement. If you'd like to learn more or discuss your personal situation, Stewart, Howard or I would be delighted to meet for a free, no obligation initial chat.

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

The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate taxation advice, estate planning, inheritance tax planning, cashflow plans or cashflow modelling. Pensions are 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 saving and withdrawal will be based on your individual circumstances, tax legislation and regulation which are subject to change.

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Local Godshill woman reaches final four in BBC Outstanding Achievement Award

A woman from Godshill has been named as one of just four finalists for the prestigious BBC Outstanding Achievement Award, in recognition of her inspirational fund raising work supporting others despite facing her own life-changing challenges.

Ann Blake, who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in 2018, has transformed adversity into hope.



Following her diagnosis, she wrote A Legacy of Love, a heartfelt book raising funds for Dog Aid UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK. Through her fundraising, awareness campaigns and community work, Ann has inspired countless people. She has also highlighted the life-changing impact of assistance dogs, with her own dog, Snoopy, playing a vital role in helping her maintain independence and confidence.

Speaking about reaching the final four, Ann said:

"I feel incredibly honoured and humbled to be named as one of the four finalists. When I was diagnosed, I never imagined my journey would lead to this. If my story gives just one person hope, then everything has been worthwhile. This recognition belongs to everyone who has supported me, bought my book, and believed in what we're trying to achieve for Dog Aid UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK."

The winner of the BBC Outstanding Achievement Award will be announced later this year. To order a copy of the book either go to Woodgreen community shop or Cranbourne Garden Centre or you can order online www.alegacyoflove.co.uk

Wanted: A Leader for a Community Cornerstone - The Ringwood & Burley Brass Band is seeking a new Musical Director

The Ringwood & Burley Band, a beloved and longstanding part of our local community, is currently on a serious quest: finding a talented and passionate new Musical Director.

The band's story begins in 1879 with the founding of the Ringwood Band. Its long journey continued through 1970 when it amalgamated with the Burley Band, forming the vibrant organisation we know today. Regulars at the Ringwood Carnival, various country shows and the traditional carol sing-a-long at Ringwood market square on Christmas Eve, know this isn't just any community group. The Ringwood & Burley Band has a history that is nothing short of prestigious. They have had the singular honour of playing for royalty, including our late Queen, the late Queen Mother, and Princess Anne.

Closer to home, the band has left its mark on some truly iconic events. They have given multiple concerts on board the legendary QE2 including the liner's 30th anniversary with 350 guests. With an average of 20 engagements per year, they are the friendly, established, and ambitious heart of many a local event.

This is a fantastic and unique opportunity to lead a brass band with a genuine passion for excellence. The ideal candidate will possess proven leadership and conducting experience, but beyond that, we are looking for someone with the ability to truly motivate and inspire a diverse group of musicians. Deep musicality and a broad knowledge of repertoire are essential, as is a heartfelt commitment to the ongoing musical development of all members.

The band rehearses every Friday from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Greyfriars Community Centre in Ringwood. Their training band, which also rehearses on Fridays, between 6:30 PM and 7:15 PM is open to anyone wanting to learn to play a brass instrument.

If you have the skill, the vision, and the passion to lead one of our area's most enduring and respected musical institutions, the band would love to hear from you.

To apply, please email your CV to bawilliams221@yahoo.com.

For more detailed information about the band and this vacancy, visit their website at www.ringwoodandburleyband.co.uk.



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11th September 2026
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7.00pm

MAID FOR STARS

an evening of music with

Chamber Maids
Musical Director: Ivy Tan

Lili Tyler
Mezzo-soprano




Tickets: £20 from
www.trybooking.com/uk/GKDM
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Ringwood Town Football Club
Ringwood Community Hub

Fixtures
2026-27

Date		Opponents
Tue 25 Aug	H	Blandford Utd*
Sat 29 Aug	H	Totton & Eling
Sat 5 Sep	A	Cove
Tue 16 Sep	A	New Milton Town*
Sat 19 Sep	A	Amesbury Town

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Nb fixtures subject to change

WHATS ON



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- 4 OCT** WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE
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- 5 NOV** DR RICHARD SHEPHERD
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- 9 OCT** A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY
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What's on at Greyfriars!

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 free entry. More details on www.ringwoodartsociety.org.

12 Sep – World Heritage Day

You are invited to explore the fabulous Georgian home that is Greyfriars. Take part in behind-the-scenes tours **from 9am**. Free tickets are available via TicketSource (Ringwood Society), book early to secure your spot!

2 Sep – Pimms on the Lawn

Join us on the lawn with Ringwood Twinning Association **from 3pm**. Tickets £15 are available from reception and include sandwiches, scones and Pimms!!

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.

19 Sep – Live on the Lawn

Join us for a vibrant festival supporting our community, **from 12pm**. Enjoy live music with the The Tuesdays, Flamin Ukes, Alex Cook and Nigel Revill. Bring the family for a full day of fun activities, with food and drinks available, inc Pizzas, tea & cakes and a licensed bar.



16 Oct – Ray Foster Community Café Fund Raiser

FREE FILM SHOW AT FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
7.30 for 8pm.

Season 3 Episode 7 of "THE CHOSEN": "Ears to Hear" on the Big Screen.

Free Entry & Refreshments.
Find us at
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Film Classification 12+



HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

All non profit making community events
can be advertised here
FREE OF CHARGE.

Please email your article to
editor@rfnews.uk

WHATS ON

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 walks coming up :-
Thursday 3rd September
at 9.30am.

Please text or call :
07934 318151
to book your place
(Meet outside the Gateway Building)

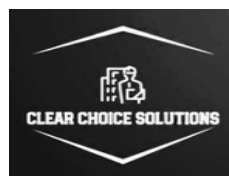
ELLINGHAM & RINGWOOD RFC PRESENT

DIAMOND MEMORIAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2026 | 9AM - 7PM

TO REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES AND TO CELEBRATE THE START OF OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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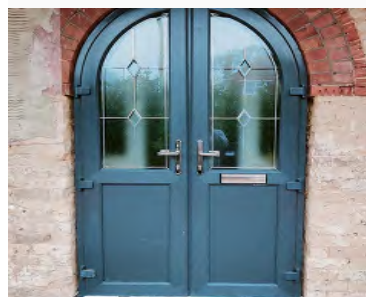
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Ringwood Motor Show

Ringwood is getting a new event on the calendar this summer, as Ringwood & District Round Table prepares to host the first ever Ringwood Motor Show on Sunday 30th August. Running from 10am to 4pm at Carvers Recreation Ground on Southampton Road, the show will bring together cars, trucks, motorbikes and tractors on one field, alongside market stalls, food and drink, and music from show DJ The Funky Fridolin. Trophies will be handed out across several vehicle categories, making it as much a competition as a spectacle.

Organisers are keen to hear from anyone with a vehicle worth showing, whether that's a carefully restored classic, a modern performance car, or a tractor that's been in the family for years. Entry costs £5 per vehicle, with owners able to book a place in advance at ringwoodroundtable.co.uk or simply turn up and pay on the gate. There's no requirement for anything showroom-perfect, and a strong turnout is expected to help launch the show in style.

For visitors, spectator entry is completely free, though donations on the door are encouraged, with all proceeds from entries, stalls and donations supporting local charities and community causes. "We've wanted to put on something like this for a while, and it felt like the right time to give it a go," said Craig Adams, Chairman of Ringwood & District Round Table. "Whether you're bringing a car or just coming to look round, every bit you're able to give on the day helps us do more for good causes right here in Ringwood. We'd love this to be the first of many." Full details can be found at ringwoodroundtable.co.uk, or by searching RingwoodRT on Facebook.



New members welcome

Aunt Sally's Toddler Group

(find us on Facebook)

at the Salvation Army,
Christchurch Rd, Ringwood, BH24 1DL

**Why not join us on 8th September from
9.30am – 11.15am and every Tuesday**

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NEWS

Getting Your Home Ready for the Autumn Market

If you're thinking about selling your home this autumn, now is a good time to start preparing. A little planning before your property goes to market can make a real difference to that all-important first impression.

Start by looking at your home through a buyer's eyes. Decluttering is one of the simplest things you can do. Clear kitchen worktops, tidy hallways, organise cupboards and remove anything that makes rooms feel smaller. You don't need to strip your home of personality, but creating a sense of space helps buyers imagine themselves living there.

Take care of those small jobs you may have been putting off. Touch up tired paintwork, fix dripping taps, replace blown bulbs and deal with any obvious maintenance issues. These details can influence how buyers perceive the condition of the whole property.



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Don't forget the outside. Autumn buyers will still notice the garden, driveway and entrance. Keep lawns and borders tidy, clean paths and windows, clear gutters and make sure the front door and entrance look welcoming.

It's also worth getting your paperwork in order early. Find guarantees, planning permissions, building regulation certificates and relevant documents, particularly if you've carried out extensions or alterations.

Finally, think about the presentation. Good photography, accurate floorplans and a well-considered property description are essential when buyers are browsing online.

If you're considering a move this autumn and would like some advice on preparing your home for market, **BrightWater Estate Agents** would be happy to help. A little preparation now can put you in the strongest position when you're ready to make your move.

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website: www.economyhire.co.uk

Ringwood Town FC Hosts One of the Region's Largest Youth Football Tournaments

Ringwood Town Football Club once again cemented its reputation as one of the region's biggest and most vibrant annual youth football tournaments as it welcomed **170 teams** over the weekend of **11–12 July**. Squads travelled to the Ringwood Community Hub from across Dorset, Hampshire and further afield, with more than **2,000 spectators** creating a fantastic atmosphere throughout the event.

Age groups from **U7 to U16** took part across a sweltering weekend, with fast paced 5 a side matches played on both the club's full size 3G surface and grass pitches. To help players and families cope with the heat, the club provided multiple water stations, extra gazebos and shaded areas, plus a cooling water mist that quickly became a popular feature.

Ringwood Town FC's own teams shone brightly, with **three age groups winning their competitions** and **three more reaching their respective finals**, showcasing the strength and depth of the club's thriving youth programme.

The tournament was generously supported by its main sponsor, **Zairos**, with Managing Director **Ed Majdalany** presenting medals and trophies to the young players. Additional support came from **Wyvern Cargo**, **Bournemouth Flooring**, **Evolution Golf**, **Broadstone Golf Club**, **DealBuyer** and **Football Kits Direct**, who contributed to the raffle and silent auctions. On Saturday, **Darren Loose of Brightwater Estate Agents** expertly managed the car park, ensuring visitors arrived and departed safely.

A standout feature of the weekend was the presentation stage, created thanks to the combined efforts of **Skye Scaffolding** and **Boyland Windows**, who responded to the club's call for help and delivered a brilliant centrepiece for the medal ceremonies. Ringwood Town FC extends its sincere thanks to all local businesses whose generosity helped make this year's tournament the most successful yet.

Chris Till, the club's Sponsorship & Commercial Manager, said: "I'd like to offer my personal thanks to every business that picked up the phone and supported us. Their contributions helped us raise vital funds across the weekend. We have a wide range of sponsorship packages available for anyone wishing to support grassroots football—please visit www.ringwoodtownfc.co.uk and get in touch. Your support genuinely makes a difference."

Club Chairman **Phil King** added: "It was fantastic to see more than 1,200 young players enjoying their football, and the feedback from visiting teams was overwhelmingly that it was 'fun'. The foam water cannons at the presentations were a particular hit with the kids—and a few adults too. My heartfelt thanks go to all the volunteers who gave up their time; the success of the event is down to their incredible commitment."

Youth football at Ringwood Town FC continues to grow year on year, now boasting **36 teams**, with more expected as the Crest Nicholson development on the doorstep.

If you would like to have your child enjoy their football and develop through coaching to be 'the best that they can be' then get in touch via the website www.ringwoodtownfc.co.uk



Photos courtesy of "Behind The Fence Photography"



RINGWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

RINGWOOD COMMUNITY HUB

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



CQC rating

Good

November 2023



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

Use it or lose it! Empty churches end up closing.....

As viewers of *Escape to the Country* know, the presence of a pub, a local church and a village shop are among the first features highlighted as making a location especially desirable. Ringwood and the surrounding villages have desirability in spades. They are not only places of outstanding beauty, but places where real community is alive and well.

Churches have historically been central to community life. Yet in villages and towns up and down the country, churches are closing. Their closure causes great sadness. Not just among those who attend regularly, but often across the whole community, with people turning out in protest - but usually far too late.

It is hard to pinpoint the significance of a church's presence. It is not just about characterful buildings; a closed church, however beautiful, simply doesn't cut the mustard. Nor can the annual carol service or acts of remembrance fully explain the sense of loss. So why does the presence of our churches matter, despite most of us rarely attending?

Trinity in Ringwood, a joint Methodist and United Reformed Church, has been part of the life of Ringwood and many of the surrounding villages for generations. Today, the church community faces the challenge of maintaining a listed building that urgently needs repairs to its spires and windows if we are to continue our presence here - not simply as part of the town's architectural heritage, but providing of space for many community groups, as well as being space to explore God, however we understand God to be.

As the Joni Mitchell song says, sometimes "you don't know what you've got till it's gone." While God does not change, the ways in which faith is expressed can, do and must continue to evolve. Church folk can perhaps be forgiven for feeling that people are no longer interested, and that faith, however understood, has little relevance today. But I am not convinced that this is true. However, I do believe, that the Church needs to listen more carefully and understand why, so often, we simply don't scratch where people itch. However idyllic our surroundings, the deep human questions about our place in the world, our purpose and the struggles we all experience remain. Faith still has something to say to those questions.

If the presence of Trinity United, or our sister church at Crowe Hill with its growing range of programme of opportunities for quiet reflection and contemplation, matters to you in any way, we would love to hear from you. **What would you miss if these places of worship were no longer here? What is it that makes the presence of a church matter, even if you rarely attend?**

These are genuine questions. Your answers will help shape the future of Trinity and Crowe Hill, enabling them to remain living, breathing communities and places of exploration, reflection and hope for generations to come. Do get in touch.

Rev. Sue

Minister at Trinity United, Ringwood and Crowe Hill Methodist Church. Email Sue at suebakermaher@methodist.org.uk.



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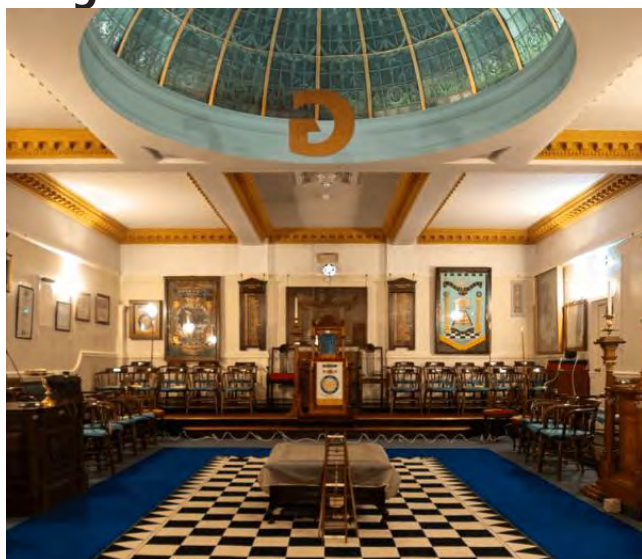
PAINTING - Decorating, Interior, Exterior.

ROOFING - Facias, Guttering, Down Pipes, Re-pairs.

Telephone 07310 933912 - Thank you

HISTORY & NEWS

Heritage Open Days Return to Ringwood for 2026



Ringwood will proudly take part in Heritage Open Days on 12 September, offering residents and visitors a rare chance to explore some of the town's most historic and culturally significant buildings. A series of free events will run across the town, celebrating Ringwood's rich heritage and community spirit.

Unity Hall, St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Greyfriars Community Centre, and The Meeting House will all open their doors with special tours and talks. Each venue will showcase its unique story—from centuries of worship and community gathering to

what they stand for today. Visit a building you have always walked past but never really known the history of, learn more about this wonderful town.

A highlight of the programme is a guided walk at the WWII bombing site in Godshill, giving attendees the opportunity to learn about one of the area's most dramatic wartime events directly on location.

We also have a Time Travellers Guided Walk, telling the stories of local hero's, heroines, murders and lots more.

We also have the return of the ever popular Historical Pub Crawl — A lively, story-rich walk through Ringwood's historic pubs, exploring centuries of local characters, brewing traditions, colourful tales, and the role these establishments played in the town's social life.

Full details and booking information are available at: www.ticketsource.com/the-ringwood-society

Heritage Open Days invites everyone to discover the places, people, and stories that shaped Ringwood. This year's programme promises a memorable day of exploration and insight.



The Ringwood Society

Why not give the gift of a lift?

Do you like driving?



Do you like helping people?

Do you have any spare time?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver for Ringwood Good Neighbours, we are actively looking for people who can use their own car to help local residents get to:

- Hospital appointments
- GP surgeries
- Dental appointments
- Other essential medical journeys

The role is flexible—you can volunteer on days and times that suit your availability. Induction, insurance cover while volunteering, and expenses for every journey are provided.

Learn how you can make a big impact

please contact: **07933 202112.**



Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

SHINING IN SEPTEMBER IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
01/09/1918	Charles William Haine	Private	10 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
03/09/1916	Arthur Head	Private	14 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
03/09/1943	Peter Hugh Arnold Young	Lance Corporal	Royal Army Service Corps
04/09/1943	Francis George Barrell	Aircraftman 2 nd Class	RAF Volunteer Reserve
06/09/1915	Ernest Saint	Private	HMS Leviathan
06/09/1917	Phineas Kebby	Private	11 th Bn, Somerset LI
09/09/1918	W E Witcher	Rifleman	10 th Bn, London Regt.
09/09/1943	John William Gulliver	Private	14 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
10/09/1917	Percy Charles Want	Private	239 th Bn, Machine Gun Corps
13/09/1918	G C G Brackley	Telegraphist	HMS Africa
13/09/1918	Robert Gundry Hodges	Corporal	2 nd /4 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
17/09/1943	Reginald Seabright	Private	5 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
18/09/1917	Alfred James Holloway	Cook's Mate	HMS Stonecrop
18/09/1918	Bernard Barnes	Private	2 nd /4 th Bn, London Regt.
18/09/1944	Ronald Victor Russell	Sapper	9 th Airborne Field Company
19/09/1917	Frank Melbourne	Private	3 rd King's Own Hussars
21/09/1918	Louis Charles Bailey	Private	2 nd /4 th Bn, Royal Fusiliers
22/09/1943	Cyril William Edwy Palmer	Sergeant	428 Sqn, RAFVR, Royal Canadian Airforce
25/09/1943	Leslie Collis	Sergeant	RAF Volunteer Reserve
26/09/1917	Frederick John Middleton	Private	14 th Bn, Hampshire Regt.
26/09/1918	A E Roy Veal	Stoker	HMS Victory
27/09/1917	James William Potts	Private	13 th Bn Durham LI

Lest We Forget

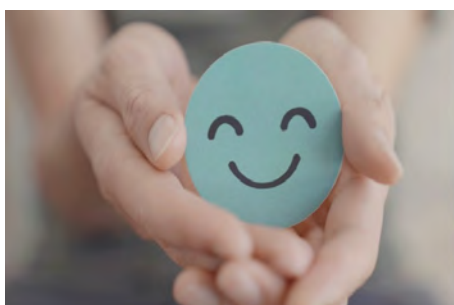
Bickerley Green Carers' hub 10th September 2026

Unpaid Carers Hub at Bickerley Green Care Home, Kingbury's Lane Ringwood, BH24 1EL

Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Our next session will be on Thursday 10th September 11am-12 pm

At Bickerley Green Care Home

All unpaid carers and their loved ones are welcome, do come and have a cuppa and a chat, enjoy some activities and entertainment. We offer impartial advice and signposting for carers. We also have a registered, fully qualified, nurse who can give advice. Full disabled facilities and free parking and most of all - some delicious cakes to enjoy with your cup of tea/coffee. Any queries please contact Tracey or Phil on 01425-473312 or 07928514740 We look forward to Welcoming you on 10th September 2026.



Ringwood Care Home Awarded 'Team of the Year Award by HCC

Bickerley Green is very proud to announce that the entire staff team at Bickerley Green Residential and Nursing Home, has been recognised, by Hampshire County Council's Adults' Health and Care Directorate as 'Team of Year'.



Jess Hutchinson, Director of AHC, spoke about how every day, colleagues across Adults' Health and Care make an incredible difference to people's lives. "We don't always get the opportunity to stop and reflect on that, so having a time dedicated to celebrating those achievements feels special.

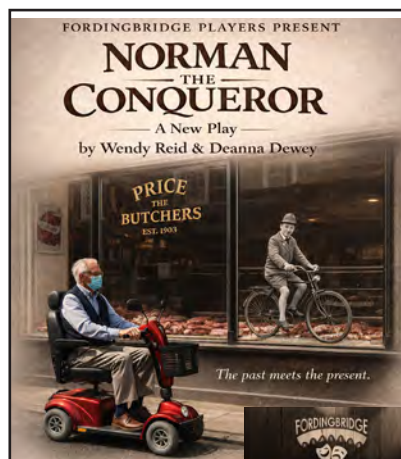
Particularly, I would add my congratulations to everyone at Bickerley Green upon receiving an 'Making a Difference Award'. This is a wonderful achievement and a true testament to the positive impact of everyone's work.

The Bickerley Green team has demonstrated exceptional teamwork, innovation, and compassion across their 60-bed dual care home, delivering outstanding care through a whole-home approach. From creative wellbeing initiatives such as the "Dream Days" programme and support for the Veteran Friendly Framework, to improvements in safety, personalised care, and daily living, every team member has played a vital role in enhancing residents' quality of life.

Innovation, professionalism, and a strong commitment to person-centred care are evident throughout the home. Whether through leadership, clinical practice, catering, housekeeping, or wellbeing/activities, staff consistently create a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for residents and their families, earning high levels of praise and appreciation.

Winning this award marks a significant milestone. Your commitment, hard work, and dedication to the Directorate are greatly valued and make a meaningful difference."

Registered manager, Tracy Flint, added "This is a fantastic achievement, and I truly believe it reflects the compassion, dedication, and commitment which each member of staff brings to our service every day. I am very proud of everyone's hard work and continued support. This recognition is richly deserved for us all at Bickerley Green.



In 'Norman the Conqueror', 92 year-old Norman looks back on his life as a 12-year old in Southampton during the second World War. As he remembers his time as an evacuee, events from 1940 begin to collide with what Norman is living through during the Covid Pandemic in 2020.

The play switches seamlessly between the two timeframes and with a large cast is able to be both dramatic, tender, humorous and moving. This richly layered play is rooted in real events, and has a special connection to Fordingbridge through Norman's marriage to a local girl, giving it truly personal resonance.

The play is dramatic, humorous and moving in equal measure and is sure to leave audiences rooting for Norman to conquer both 1940 and 2020.

Performances on Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st October 2026.

7.30pm at Forres Sandle Manor School,
Station Road, Fordingbridge, SP6 1DS

Tickets are £12.50 from fordingbridgeplayers.org.uk
(Suitable For: 12+)

NEWS

Cat bites

Cats have long narrow canine teeth that can penetrate deeply, but only leave a small puncture wound that heals over quickly. They carry lots of nasty bacteria in their mouths, and this makes cat bite wounds at very high risk of becoming infected. The bacteria are injected deep into tissue, and then the wound heals over sealing it inside.

Fighting between cats is very common, especially when there is a territorial dispute. Often there is just a lot of noise and superficial scratches, but they can inflict nasty bites on each other. If your cat returns home with wounds or seems sore when touched, they may have a bite wound and should be checked by a vet. If there are no obvious signs of injury straight after a fight, an abscess may appear several days later as the infection builds up. The signs of this can be visible swellings or oozing regions, lethargy, inappetence (loss of appetite), and soreness. Often lancing the abscess to let the pus out is required, in addition to antibiotics and pain relief.

Infectious diseases such as FIV (Feline immunodeficiency virus) and FeLV (Feline leukaemia virus) can also be spread by cat bites. Outdoor cats should be vaccinated against FeLV. Entire male cats are more likely to fight so neutering them will reduce the chances of injuries and disease.

If a person is bitten by a cat and the skin is broken, the wound needs to be thoroughly cleaned and medical attention sought urgently. Cat bite wounds can be very serious, especially if joints or tendon sheaths are penetrated as can easily happen when fingers are bitten.

We are very fond of cats and they are amazing pets, but do not underestimate how serious bites from them can be!



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Helping Your Garden Recover After a Hot, Dry Summer

By Guy Payne

After more than ten years working in gardens across Ringwood, Fordingbridge and the surrounding areas, I've seen plenty of British summers where the biggest problem has been too much rain. This year, for a while at least, we've had quite the opposite.

The recent hot, dry weather has been great for enjoying our gardens, but prolonged heat can take its toll. Lawns turn brown, plants become stressed, borders dry out and even established shrubs can start looking tired.

By August, it can be tempting to think the growing season is nearly over and simply leave things until autumn. In reality, the next few weeks are a great opportunity to give your garden some attention and help it recover before the seasons change.

Here are five jobs worth considering.

1. Don't give up on a brown lawn

A brown lawn doesn't necessarily mean a dead lawn. Grass naturally becomes dormant during prolonged dry weather and can recover surprisingly quickly once cooler, wetter conditions return.

Avoid cutting it too short and don't worry about trying to keep it perfectly green during very dry periods. As we move towards September, feeding, aerating and repairing genuinely bare areas can help bring a tired lawn back to life.

2. Make the most of the water you use

After such a dry summer, it's important to use water wisely and, of course, follow any restrictions that apply in your area.

Rather than worrying about established lawns, prioritise pots, newly planted shrubs and younger plants that are less able to cope with prolonged dry conditions. Using collected rainwater where possible and watering directly around the base of plants with a watering can helps make sure valuable water goes where it's needed most.

3. Cut back what's finished

By late summer, some plants can start looking past their best. Removing dead flowers, damaged growth and spent stems can immediately improve the appearance of borders and, with some plants, encourage another flush of flowers before autumn.

It's also a good opportunity to see what has thrived this year - and what perhaps hasn't.

4. Reclaim areas that have run away from you

August gardens can become surprisingly unruly. Climbers spread, shrubs expand over paths and borders lose their shape.

Rather than attacking everything with the shears, selective cutting back can restore space and structure while keeping the garden looking natural. Always check for active bird nests before carrying out work on shrubs or hedges.

5. Start thinking one season ahead

Good gardening is often about anticipating what's coming next. Late summer is an ideal time to look around the garden and decide what will need attention during autumn.

Overgrown areas can be cleared, tired borders refreshed and larger maintenance jobs planned before falling leaves and wetter

weather arrive.

After a hot summer, gardens don't necessarily need a complete overhaul. Often, a few well-timed jobs are enough to restore some order, encourage recovery and keep everything looking good into autumn.

If your garden has suffered in the heat or simply got away from you while you've been enjoying the summer, now is a great time to get it back under control. Feel free to

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

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

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

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Another busy month gone by already! Where does the time go? Besides the usual meetings to attend, both at County and local level, I've been able to get out and about around Ringwood.

Last week, I was invited to visit the Ringwood Activity Day Project, held every Tuesday in the Trinity United Church. The day is aimed at trying to combat loneliness and isolation in older people across Ringwood. The day comprises of an hour's seated exercise session followed by a crafting activity session. The organiser, Emily McEnery (pictured with me), and her volunteer staff made me feel very welcome as she described the charity and how things are conducted. It was a honour to be able to organise some funding from my Councillor's Grant to help this work continue.

On the 6th August, I was kindly invited to attend the 'Bickfest' day at the Bickerley Green Residential Home by Philip Green and the Manager, Tracy Flint. It was definitely a lovely day, with the residents enjoying some live entertainment and food. Following a quick tour of the home with Tracy, I have to say it is a bright and well-managed home; everyone was smiling and having fun. Tracy and her staff are to be commended for their dedication and attention to making sure the residents happiness comes first.

I also attended the Youth Riders annual 'SkateJam' in Carvers on the 8th August, a local charity dedicated to supporting the youngsters that use the skate parks in Ringwood and Verwood. I met with Macheala Wells, a trustee, who briefed me on the charity and what they do. It was a well organised event with skateboarders of all ages tearing around! I was tempted to have a go but then remembered my age! I'm way past doing those sort of stunts!! I'm hoping to be able to allocate some funding to this charity in the near future from my Councillors' grant.

As a request to all you readers, if you know of a local charity that

could do with some support or funding, could you please get in touch with me and I'll see what I can do.

My email address is martin.eyre@hants.gov.uk.

Martin



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Darren



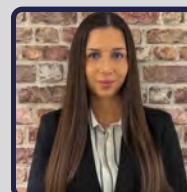
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BEREAVEMENTS**Steven Anthony Mann**

Steve sadly passed away at home unexpectedly on 31st July 2026. A much loved husband to Paa.

He will be greatly missed by Jackie, Neil, his nieces, their families and his many friends & colleagues.

The funeral service will take place on Wednesday 26th August 12:30 at The New Forest Crematorium & Memorial Gardens, Stem Lane, New Milton, BH25 5FH.

Family flowers only please.

We invite everyone who knew him to join us in giving Steve a good send off.

Steve enjoyed bright colours so please dress as you wish.
Enquiries to Tappers Barrows Funeral Service, Ringwood
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ANNOUNCEMENT**60th Wedding Anniversary**

Rev. Michael Anderson and his wife Sylvia from Ringwood, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary recently, and received a congratulatory card from the King and Queen. Well know in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge area for many years. So many congratulations from all the couple's family and many friends.

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Puzzle Corner

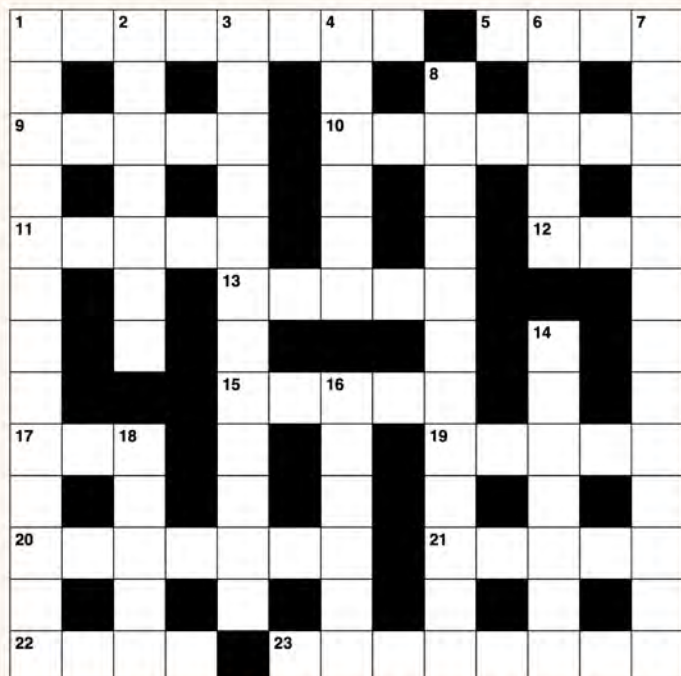
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Crossword



Across

- 1 - Cruel (8)
- 5 - Sent by (4)
- 9 - Seashore (5)
- 10 - Standing erect (7)
- 11 - Push gently (5)
- 12 - Water barrier (3)
- 13 - Tiny arachnids (5)
- 15 - Ironical metaphor (5)
- 17 - Vessel (3)
- 19 - Cattle-breeding farm (5)
- 20 - People who manage college finances (7)
- 21 - Wounding remarks (5)
- 22 - Open the mouth wide when tired (4)
- 23 - Judges (8)

Down

- 1 - Unbelievably (13)
- 2 - Stashed away (7)
- 3 - Relating to numbers (12)
- 4 - Type of confectionery (6)
- 6 - Stiff (5)
- 7 - Process of transformation (of an insect) (13)
- 8 - Capable of being moved (12)
- 14 - Terms of office (7)
- 16 - Musical works (6)
- 18 - Hurled away (5)

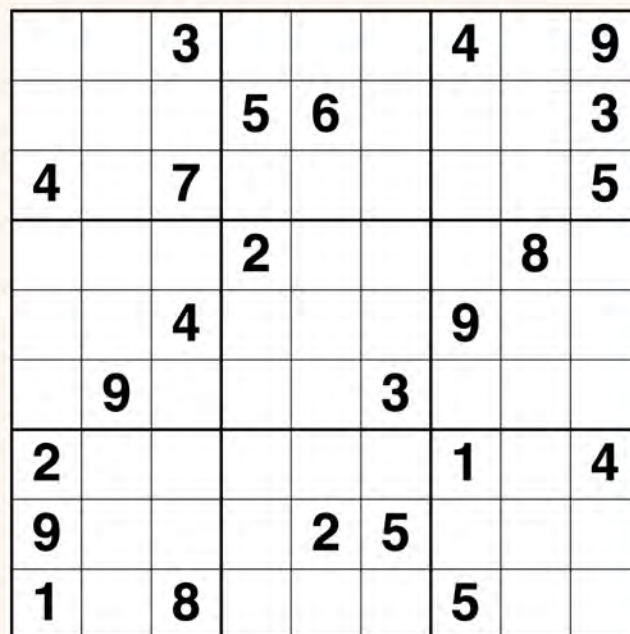
Answers for last the last issue:

P	U	L	L	B	A	C	K	A	S	K	S
U	A	A	U	H	T	A	C				
S	U	C	K	S	I	N	H	A	L	E	R
H	K	I	E	I	O	E					
S	I	G	N	I	F	I	C	A	N	C	E
V	N	E	C	S	K						
A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	A	B	L	E
R				S	K	U	D				
I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	I	B	L	E
A	R	I	S	N	L	L					
B	L	A	N	K	E	T	N	O	I	S	Y
L	D	E	E	E	O	R					
E	W	E	R	C	R	E	D	E	N	C	E

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

Sudoku

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