



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

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NEWSLETTER

*Updating residents on Remembrance and Christmas events
and the ongoing COVID-19 community support available.*

Acts of Remembrance in Blandford Forum

Remembrance is not cancelled but we are having to plan events differently this year, to ensure we do so safely, and we are encouraging people to *Remember at Home*.

Sunday 1st November

The Royal British Legion Memorial Service at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of Blandford Cemetery in Salisbury Road will take place, but with a significantly reduced attendance. Photos of the event will be published afterwards.

Friday 6th November

Local schools will be laying crosses in the Field of Remembrance within the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul. However, this year, there will not be a civic service to mark this event and schools will be laying their crosses at separate times to avoid creating a gathering.

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November

The Town Council has been reviewing how the town can mark this significant day safely, whilst adhering to current guidance and legislation. At the time of writing, this is a reduced outdoor service in the afternoon, to be shared on social media. There will not be a parade, troops, brass band or a church service and we will be keeping numbers to a minimum and, sadly, not encouraging public attendance. Please check our website, notice boards and social media closer to the time for full details but we urge members of the public to observe Remembrance in a personal and private manner this year.

Armistice Day - Wednesday 11th November at 10.45am

Armistice Day is the day which marks the end of the First World War when the guns fell silent. The Mayor of Blandford Forum, Cllr Lindsay will be joining the national two minute silence in the Market Place at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Wherever you are at 11am, please take two minutes to reflect and remember.



We will remember them.



Blandford Forum 2021 Calendar now available!

For the fourth year running, the Town Council has created a calendar to showcase the natural beauty of Blandford Forum. The theme for 2021 is 'Wildlife in Blandford Forum' and all the photos have been taken by local residents. The calendar costs £5 and proceeds will go to the Mayor's charity, The Community Kitchen.

You can come to the office to buy a calendar during the office opening hours, or we can take card payments over the phone (01258 454500), and will deliver them for **free** (in the UK), so please don't hesitate to buy one and support The Community Kitchen!



A Community Fridge for Blandford Forum

**Would you like to play a valuable role
in reducing food waste in Blandford?**

**Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer for
this project or if you have an ideal location for the
fridge to live.**



01258 454500 or admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Local groups, charitable and voluntary organisations can apply for a grant, subject to meeting the criteria. The forms are available from the office or can be downloaded from our website.



Town Centre Recovery Survey

Thank you for completing the survey, the results of which are now being considered by representatives of the Town Team and the Town Council.



If you would like to receive updates from the Town Council in your inbox, please complete the form at: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/contact>





Christmas in Blandford Forum 2020

Will there still be a big tree in the Market Place this year?

Yes, this is being delivered on 25th November but unfortunately we won't be organising a tree lighting event this year.

What about the small trees and column lights?

Yes, this is planned to go ahead. It is important to create a festive feeling in the town each year, but even more so this year!

Will there still be a Christmas Tree Festival in the church?

The church volunteers are organising a Christmas Tree Trail this year, that we can all participate in, with trees decorated by schools/organisations displayed in shop windows instead of the church.

Is the Blandford Yuletide Festival taking place this year?

The volunteers are exploring ways of having a virtual event. Please visit <https://blandford-yuletide-festival.org.uk> or the Yuletide Facebook page for updates.

Will the Christmas Window Competition still take place?

The Town Council is continuing to run its window competition, encouraging shops and businesses to enhance the town's image and create a wonderful atmosphere for its residents, and visitors to the town, during the festive period.

Will there still be free parking this year?

Yes. This has been arranged for 28th November and 5th, 12th, 19th and 24th December for the Market Place, Sheep Market Hill, Marsh & Ham, Station Court, Church Lane, Eagle House Gardens and Langton Road car parks. Please note time limits still apply.

Will there be a civic carol service in the church?

Sadly, we won't be organising this wonderful event this year but the church is looking at innovative ways of holding their other services within the guidelines.

Is there anything different happening this year?

Yes, Councillors resolved to light up Woodhouse Gardens this year - for the first time - for five weeks from the end of November!

Coronavirus COVID-19

Useful Contact Details



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

For those in need of additional support this Autumn/Winter...

Blandford Forum Town Council

Telephone: 01258 454500, 9:30am to 12:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We will endeavour to help you or can signpost you to the service you need.

Dorset Council

Telephone: 01305 221000, 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Email: communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

If you don't have family, friends or a support network that can help you get the things you need, you can call the Dorset Council to get specific help and advice.

Blandford Forum COVID-19 Volunteer Community Helpline

Telephone: 01258 452361, Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm (subject to demand)

Volunteers supporting people who are unable to collect prescriptions and help co-ordinating prescription deliveries. The pharmacy contact numbers are: 'Big' Boots on Salisbury Street 01258 452824 and East Street 01258 452619.

The Blandford Group Practice Health Champions

We are aware that our phone lines are extremely busy at the moment. This is due to the high demand and more telephone consultations are taking place. At this present time we are unable to increase our resources due to social distancing measures, so if you can please use our EConsult. You can find this on our website www.theblandfordgrouppractice.co.uk (you do not need a password). This will also give those with no internet better access to our phone lines. For information on our activities and support groups, please see our Facebook page and the Community pages for what's happening each week or contact Sara Stringer on 01258 452501/sara.stringer@dorsetgp.nhs.uk (please do not send anything clinical to this email address).

Age UK North, South & West Dorset

Telephone: 01305 269444

Email: enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk

Providing support in your community, to assist older people maintain their health, wellbeing and independence in later life.

Blandford COVID-19 Community Help Facebook Group/Website:

<https://www.blandfordc19community.com/>

Join the Facebook group for local queries/discussions and visit the website for information including opening times for shops, pharmacies, banks, post offices, businesses, etc.

Citizens Advice Central Dorset

Telephone: 03444 111 444

Email: advice-nd@centralca.org.uk

Blandford Parish Church

Email: pastoralcare@bfpc.org.uk