

Lots of people are getting excited about the Ringwood Family Fun day ... Here's a few Frequently Asked Questions:

When is it?

Saturday 10th June 2017 from 1-6pm.

Where is it?

This time it will be on **Carvers Playing Field**.

How many people are expected?

Organisers are expecting around 5000 people of all ages.

What sort of activities will be there?

Everything from bouncy castles, archery, crafts, sports, animals, vintage cars, live music and loads of stalls and activities from local community groups and businesses.

Will there be lots of food again?

The organisers are planning to give away 3000 burgers, 2500 hot-dogs, 3200 ice-creams, 1000 cream teas and countless cakes and cups of tea, coffee and squash!

How can they prepare so much food?

Local baker and owner of Belinda's Bakery, Peter Ellis, who oversees the food said, 'We've got an amazing team of volunteers who work together so well.'

Can I bring my own picnic?

Great idea ...but please don't bring alcohol as it's a family event.

How many stalls and community groups are involved this year?

There were about 70 groups at the latest count - we hope to list everyone and where they can be found in the next edition of Ringwood and Fordingbridge News.

Chair of the organising committee, Adam Skirton comments, 'It's a great opportunity for the community to come and have fun together, and for each group to advertise the contribution they make to life in and around Ringwood.'

Is it really free?

Yes - not even a penny is allowed to exchange hands on the day!

Minister at Trinity United Church, Mike Shrubsole said, 'Every good gift from God is free, so we're hosting a free festival to echo and celebrate all that we have received from God. We're so glad for all the exhibitors and stall holders who are willing to share the ethos of this event.'

Adam Skirton added, 'I know some people think we're mad, but everything being free is a really important principle for the churches who put on the event. We believe that all people are equally loved and valued by God and we don't want anyone to miss out on the fun and friendship.'

Where has the money come from?

Ringwood Town Council and Hampshire County Council have given grants of £2000 each, Radian £1500 and a few local businesses - but again the bulk of the money has come from local churches.

Which Churches have organised the event?

Churches Together in Ringwood and District who call themselves ONE CHURCH WITH MANY FLAVOURS include All Saints St Leonards and St Ives, Crowe Hill Methodist, Kings Church, New Forest Christian Fellowship, Poulner Baptist Chapel, Ringwood Parish (Church of England), St John the Baptist, The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart and St Theresa, The Salvation Army and Trinity United Church. This year they'll also be joined

by Christians from Alderholt Chapel and New Life Community Church in Fordingbridge.

Christchurch based Moorlands Theological Training College are also again sending students as part of their 'Missions weekend'.

Why do the churches organise it?

Rev Lerys Campbell from the Parish Church said, 'It's great fun to be working together on this exciting project showing the people of Ringwood God's love in a very practical way.'

Is there an inter-schools competition again?

Yes - Ringwood Juniors will defend their crown at 4pm!

What if I want some peace and quiet?!

There will be a designated quiet area over by the tennis courts, and a marquee called 'Hear to Listen' where people can share and talk in confidence.

When are the world famous African children choir performing?

They are expected to perform twice in the afternoon at 1.30pm and 4.45pm. There is also a full concert at Poulner Baptist Chapel on Sunday 11th June at 6.30pm. They are very popular so come early to get a seat!

What if I don't feel like having fun?

The Churches recognise from last year's Love Ringwood Survey, that lots of people in our community have very real hurts and practical needs. So the 4 corners of the central community area, (around the cricket square), will have stalls where people can find help and advice about Money and Debt, Relationships and Parenting, Health and Fitness and information about courses for people who want to investigate what life is all about from a Christian perspective.

Can I bring my dog?

Organisers are very sorry that dogs, (apart from assistance dogs), will not be able to come in to the main area. There will however, be space for

them around the vehicle display area, by the Southampton Road entrance. They were concerned that dogs might be distressed by all the activities and distracted by the birds and petting animals!

Will there be any toilets?

Yes, plenty – including disabled access by to the Cricket Pavilion?

Will there be any designated parking?

Organisers are hoping that the spaces by Carvers on Southampton Road will be left for people who really need them, and that most people will be able to walk from home, park in the main carparks or get dropped off.

How do you enter the free skate comp?

Entry forms will shortly be available from The Place and some local schools.

There are separate competitions for young people of Junior and Secondary School age on bikes, skateboards and scooters, and over 18s will compete on bikes and skateboards.

Under 18s must have signed permission from a parent or legal guardian.

A St John's Ambulance team will be located next to the Skatepark and Info Point!

How can I find out more?

See Ringwood Family Fun Day on Facebook and the website and also see the next Ringwood and Fordingbridge News!