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Ringwood Town Council

Ringwood to Celebrate 800 Years of Its Historic Market

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for Ringwood as the town celebrates 800 years since it was granted the right to hold a weekly market, a tradition that has shaped the community for eight centuries.

Ringwood's market dates back to March 1226, when a Royal Charter granted during the reign of King Henry III of England gave the town permission to hold a weekly Wednesday market, along with two annual fairs. Remarkably, the weekly market has continued ever since, making it one of the town's most enduring traditions.

To celebrate this historic anniversary, a special community celebration will take place on Sunday 12 July in Ringwood Market Place.

The day will begin with a church service in the Market Place from 10.30am to 11.30am, followed by the official event hosted by Ringwood Town Council from 11.30am onwards. Celebrations will continue throughout the afternoon and evening until 7.30pm, followed by a funfair on Bickerley Green.

The event promises a full day of family friendly entertainment and traditional festivities. Visitors will be able to enjoy spectacular performances and a variety of live stage entertainment throughout the day.

Additional attractions will include Morris dancers, traditional village games organised by local Guides and Brownies groups, interactive market stalls, and a selection of hot and cold food alongside arts and crafts. A bar will be provided by Ringwood Carnival, while visitors can also enjoy an animal petting experience hosted by Riverside Lakes.

Ringwood Town Council recognises the importance of celebrating the town's rich heritage and has worked closely with local community groups, stall holders and businesses to ensure the event reflects the spirit and history of this significant occasion.

Local clubs, organisations and community groups are encouraged to mark the anniversary in their own way. The Town Council will be pleased to help promote related activities through its social media channels, and a commemorative logo is available for organisations wishing to support and celebrate the anniversary.

For more information, or to share plans for the celebration, please contact Ringwood Town Council.

Ends.

12 March 2026

For further information please contact:

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