

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS



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Issue 919 • September 16th to October 20th • 2026

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RINGWOOD 2026 Carnival

Saturday 19th September

Processions
2pm
& 7:15pm



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Fixtures
2026-27

Date	Opponents
Wed 16 Sep A	New Milton Town*
Sat 19 Sep A	Amesbury Town
Tue 22 Sep H	Lymington Town*
Sat 26 Sep H	Ash Utd
Tue 29 Sep A	Romsey Town*
Sat 3 Oct A	Hedge End Rgrs
Tue 6 Oct A	Bashley*

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KO 3pm *7:45pm

No fixtures subject to change

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Why Ringwood Carnival Matters

As the excitement builds for this year's Ringwood Carnival, I find myself thinking about just how special events like this really are.

In a world where many traditional community events are disappearing, it is quite remarkable that a town like Ringwood can still come together and put on something as wonderful as its carnival. It is more than just a parade, music, entertainment and a great day out – it is a celebration of our community and the people who make Ringwood such a special place to live.

Events like this don't simply happen. Behind the scenes are months of planning, organising, fundraising, paperwork, phone calls and an enormous amount of time and energy given freely by people who care passionately about their town.

A huge thank you must go to Ben Salisbury and his fantastic team for all the hard work they put in to make the carnival happen. Their commitment deserves our support and appreciation. Without people willing to step forward and give their time, these



traditions could very easily disappear.

So, when carnival day arrives, let's get behind it. Bring the family, bring your friends, enjoy the atmosphere, support the stalls, businesses, charities and organisations taking part – and, most importantly, show your support for the people who have worked so hard to bring it all together.

Support your community, because communities only stay strong when we all play our part.

Long may Ringwood Carnival continue!

Darren & Naomi

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge NEWS

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NEWS

COUNTY COUNCILLORS CORNER

Although August was a fairly quiet month, County Council wise, there were many things to keep me occupied.

The month began with the horrendous fire up on the A31, above Picket Post. As we all know, a large area of the forest was consumed by the fire, with both flora and fauna suffering. But hopefully, they will grow back and flourish once again over the coming years.

Following the fire, I was contacted by several residents who live just off the Linwood Road, near the Red Shoot, over their concerns about the volume of traffic that used the road as a rat-run whilst the A31 was closed. At times the road was gridlocked (See residents' photo of an example). This highlighted a very pertinent and life-threatening issue: namely, that during these times the residents become isolated within their homes; unable to get in or out of their areas! Their access completely blocked off! I was informed about an elderly gentleman that was suffering a suspected heart attack during this time, and the ambulance had extreme difficulty getting through to him! It just highlights the ignorance of some drivers that blindly follow their satnavs without any comprehension of the implications of their actions! There were several other examples of this type of behaviour but I don't have the space here to expand.

I have now passed on all of the information and photos, provided to me by the residents, to the New Forest Park Authority officers that are attending several follow-up 'lessons learned' meetings in an effort to prevent this from happening again.

Hopefully, we won't see another repeat fire for many years, but, if we do, I hope we will be better prepared to deal with it!

As ever, stay safe.

Martin Eyre



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NEWS

Ringwood Town Council signs national Civility and Respect Pledge

Ringwood Town Council has signed the national Civility and Respect Pledge, reaffirming its commitment to high standards of conduct, good governance and respect in public life.

The initiative, supported by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), encourages councils across the country to promote positive engagement and foster environments where councillors, staff, residents, volunteers and partner organisations are treated with courtesy and respect.

By signing the pledge, Ringwood Town Council joins local authorities nationwide in supporting the principles of professionalism, constructive debate and mutual respect.

The pledge was signed on behalf of the Council by Town Mayor Cllr Mary DeBoos, with Town Clerk Charmaine Bennett in attendance reflecting a shared commitment to these values across the organisation.

Town Mayor Cllr Mary DeBoos said:

“Most people who become involved in local government do so

because they care about their community and want to make a positive difference. The Civility and Respect Pledge is a simple but important statement about the standards we expect of ourselves as a Council. Good local democracy relies on people being able to discuss difficult issues, challenge ideas and express different views while treating one another with courtesy and respect. That’s something Ringwood Town Council is proud to support.”




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New Forest organisations lead recovery effort following heathland fire

Issued on behalf of the partners involved in the recovery from the A31 Picket Post heathland fire.

Local organisations involved in the response to the Picket Post heathland fire are working together on the longer-term recovery of the New Forest impacted areas, businesses and communities.

The fire, which started on 9 August 2026, affected more than 100 hectares of internationally important heathland and led to the closure of the A31 with significant disruption for residents, businesses and visitors.

With the fire now extinguished and the A31 reopened, the focus has moved to looking at what actions can be taken to support the affected communities, businesses, and landscape and ensure future resilience to prolonged droughts and wildfires.

Cllr Jill Cleary, Leader of New Forest District Council (NFDC), said: "I want to thank everyone who worked so hard throughout this incident, from the firefighters and emergency services who brought the fire under control, to our partners, volunteers, businesses and residents who have supported the response and looked after one another.

"The reopening of the A31 last weekend (Saturday 22 August 2026) and the end of the emergency response are important steps forward, but we know the impact of the fire will be felt for some time.

"Our priority now is to work together to support our communities and local businesses, assess the damage to our environment and infrastructure, and learn from what has happened so that we can strengthen the New Forest's resilience to future wildfires."

The environmental impact of the fire is still being assessed. Forestry England's specialist teams have mapped the affected area, which includes large areas of heathland, mature trees and habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife. The team will draw on their experience of restoring heathlands affected by previous fires to inform recovery plans for the site.

Michael Pittock, Head of Planning and Environment at Forestry England, said:

"We are extremely grateful to the fire service, local partners and members of the community who all supported the New Forest during this wildfire and worked together to protect this special place.

"The damage to the affected area is considerable and it will take decades for this heathland to recover. However, there are things we can do to help nature recover and wildlife to return.

"We are confident that with the right support that over the coming years we will be able to fully restore the area affected by the fire and continue to help the forest to be resilient in the face of the changing climate."

The existing Public Space Protection Order continues to prohibit fires, barbecues and outdoor cooking equipment in the New Forest. Partners will also continue to work on wildfire prevention and preparedness, including capturing lessons from this incident.

Victoria Mander, Chair of New Forest National Park Authority said: "The New Forest National Park is a world capital for wildlife with many rare habitats and species and we thank all those involved in working to contain the wildfire in extremely challenging conditions. Thanks to their bravery and skill the fire was restricted to 1.6km² of the 566km² National Park.

"All roads, trails and car parks are open and the Forest is ready to welcome visitors for the bank holiday weekend.

"Our focus is now very much on working with partners to ensure habitats, communities and businesses are supported to recover and are prepared for any future incidents."

Partners are encouraging everyone who lives in, works in or visits the New Forest to help reduce the risk of further wildfires, particu-



larly during periods of hot, dry weather when even a small spark can quickly escalate.

Recent statutory guidance from Government on the sale and distribution of disposable barbecues is a welcome step in reducing fire risk, but partners are reminding people that disposable barbecues are only one potential ignition source. Campfires, bonfires, discarded cigarettes, glass bottles and vehicles parked on dry grass can all start fires, causing serious damage to wildlife, habitats and the countryside, placing lives at risk and adding pressure to emergency services.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service Group Manager Larry Mackrell said:

"We support the government's temporary ban on the sale and distribution of disposable barbecues.

"Any heat source, not just disposable barbecues, has the potential to start a fire, which in the current conditions can grow and spread rapidly, causing huge levels of devastation to our countryside.

"When heading outdoors to enjoy the bank holiday weekend, we ask that you do your bit to help us prevent wildfires by packing a picnic instead."

Work will also consider the impact on local communities and businesses, including those affected by the A31 closure and disruption to tourism and passing trade.

Partners will use evidence from businesses and communities to understand the scale of the impact and identify where partners can provide support.

New Forest District Council is continuing to work with town and parish councils, alongside community and voluntary sector partners, to strengthen community preparedness and resilience. Following discussions with key stakeholders, wider engagement will take place to identify impacts, opportunities for learning and actions that will help build long-term resilience across the district.



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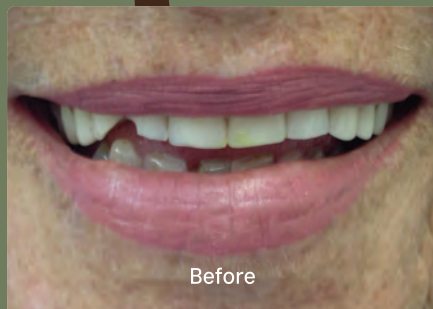
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Understanding Investments - Sequence of Returns Risk in Drawdown

"Sequence Risk" refers to the negative impact that withdrawals from an investment account can have on its returns. The most common issues occur at and during retirement when clients transition from saving money to spending their savings. It is especially relevant to pension drawdown so we will continue using pensions as the example.

If your pension remains invested and you require a regular income from your pension, the order of returns can make a significant difference to your remaining pension value. If you suffer negative returns in the early years, it can have a dramatic effect on your remaining pension value. This is because you may have been selling investments as their prices are falling, to generate a fixed level of income. If prices are lower, you need to sell more investments to generate that same level of fixed income. Then in future years, as markets recover, you have less investments remaining to benefit from the recovery.

The more volatile your investments, the more exposed you are to sequence risk. The higher your drawdown need as a % of your pension value, the greater the risk.

The good news is that there are a variety of strategies that can be used to reduce or even eliminate sequence risk. Each have merit but deciding on the optimal solution will depend on many factors and should be explored in detail based on your personal circumstances.

1-Emergency cash-Retain up to 2 years of cash reserves (in addition to emergency cash), to allow you to stop drawing from your pension during a stock market decline and spend cash to meet expenditure needs instead.

2-Buckets-Segregate different asset classes within your pension

to meet different needs. For example, keep 2 years in cash or cash equivalents to meet your withdrawals, then lower risk investments such as fixed income for your 3-6 year expenditure needs and equities or other real assets for your longer term money (7 years plus).

3-Annuities-Use part of your pension to purchase a lifetime annuity or a fixed term annuity, from which you draw income. Annuities remove investment risk (although you are still exposed to inflation risk unless you purchase an inflation linked annuity).

4-Flexible income -Be prepared to reduce the income you draw in negative investment years and increase your income in positive investment years.

The right solution will depend on your personal financial needs, your attitude to investment risk and your capacity for loss (ability to absorb negative returns). The important take-away is that approaching and entering retirement and then your early retirement years introduce different risks than you may have experienced whilst working and saving. The decisions you make are important and your retirement outcome may be very different based on those decisions.

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

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RINGWOOD Carnival Concert



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Cecilia
Dave
Michael

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Ringwood Antiques Club

Behind the Antiques Roadshow with Cristian Beadman



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community centre

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Ringwood Antiques Club

Calling all 'Antiques Roadshow' fans! One of the BBC show's popular experts, Cristian Beadman, will be the guest speaker at Ringwood Antiques Club at Greyfriars on Wednesday 23rd September. Cristian will offer a fascinating glimpse into the people, objects and stories that shape the Roadshow.

This promises to be a memorable occasion to start off the 2026/2027 season with a flourish. It is also the best time to join Ringwood Antiques Club to make the most of the opportunity to enjoy all eight meetings for the annual subscription of just £25. Members must also be members of Greyfriars. Guests are welcome to attend, entry price £10. Doors open at Greyfriars at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.



What's on at Greyfriars!

Sundays AM – babyballet

Join Miss Claire **from 9.15am** for children's dance classes. Catering for 6mths to 4½ years, offering a tailored programme to build confidence. Early booking is essential as spaces are limited in Sept. To reserve a place/enquire, call 07915 665120 or via bournemouthandpoole@babyballet.co.uk.

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Thursdays – Chair Zumba

From **12–12.45 weekly**, all abilities are welcome for £6 pay as you go! Feel the benefit whilst dancing from your seat. Improve your mobility, build strength and have fun at the same time. Enquire at Greyfriars Reception.

16 Oct – Ray Foster – Community Café fund raiser

We are thrilled to invite you to get your dancing shoes on and coming along to an unforgettable evening with Ray Foster. In support of the Community café project **from 7pm** there will be a bar and food available. Tickets £15 are selling fast, get yours via TicketSource or Greyfriars.

30 Oct – Flamin Ukes in concert

The fabulous Flamin Ukes invite you to their Greyfriars fundraiser **from 2.30pm**. Tickets at just £10 from Greyfriars and include a delicious cream tea. Get set for a fun-filled afternoon.

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WHATS ON

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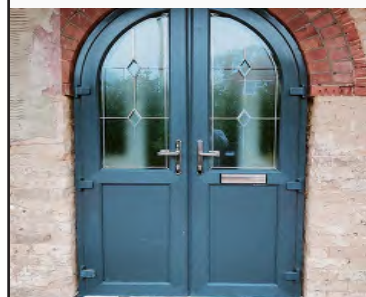
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You are invited to enter The Ringwood Turning Prize

The Turning Prize is a parody art competition where the goal is to create the 'most rubbish' artwork using the absolute minimum amount of effort possible. Pun-based titles are highly encouraged and if the judges decide you have tried too hard or put in too much effort, your entry will be immediately disqualified.

Key Rules

- Minimum effort essential, entries requiring exertion are tossed out.
- Submissions should feature humour and witty, pun-heavy titles.
- Absolutely no paper, cardboard entries are accepted.
- One entry per person.
- Submissions will be accepted and displayed at Ringwood Parish Church during the first three weeks of October. Dates and times on Ringwood Benefice website.
- You must include your name or pseudonym, phone number and the title of your art work.
- Entry Fees are £5 for 18+ years, under 18 free. All monies raised will be donated to CAP charity (Christians Against Poverty).
- The winner will take home the prestigious Turning Prize Trophy. This will be awarded during the 10.30am Service at Ringwood Parish Church on Sunday 1st November.

THE TURNING PRIZE 2026



Come and celebrate Harvest Time

The perfect way to celebrate a successful harvest and usher in early Autumn is to be part of the Harvest Supper annual event at Woodgreen Village Hall. This popular evening is on Sunday 27 September, starting at 6.30pm.

Come and enjoy a delicious, homecooked, 2 course hot supper whilst being serenaded by local musical group, the West Milford Gallery Quire. The Quire, back by popular demand, perform 1 energetic, rustic choral and instrumental music, much enjoyed by all. There will also be the usual super raffle!

The evening is organised by Hale and Woodgreen Churches and is a great way to raise funds for Phase 2 of Hale Church's much needed roof replacement. This fabulous little church is Grade 1 listed with architectural features of national importance, some fascinating monuments and an attractive interior.

Tickets for the Harvest Supper (just £15.00 each for supper and a drink) are available from either the Woodgreen Community Shop, the AVCM shop (Fordingbridge High Street), Lynda Warne on 07799 542707 or Ruth Crosland on 07855 210769.



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NEWS

Discover The Green Gram at Community Open Morning

Have you ever walked past The Green Gram Community Refill Shop in Fordingbridge and wondered what happens inside? If you've been curious about refill shopping but never quite taken the plunge, now is the perfect opportunity to find out more.

The Green Gram is inviting local residents to a relaxed Open Morning on Sunday 20 September, from 10am to 12pm.

Anyone can pop in with the event aimed particularly at people who have never visited before, those who are new to the area, or anyone who would like to learn more about how refill shopping works. Visitors can see just how simple it is to refill everyday household and personal care products, browse the shop at their own pace with no pressure to buy, and ask as many questions as they like.

Our regular customers are also encouraged to bring along a friend who hasn't visited The Green Gram before.

As well as learning about the benefits of reducing single-use plastic, saving money and supporting a local community enterprise, visitors can enjoy complimentary tea, coffee and homemade cake while chatting with the friendly volunteer team.

There's no need to book – simply drop in between 10am and 12pm.

Whether you're looking to



make a few simple changes to reduce waste or are just curious to see what a community refill shop is all about, everyone is welcome.

The Green Gram Community Refill Shop is located at 23 High Street, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AS.



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CARNIVAL

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RINGWOOD 2026 **Carnival**

Saturday 19th September

Carnival Day Timetable

- 2pm & 7:15pm The CARNIVAL PROCESSIONS**
10:00 - 6pm Fire Station Open Day
- 11:00 onwards Carnival Unplugged**
11:30 - 7pm Live on the Lawn - Greyfriars
- 11:30 onwards The Village Green - Bickerley Field**
12:30-5:30pm Circus Performances - Village Green
12:00-6pm Three Counties Car Display - Greyfriars
- 12:00 - late The Funfair - The Bickerley Field**
3:00-5pm Tower Tours - St. Peter & St. Paul Church
3:30pm Battle of Britain Memorial Flyby
- 1:30:pm & 6:30pm Professional Circus Performers - The High Street**
1:40 & 6:45pm Transformers - Fridays Cross
1:45 & 6:45pm Flat Land BMX Show - Greyfriars
1:45 & 6:45pm Bike Jump Display - The Market Place Arena
5:30-6:15pm Bournemouth Carnival Band - The Railway Pub
9pm (approx) The End of Show Fire Show - The Market Place
9:30pm The Grande Firework Display - Bickerley
...and much more

CARNIVAL

GREETINGS from the Carnival President

Greetings once again all of you Carnival revellers, another year goes by and yes, your committee is back again, we're a bit like the ravens at the Tower! Will we make it to the big 2028 Centenary? You bet we will, more of which later.

Touring round our wonderful sponsors (without which nothing happens) doing promo shoots recently, it occurred to me that with a record for continuity like ours, all of us including our sponsors are and have been part of an amazing example of sustainable Community activities for a very long time.

However, I hear you ask, what is a Sustainable Community? Good question. Let's ask Chat GPT: well, you get as many answers as the years the Carnival has been going! But apparently it all revolves around Environment, Economy, Education, Welfare, Representation etc etc. That's it.

Hey - what about us? What about Carnival, not a word about dressing up in silly costumes, silly dancing and a whole community coming together to just have a great time. Well, we know better, don't we? We've been doing it for nigh on 100 years, (not forgetting all the other fun Community things Ringwood does like Pedal Car races, Country shows, Christmas events etc).

Apparently, Community participation nationwide is said to be down below 50% and dropping. Not in Ringwood it isn't. The afternoon procession will be the biggest we can remember, ok we're not Bridgwater but we do it our way and that's the way we like it.

So just to reiterate... we are headed towards and planning for a big 100-year celebration in 2028 so keep a look out for ideas, plans and (i'm sure) craziness! What are YOU going to do for the 100 YEAR CELEBRATION? Have a great Carnival 2026!

Howard Cox



YOU are Ringwood Carnival!

Our 2026 Carnival parades are looking like they are going to be huge, with a bumper afternoon parade and a great line up for the illuminated procession - but it's NOT the Ringwood Carnival team that can control those numbers - it's the RINGWOOD PUBLIC that make the processions what they are - by entering!

Many think a GOOD Carnival is the SIZE of the processions. As we head towards our 100th year in 2028 - why don't YOU, the truly wonderful public to get involved, enter and make 2028 the BEST YEAR EVER!

What's HOT for Carnival 2026?....

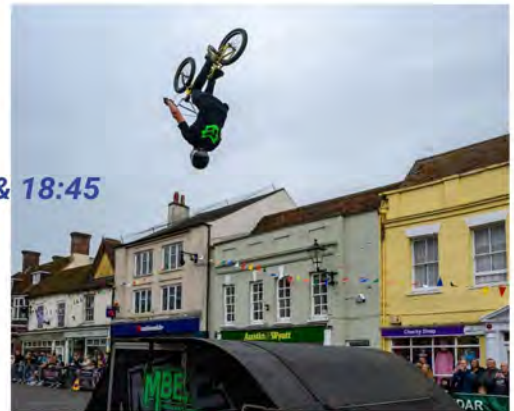
THE MARKETPLACE ARENA

There's plenty of action to be found in the marketplace **ONCE AGAIN** this year! Europe's leading mobile Bike Crew are performing their high-impact performance with aerial stunts and backflip displays prior to both processions:



Performance Times: 13:45 & 18:45

After the illuminated evening procession has passed through the Market Place, The **INFAMOUS IGNIS** Fire Performers return with their legendary fire show. **STICK AROUND for 9:00pm for a fire-filled END OF THE SHOW FIRE SHOW!**



BMX Flatland Display



Joining us for the first time are some of the UK's top BMX flatland riders...something that Ringwood Carnival has never seen before! Performing at Greyfriars Roundabout to the Tunes of DJ Minty, check out their jaw-dropping skills before both processions.

Performance Times: 13:45 & 18:45



FIRESTATION OPEN DAY

Open Times: 10am - 6pm

With the understandable cancellation of the recent 999 Day, the Ringwood Fire and Rescue Team are holding a Station open day. Go and get the chance to look behind the scenes!

- Explore the engines and sit behind the wheel
- Try on the safety equipment
- Throw line challenge
- Hold and understand the fire fighting equipment
- Fire House Interactive challenge

Get down there early! **BIG RED DOORS** open at 10am

Please Welcome Our 2026 Carnival Court

Penelope Milner & Nik Witte

of Poulner Junior School

Kaylee Lavery & Bertie Guy

of Ringwood Junior School

Town Mayor Cllr Mary DeBoos & Deputy Town Mayor Cllr James Swyer will join the Princes & Princesses to form our 2026 Carnival Court.

The Village Green Family Zone

Bickerley Field

The Village Green Family Zone, situated on the Bickerley field is aimed at providing a mixture of wonderful arts and crafts, activities and local charities - as well as **FREE** entertainment and activities for children and families. This year we are providing a whole afternoon of professional circus entertainment shows as well as a circus workshop! It's the perfect place to sit down and relax, with a variety of refreshments on offer! The Green is open from 11:30 to 17:30.

Village Green Entertainment Timetable

- 12:45-13:15: The Tuesdays Singing Group
- 2pm Procession Break
- 15:00-15:30: The Juggling Extravagansa
- 15:30-15:50: The Circus Workshop
- Welcome Show
- 15:30-16:00: Transformers Walkabout
- 16:00-16:15: Bubble Interactive Show
- 16:20-16:40: The Mystery Fire Performance
- 16:45-17:00: The Hula Hoop Showcase
- Circus Skills Workshop OPEN
- ALL AFTERNOON!-**



The team will lead the procession & travel on the traditional royal float, led by the magnificent **SAMPSON PERCHERON HORSES!**

CARNIVAL

A word from our Headline Sponsor...

"At Economy Hire, we're delighted to support Ringwood Carnival as headline sponsor this year. As a local business, we're proud to be part of a community that brings people together, and we're pleased to help celebrate everything that makes Ringwood such a special place. We hope everyone has a fantastic Carnival 2026!"

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Ringwood Carnival would like to express their THANKS to Ringwood & Fordingbridge News as media partner and for all their support 12 months of the year.

CAN YOU DONATE?

With the reduction in coins in our day to day life continuing to reduce, we naturally have less change in our pocket. This is impacting the wonderful and traditional street collections - so why not help out and give a small donation via your phone AHEAD Of Carnival day? Scan below...



We don't just organise Carnival, we volunteer for the community all year round!

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Did you know?

It costs over £45,000 to organise and host Ringwood Carnival each year. The Carnival team (dedicated volunteers and independent charity), raise funds throughout the year via fundraising activities and sponsorship to enable them to host the event. Ringwood Carnival would like to THANK EACH and every one of its sponsors & supporters. Without this kind sponsorship - Ringwood Carnival would not take place!

BATTLE OF BRITAIN FLYBY!...

GET READY FOR AN INCREDIBLE feature for 2026 - an aeronautic fly-by from an RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. After last years cancellation disappointment, we have been determined to organise another fly by.

EXACT PLANE TO BE CONFIRMED,
HOWEVER Look to the skies AT 15:30 on
Carnival Day to see...!

WE Now Have an APP!

Download our Carnival App from the App Store or Google Play and keep updated on all things Carnival as well as times and info with What's On. Don't miss a thing!

Fancy joining the Carnival Crew?
Get in Touch: info@ringwoodcarnival.org

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HISTORY & NEWS

Back on Track at Railway Corner



In an excellent demonstration of the civic pride Ringwood residents have for their town, the recently damaged bench at The Ringwood Society created railway site on Castleman Way has been restored thanks to the generosity of local businesses and people.

The site, created by the Society in 2024 as part of a wider Heritage Lottery Funded project; Memories of Ringwood Railway, had seen its authentic railway bench damaged, leaving it unable to be sat

on and enjoyed. Dismayed at this situation, Malcolm, Hannah and the team at The Railway Pub and Kitchen, just behind the site stepped in and organised and funded the repair of the bench to ensure it can be continued to be enjoyed by all. The repair work was carried out by local craftsman; Fran Blasi Netto, from Yoli Woodwork, and the care and attention to detail in his craftsmanship is clear to see in the finished result.

“We were really dismayed that the bench had become damaged, derailing peoples enjoyment of this project” explained Society Chairman; Alex Bancroft “but were absolutely delighted when The Railway stepped in, to get things back on track. We are delighted to have the support of such a valued local business and pleased that they see value in what we have created here. I’d like to say special thanks also to Glenys Turner and Kim Hiett for their tireless gardening work to get the planting back looking neat and tidy.”

Since 1962, The Ringwood Society has championed our historic market town. They always welcome new members to support their work with projects. The more members the Society has, the more which can be achieved! Membership of the Society is only £10 a year per person, with students receiving free membership. Further details can be found on their website www.ringwoodsociety.org.uk



Walk for the Horses: New Forest rider turns life-changing accident into campaign for a safer Forest

A New Forest woman is marking the first anniversary of a near-fatal riding accident by taking on a two-day walk across the Forest to raise awareness of the dangers loose dogs can pose to horses and riders.

On Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2026, local personal trainer and lifelong New Forest resident Marie Vickers will

take part in Walk for the Horses, a two-day walk through the New Forest, raising money for The Injured Riders Fund.

The event comes almost exactly one year after Marie's life changed dramatically when her horse was chased by an out-of-control dog while riding on the Forest.

The incident resulted in life-threatening injuries and major surgery, and left Marie determined to turn what happened into something positive.





Ringwood Lantern of Remembrance

SHINING IN OCTOBER IN HONOUR OF

DATE OF DEATH	NAME	RANK	REGIMENT OR SHIP
01/10/1917	Albert Edward William Young	Private	13 th Bn, Durham Light Infantry
04/10/1917	Charles Walter Hardy	Lance Corporal	1 st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
04/10/1917	Arthur Witt	Private	1 st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
05/10/1917	Reginald Thomas Draper	Private	3 rd /10 th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment
07/10/1916	Reginald Hardy	Private	15 th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
12/10/1917	George A Seabright	Private	11 th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery
14/10/1916	Albert Edward Cox	Private	2 nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
14/10/1940	Cecil Hemstridge	Stoker 2 nd Class	HMS Royal Oak
18/10/1916	Henry George Newham	Private	2 nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
18/10/1916	Bertram Steele	Private	2 nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment
21/10/1917	Henry Shepherd Guy	Able Seaman	HMS Marmion
23/10/1917	Harold Leonard Percy Batten	Private	6 th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
29/10/1917	Ernest James Melbourne	Rifleman	2 nd /17 th Battalion, London Regiment

Lest We Forget

Preparations Underway to Improve Crow Stream Capacity Ahead of Autumn and Winter

As part of ongoing work to reduce flood risk, Ringwood Town Council's grounds team has recently completed clearance works along a section of the Crow Stream adjacent to Public Footpath 41a. The work was undertaken through the Parish Lengthsman Scheme, which receives support from Hampshire County Council for local highways and rights of way maintenance.

The work has focused on clearing vegetation from the stream bed and banks, removing obstructions and improving access along the footpath. The clearance has been carried out upstream of the section of the Crow Stream that is maintained annually by local volunteers as part of the long-running Crow Stream Restoration Project.

The completed works will improve the stream's capacity to convey water during periods of heavy rainfall. By increasing flow and storage capacity within the channel, the works are expected to help reduce the severity of flooding downstream, particularly in the area below the railway line and around Crow Crossroads. The works come at an important time as we prepare for the potential of a wetter autumn and winter. The Crow Stream plays a critical role in draining the surrounding catchment area, and maintaining its flow capacity helps reduce the frequency and severity of local flooding events.

Residents are reminded that the annual Crow Stream Volunteer Clearance will take place on Thursday 1 October 2026. This long-running maintenance programme has been instrumental in improving the stream's performance and reducing flood impacts since restoration works began more than a decade ago. Anyone wishing to take part is asked to contact Ringwood Town Council in

advance, as volunteers will be organised into teams and allocated sections of the stream. New volunteers are always welcome.

Reminder to Riparian Owners

The Council is also taking this opportunity to remind anyone who owns land adjoining a watercourse, stream or ditch that they may be a riparian owner and have legal responsibilities to maintain the watercourse. Riparian owners are generally responsible for the section of watercourse on or adjoining their land and should ensure it is kept clear and able to flow freely. This includes responsibilities such as removing blockages where appropriate, maintaining banks and structures, and ensuring water can pass without causing flooding to neighbouring land.

Landowners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the guidance available from Hampshire County Council: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/landowners>

By working together, residents, landowners, volunteers and local authorities can help maintain the effectiveness of the area's drainage network and reduce flood risk for the wider community.



Rather than focusing on blame, Walk for the Horses is about awareness, understanding and encouraging everyone who uses the New Forest to look out for one another.

"I was incredibly lucky to survive what happened to me," says Marie. "But I don't want this walk to be about blaming dogs or their owners. It is about helping people understand what can happen when horses and dogs meet unexpectedly, and encouraging everyone to use the Forest responsibly."

The two-day route will begin at Moyles Court on Saturday 17 October, travelling via The Potting Shed, Fritham and Lyndhurst before finishing in Beaulieu, where the walkers will stay overnight.

On Sunday, the walk will continue from Beaulieu through Brockenhurst and Burley before returning to Moyles Court,

completing the two-day challenge.

Marie hopes the event will bring together people who love the New Forest in all its different ways, whether they ride horses, walk dogs, cycle, run or simply enjoy spending time outdoors.

"The New Forest is our shared space. Horses, dogs, cyclists, walkers and families all have a place here. I want Walk for the Horses to be a positive reminder that we can all enjoy the Forest together, while understanding and respecting the animals and people around us."

As well as raising awareness, the walk will raise funds for The Injured Riders Fund, supporting riders who have suffered serious injuries.

Members of the public can support the challenge by donating through Marie's JustGiving fundraising page. A QR code has also been created so donations can be made easily from posters and promotional material.

Walk for the Horses takes place on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2026.

To support Marie and the fundraising campaign, visit the JustGiving page or scan the Walk for the Horses QR code.



NEWS

HISTORICAL EVENING

A Tale of Two Spires*The Story Behind Trinity United Ringwood*An Evening with Local Historian **MARY BALDWIN****Friday 9th October**

Bar from 7:00 pm • 7:30 pm Start

Trinity United is one of Ringwood's most distinctive buildings. With the spires needing essential repairs, this is a timely opportunity to look up — and look back — at the remarkable building we are working hard to preserve.

Come along to discover the story behind this Grade II listed building, the people who built it, and what makes it so special.

Donations welcome in support of our essential repairs appeal.

VENUE: The Trinity Centre, Trinity United, Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 1DH

Monday 12th October 2026**Little Known Fordingbridge –****Julian Hewitt**

Fordingbridge has a long and interesting history. Some of it is well known but there are heaps of hidden gems. Julian Hewitt, the Publicity and Outreach Officer for the town's Museum, is joining Fordingbridge History Society (FHS) to talk about "Little Known Fordingbridge" on Monday 12 October, 2:00pm – 3:30pm. Julian has a wealth of local knowledge and has regularly published articles in the press.

Do come along and join us to find out more at Avonway Community Centre, Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1JF. The talk will be preceded by a short AGM and followed by complimentary refreshments.

Julian's talk is free to FHS members. Visitors are most welcome (for a small fee of £5 per person). There is a large public car park just a few minutes from Avonway and a drop off facility in front of the building.

For further details, check out the FHS website (fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk), contact secretary@fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk or 'phone 01425 658262.



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Autumn Hazards for Dogs

As the leaves begin to change colour and the temperature drops, many of us will be wrapping up in our woollies and heading out for scenic dog walks in the coming months.

But as dog owners will know, with more leaves on the ground, comes the potential for hidden toxic plants or flowers that they can't help but find

ACORNS

Cause vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, lethargy and more if our dogs chew on them. Unripe acorns, which often appear green, can be the most harmful, so make sure to watch out for them on your next autumnal walk!

HORSE CHESTNUTS (CONKERS)

Dog owners are also being urged to be wary of horse chestnut trees which are the trees which conkers come from. This is because their bark, leaves and flowers can all cause extreme stomach problems for our dogs, and in some serious cases, can be fatal if enough is consumed

AUTUMN CROCUSES

Are described as goblet-like flowers which grow a few centimetres out of the ground. They typically appear in a purple colour with golden-yellow stamens. You should keep your dog close if you begin to notice them sniffing around the flower since if they get too near and ingest them, the flowers can cause gastrointestinal upset for your dog. This may lead to vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, or other unpleasant symptoms.

YEW TREES

Are extremely poisonous to most animals. If ingested, the short, spiky needles can become lodged or stuck in your dog's throat, while ingesting the leaves alone can be enough to lead to fatal or near-death consequences for your dog. The plant is also filled with poisonous red berries that your canine may see as a treat.

HYDRANGEAS

Displaying billowy blooms towards the end of summer and into autumn, Hydrangea are beautiful but they can be extremely dangerous to our pets. Their bulbs contain cyanide - which can be deadly to dogs if enough is consumed.

Although serious cases of hydrangea poisoning are rare, if a small amount is consumed by your dog when they are digging in the garden, it can cause symptoms such as stomach problems or vomiting.

RAGWORT

Though they bloom in the spring and during summer, it is still important to be vigilant when looking for the plants this time of year, as all parts of it are toxic and poisonous when consumed by dogs. When any part of the plant is consumed in sufficient quantities, it can cause irreversible damage to our canine's kidneys or lead to liver failure.

AMARYLLIS

The beautiful flowers are often popular at Christmas time, as they bloom in bright shades of red, so October time is often when they are planted. However, much like hydrangeas, the bulb of the flowers contain a compound called lycorine, which when ingested can cause symptoms such as drooling, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea in dogs.

FUNGI

Ingestion of fungi can range from vomiting to diarrhoea to seizures, organ failure and even death. It's often very hard to tell harmless and deadly fungi apart, so best to avoid consumption completely.

In all cases prevention is better than cure, so keep an eye on your dog during walks. If you think your dog has eaten something harmful, contact your vet immediately for advice or an emergency appointment. Never wait to see if your pet develops symptoms - waiting until they appear could be too late, because your dog may have already absorbed a harmful amount of toxin.



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Ringwood Repair Café returns

Monthly sessions have resumed after a summer break alongside our ever-popular Kerbside Freecycle event later this month.

Ringwood Repair Café is back in full swing, welcoming residents to bring along broken household items, textiles, and electronics to be restored by skilled local volunteers. Sessions will take place on the second Saturday of every month, running straight through to July 2027.

Ringwood Kerbside Freecycle Returns!

Mark your calendars for **September 27th**. Give your unwanted items a second life or snap up practical treasures right from neighbourhood kerbsides. Registration is now open – simply scan the QR code to sign up! That's what over 40 households have already done. The digital map of participating households will be published on Saturday 26th September on the Ringwood Kerbside Freecycle Facebook group and elsewhere.

Ringwood Repair Café

Winner, 2026 International Green
Apple Award (waste management category)

Instagram: [ringwoodrepaircafe](https://www.instagram.com/ringwoodrepaircafe)

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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.



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Off to Sri Lanka Once Again – Bringing Help to Villages in Need

Well, here we go again!

I'm off to Sri Lanka once again, and hopefully our freight will arrive before we do. The boxes are being sent to a good friend of mine in Colombo, Dr Ineke, who left the UK around 10 years ago and has built a wonderful life for herself in Sri Lanka. She will kindly look after everything until we arrive.

Once we get there, the plan is to load up the car and head out to some of the smaller villages where people have very little.

I'll be carrying my rucksack and all the essentials we need, including a wok, knives and spices. We'll visit the local markets, buy fresh fish, meat and vegetables, and then cook alongside the local people with their local whiskey made from coconut.

The aim is to spend around three weeks travelling around, meeting people, cooking, sharing food and, hopefully, bringing a little happiness to communities that don't have very much.

David will be driving the car, and when the time comes to return, who knows how we'll get back – perhaps by train, bicycle or even elephant!



I honestly can't believe this will be the eighth time we have done this. It simply wouldn't be possible without the fantastic help and support we receive.

A huge thank you goes to Netty, Jilly and Marilyn for helping me pack everything, Netta for being my secretary, and David for doing the heavy lifting and carrying the suitcases!

Thank you to everyone including Going for Bust charity shop who has supported us over the years. Any donations towards the freight costs would be very much appreciated and will help us get the boxes of supplies out to Sri Lanka and into the villages where they are needed.

Please call or message Tansy on 07812 565 878

Sri Lanka, here we come!



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Ringwood Town Council Installs Life Saving Bleed Kit at Carvers Recreation Ground

Ringwood Town Council is pleased to announce the installation of a new emergency bleed control kit at Carvers Recreation Ground, located alongside the site's existing public access defibrillator.

The addition of the bleed kit forms part of the Council's ongoing commitment to improving public safety and ensuring the community is equipped to respond effectively in the event of a serious accident or injury.

Carvers Recreation Ground is a much-used outdoor space, with facilities including a popular skate park, sports courts, play areas and community activities, the availability of emergency equipment is an important step in enhancing site safety.

Bleed control kits contain specialist equipment designed to help manage catastrophic bleeding in the critical minutes before emergency services arrive. In situations involving severe trauma, rapid intervention can significantly improve outcomes and potentially save lives.

Ringwood Town Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to Councillor Jeremy Heron and Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine, whose generous funding made the purchase and installation of the bleed kit possible.

The bleed kit is housed externally alongside the site's defibrillator on Carvers Clubhouse building, ensuring both pieces of potentially lifesaving equipment are easily accessible should they ever be required.



Ringwood Town Council remains committed to investing in community wellbeing and thanks all partners and supporters who continue to help make local facilities safer for residents and visitors alike.



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NEWS

Ibsley Super Show

The 37th Ibsley & District Horticultural Society annual show defied the baking hot Summer and wowed visitors with a magnificent array of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables. The energy, enthusiasm and resourcefulness of local gardeners shone through and they were rewarded with praise from the judges and visitors alike. As usual the show was held at the Ibsley Village Hall and as well as the garden produce there was a strong showing of baked goods, preserves and photography.

Di Barnaby who organised and coordinated the show was encouraged to see new exhibitors including several from Ringwood allotments. Di said 'To see new, young faces bring along produce that they were proud to show was a joy. It makes me feel the show has a great future and will continue to be a strong part of the community calendar'

The Challenge trophy was won by Walter Cole, this was for a display of three types of veg and has to be top quality. Walter's Onions were amazing and his Carrots were also large and perfect.

The IDHS Tankard for the best Baskets of Vegetables was won by **Dawn Spencer** - it was a great example of vegetable perfection very colourful and beautifully displayed

The Banksian Medal was won by Dawn Spencer. This is a very special award from the RHS and it is perpetual - unlike the cups the winner gets to keep and treasure it.

The Richard Cox trophy was won by Jenny Ragg. This is for the best exhibit in flower arranging and was an eye-catching arrangement celebrating Halloween in colours of Orange, Red and dark green.

The Dapson Cup for the best exhibit in Photography was won by Abby Lightfoot. Her close up of a Dahlia was highly praised by the judge.

Ibsley Post Office Cup for best exhibit in Flowers was won by David Lightfoot with a stunning bowl of perfect Dahlias, an incredible achievement in a very testing Summer.

The awards were kindly presented by Kate Forrester from Four Acre Farm near

Ringwood where club members recently had a pleasant evening hearing about the farm and seeing the work in progress.

The full list of trophy and award winners is on the club's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IDHSociety/>

The club meets on the last Thursday of most months at the Ibsley Village Hall, for more details visit the IDHS web site

www.ibsleygardenclub.co.uk

Photo: David Lightfoot accepting his trophy from Kate Forrester

Photo: David Lightfoot's amazing bowl of Dahlia blooms

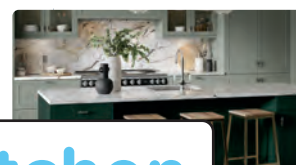


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Ringwood's 'IN' Famous Soirée is back – and nothing is safe!

If you like your comedy original, slightly cheeky and definitely aimed at grown-ups, Ringwood Musical & Dramatic Society has just the night out for you.

The RMDS 'IN' Famous Soirée returns to The Barn, Ringwood School, from Tuesday 27 to Saturday 31 October 2026, bringing another wonderfully unpredictable collection of comedy sketches, memorable characters and laugh-out-loud moments to the stage.

A firm favourite in the RMDS calendar, the Soirée is very different from the Society's big musical productions. The Barn is transformed into an intimate cabaret-style venue, with audiences seated around tables of up to 10, making it the perfect night out for a group of friends.

And there's no need to have dinner before you arrive. Audiences are encouraged to **bring their own nibbles and snacks** to enjoy at their tables while watching the show. Drinks are available throughout the evening from the **RMDS cash bar** – please note that only food, not drinks, can be brought into the venue.

The Soirée has earned its reputation for being a little bit irreverent, occasionally outrageous and always enormous fun. With an **adults-only** mixture of original sketches and comedy, you never quite know what – or who – might appear next. Tickets for the Soirée are always popular, particularly full tables, so early booking is recommended.

RMDS 'IN' Famous Soirée

- * 27–31 October 2026
- * The Barn, Ringwood School, Parsonage Barn Lane, Ringwood
- * Adults only
- * Cash bar
- * Bring your own nibbles
- * Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/rmds

And coming next – Anything Goes!

RMDS is also preparing to set sail with its April 2027 production of the fabulous **Anything Goes – The Musical**.

The Society is keen to welcome **new members**, both on stage and behind the scenes, and anyone interested is invited to the **Anything Goes First Get Together on Monday 21 September 2026 at 7.30pm at St Ives First School, Sandy Lane, St Ives, Ringwood BH24 2LE**.

There's no obligation – simply come along, meet the friendly RMDS team, hear about the show and discover how you could get involved.

For more information about Anything Goes, email scollins850@hotmail.co.uk



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Tables

The social community group known as Tables continues to thrive at the Salvation Army hall in Christchurch Road, Ringwood.

Meeting weekly on a Thursday, between 10.30am and 1.30pm, the members engage in table games and lively conversations, whilst enjoying copious amounts of tea, coffee and biscuits. Most will stay to enjoy the light two course lunch provided where the smiles and laughs continue.

Leader and organiser of the group, Gillian Thierry says, "One of the many outcomes of the group that has greatly pleased me, is the strong and enduring friendships that have been formed. There are those among the group who were at one time strangers to each other; now they are such firm friends that they have shared holidays together".

If you enjoy a game of Rummikub, Scrabble, chess or anything else, please come along and join us, we are here waiting to welcome you.



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SMALL ADS * BEREAVEMENTS * ANNOUNCEMENTS**ROOFING****J & L Maintenance**

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CHARITY**CHARITY****Do you know the definition of 'Hope'?**

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BEREAVEMENTS**Maidment****David**

David died at Royal Bournemouth Hospital
on 15th August aged 81 years.

Beloved husband to Margaret, and father to
Teresa, he will be missed by all his family and
friends. The family would like to thank
everyone for the kind messages they have received.

Hose**Barry**

It is with great sadness we have to announce
the death of Barry Hose. He was Dad to
Mandy, Tony, Kathryn & Lynne. Grandad to
Jen, Hollie & Sam and Great-grandad to
Jamie & Jessica. Barry was well known in
Ringwood especially within the fire service and veterans.
He passed away peacefully on 29th of July and is now reunited with his beloved Dotty.

Cremation has already taken place, but we are gathering for
tea & cake at Thorney Hill Community Centre on Saturday
October 3rd 2pm if any of his friends would like to join us.

**DELIVERY TEAM**

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

ANNOUNCEMENT**60th Wedding Anniversary**

Don and Jenny Stacey are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on the 17th September.

They will be celebrating with immediate family. They lived in Ringwood for many years and are now in Ferndown with all 3 of their children attending Poulner and Ringwood schools. Many congratulations on your diamond anniversary from all your family and friends.

**Social Group
Volunteers
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in Basingstoke,
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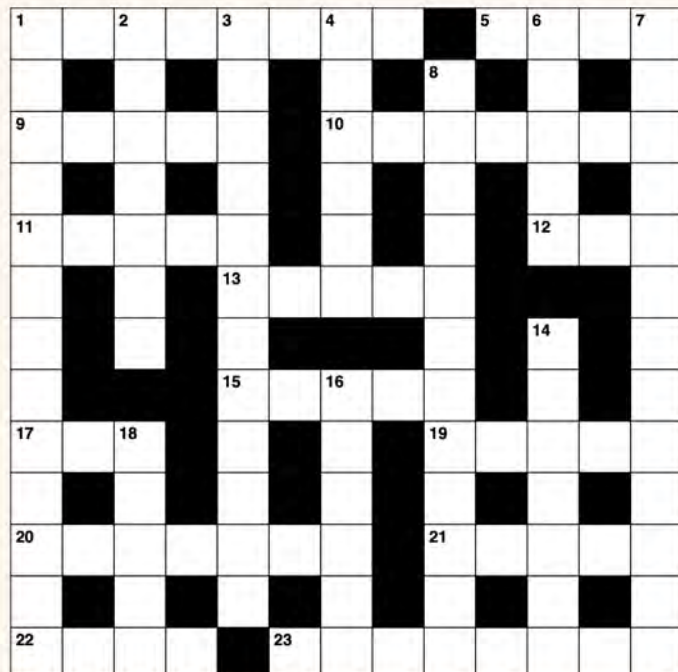
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Crossword



Across

- 1 - Re-emerge (8)
- 5 - Individual article or unit (4)
- 9 - Not clearly stated (5)
- 10 - Goes back on a promise (7)
- 11 - Big (5)
- 12 - Issue legal proceedings (3)
- 13 - Any finger or toe (5)
- 15 - Theme for a discussion (5)
- 17 - Make a choice (3)
- 19 - Bird claw (5)
- 20 - Learning institution (7)
- 21 - Shout of appreciation (5)
- 22 - Part of an egg (4)
- 23 - Liberties (8)

Down

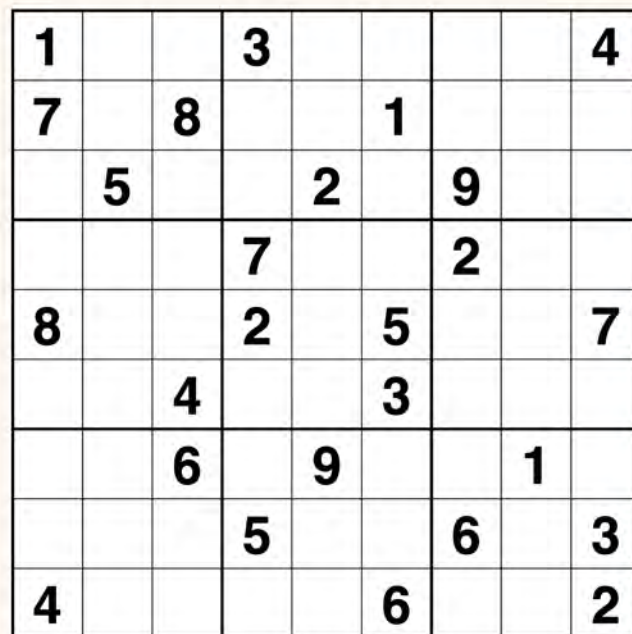
- 1 - Markedly new (13)
- 2 - Made irate (7)
- 3 - Planned in advance (12)
- 4 - Safety device in a car (6)
- 6 - Roman cloaks (5)
- 7 - Of mixed character (13)
- 8 - Not discernible (12)
- 14 - Vent for molten lava (7)
- 16 - Religious act of petition (6)
- 18 - Fishing net (5)

Answers for last the last issue:



Sudoku

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Local profile

Ringwood

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As part of our customer service promise, we invest time and energy into helping our clients make informed decisions. Our market reports take an analytical approach in presenting latest insight on the UK property market, with a more detailed focus on the Ringwood market. Talk to us to learn more.

Ringwood | Local amenities

% Local area | Regional average

Heritage



Listed buildings

185

Lower than regional average

Environment



% area is public green space

7.6%

1.3%

Connectivity



MBPS

Average broadband speed

54

102

Ultrafast broadband



% homes with access to ultrafast broadband²

32.3%

63.1%

Population



Density people per hectare

2.2

2.4

Transport



% homes within 200 metres of bus, train or tube

60.8%

77.6%

Education



% homes where nearest primary school is Ofsted outstanding

28.3%

13.6%

Leisure



Residents per restaurant

2,155

2,263

Population and housing

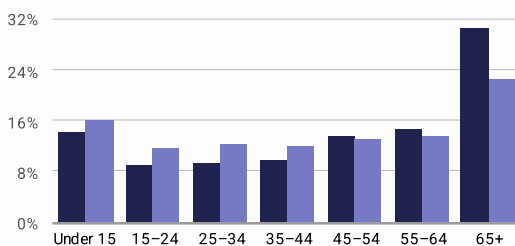
There are 23,704 people living within Ringwood. The overall population 11.7% in the ten years between 2011 and 2021.

There are 9,845 dwellings within Ringwood. 11.7% of properties are flats, with houses making up 88.3% of housing stock. 78.7% of households own their own homes while 13.7% live in privately rented accommodation.

In the last five years there have been 119 new homes built across Ringwood, an average of 24 per year.

Age profile

% Local area | Regional average



11.8%

of the population are aged between

35 and 44

which is below the regional average

Household profile

% Local area | Regional average

One person



27%

30%

Couples



19%

18%

Families



31%

33%

Other



23%

18%

Source: Dataloft by PriceHubble, Valuation Office Agency, Office for National Statistics, Department of Education, Department for Transport, Ordnance Survey and Royal Mail, Historic England and data licensed by the Office of Communications, 2021 Census, MHCLG

Ringwood & New Forest

BrightWater, 2 High Street, Ringwood, BH24 1AF

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darren@brightwaterproperties.co.uk

www.brightwaterproperties.co.uk

If you have found this informative and would like a more specific report for your area please let us know.



Scan me!

SEPTEMBER 2026



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ESTATE AGENTS

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OGDENS PRICE GUIDE £1,450,000

An impressive detached 4 bedroom, 2 reception room chalet residence in gardens and paddocks totalling 1.3 acres in possibly one of the finest elevated locations within the New Forest National Park offering spectacular rural views. NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC band E



POULNER - £340,000

A very well-proportioned mid-terrace town house, with a good sized south facing rear garden. Kitchen/ breakfast room, living room, 3 large bedrooms, garage in a block nearby. VENDOR SUITED. EPC band C



RINGWOOD - £390,000

A semi-detached bungalow set in large gardens (0.13 of an acre) offering tremendous scope for modernization and enlargement subject to planning. Living room, kitchen/breakfast room, 2 bedrooms. NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC band D



RINGWOOD CENTRE - £189,950

A 2 bedroom recently re-decorated mid-terrace cottage, located within Ringwood centre, allocated parking & communal gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC band D



RINGWOOD - £450,000

An immaculate detached bungalow delightfully set in private landscaped gardens within a quiet popular cul-de-sac. L shaped reception room, modern kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower room. Garage and ample parking. EPC band C



MOORTOWN - PRICE GUIDE £800,000

Superb 3 storey split level house, with self-contained annexe, 4 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms & shower room, excellent order, private landscaped gardens 0.29 of an acre, double garage, close to amenities. NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC Band C

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