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## Ringwood Town Council

### Ringwood's 800<sup>th</sup> Market Charter Celebration

For 800 years, Ringwood's historic Market Charter has stood at the heart of our town - bringing together traders, visitors, families and the wider community through generations of tradition, commerce and celebration.

**On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July** we are proud to honour this remarkable milestone with a day filled with live entertainment, local interactive market stalls, family activities, food, music and community spirit in the very place where Ringwood's market heritage began.

Since the granting of the charter in 1226, the market has played an important role in shaping Ringwood into the vibrant and welcoming town we know today. From medieval traders and livestock markets to modern community events and independent businesses, the spirit of the market has endured through centuries of change.

This celebration is not only a reflection of Ringwood's rich history, but also a celebration of its future — recognising the people, organisations, volunteers and local businesses who continue to make our town such a special place. The event promises a full day of family friendly entertainment and traditional festivities.

Starting off, Churches Together head to the stage to conduct a church service from 10.30 -11.30. Followed by the main event from 11.30am – 7.30pm in Ringwood's Market Place. The Bickerley will host a funfair alongside free inflatables on the village green – a full programme for timings can be seen on Ringwood Town Council's website [www.ringwoodtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ringwoodtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Visitors will be able to enjoy spectacular performances and a variety of live stage entertainment including our head lining act Farm Yard Circus who are a bewildering display of group acrobatics and juggling acts using hay bales, wheelbarrows, a tractor tyre, and even an old scarecrow! This high-energy boot-stomping show is set to a score of old-time tunes and raucous rhythms that will bring the cow's home.

Additional attractions will include Morris dancers, traditional village games organised by local Guides and Brownies groups, interactive market stalls such as willow basket making, woodworking crafts and honeybee display demonstrations and a selection of hot and cold food.

Families can also enjoy an animal petting experience hosted by Riverside Lakes, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ringwood. A town crier in training

activity will include some younger members from local schools and there will be a traditional auction kindly hosted by Ringwood Auctions, paying tribute to Ringwood Market's roots – Proceeds raised at the auction will go to Greyfriars Community Centre and Moyles Court Wildlife Rescue.

Ringwood Town Council are working in partnership with culture in common, who are supporting a number of projects to involve as many residents as possible in the Ringwood 800 celebration in 2026.

**A quote from Ringwood Town Mayor – Mary DeBoos** *“Ringwood Town Council is proud to celebrate our town's rich heritage and has worked alongside local community groups and businesses to create an event that truly captures the spirit of this remarkable milestone.*

*Whether you're a lifelong resident or visiting for the day, there's something for everyone to enjoy. From spectacular live performances and traditional entertainment to delicious food and drink, free children's activities, and inspiring community showcases, we hope visitors of all ages will discover something special.*

*Thank you for joining us as we mark 800 years of Ringwood's Royal Market Charter and celebrate the people, traditions, and community that continue to make our town so unique.”*

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

Ends.

17<sup>th</sup> June 2026

For further information please contact:

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