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Acts of Remembrance in Blandford Forum

Saturday 28th October at 11am

Join the Mayor of Blandford Forum and the Blandford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion for a short procession from Legion House down Church Lane to the Parish Church for the launch event of Dorset's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and the opening of the Field of Remembrance in the churchyard.

Sunday 5th November at 11am

The annual Commonwealth War Graves Memorial Service at the Blandford Cemetery will be led by the Blandford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Please meet at the Cross of Sacrifice at 10:50am.

Friday 10th November at 10:30am

Local schools will be meeting in the Parish Church prior to laying crosses in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul and a two minute silence. Members of the public are welcome to attend and refreshments are available.

Saturday 11th November at 11am

Join the Mayor for a two minute silence in the Market Place for Armistice Day.

Remembrance Sunday Wreath Laying, Parade and Church Service on 12th November from 2:45pm

Watch the wreath laying against the war memorials on the front of the Town Hall, hear music from The Blandford Stour Valley Band and join your family, friends and fellow residents in singing Hymns in the open air prior to the church service, which everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact us if you would like to lay a wreath or take part in the parade.

The printing for the Remembrance Sunday service sheets is kindly provided by Cheap Printing Dorset.

Tel: 01258 795797 / Website: www.cheapprintingdorset.co.uk

Town Hall & Corn Exchange Update

Blandford Forum Town Council has been working on a proposal to restore and reinvigorate the Grade I Listed Town Hall and Corn Exchange building for several years. A planning application was submitted at the start of 2023, fundraising work has been ongoing over the last 12+ months and the works themselves are currently being tendered. The proposals will repair and revive the entire building through a combination of works that will help to increase the usage, generate footfall and vibrancy that will provide an anchor for the town centre and ensure that Blandford Forum's spectacular heart survives and thrives in the future. Specifically, the project will deliver a comprehensive programme of conservation repairs, which include heating, cooling and acoustic improvements in the Corn Exchange which will make the space more usable for community events and activities.

A priority is installing a new lift and staircase to the historic first floor Town Hall and Council Chamber, making these rooms fully accessible for the first time in the building's 300-year history. The council is also keen to improve the stage/back-stage facilities for arts and cultural users, including the reinstatement of the late-Victorian proscenium arch. Other priorities include repairing and reinstating some of the fine original interiors and removing some of the poor quality more modern interventions, helping to make the interior of the building beautiful again and boosting a local sense of civic pride.

We will continue to keep residents updated with progress made on the project. In the meantime, for further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/corn-exchange>



Events in the Corn Exchange

October

Friday 27th - Dorset SK8 Jam Roller Disco, 8pm
Tuesday 31st - Wellbeing Walk-In, 10am

November

Sunday 5th - The Salts Band, 7:30pm (pictured)
Monday 20th - Tea Dance, 2:30pm
Saturday 25th - Panda Pre-School Christmas Fair, 9am
Tuesday 28th - Wellbeing Walk-In, 10am

December

Friday 1st - Yuletide Festival, 5pm
Saturday 9th - Mayor's Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday 16th - Mayor's Christmas Concert, 7pm
Monday 18th - Tea Dance, 2:30pm



Christmas Lights

The Christmas tree in The Market Place will be installed at the end of November, along with the column lights and small Christmas trees in the town centre. The Town Council took on the installation from the Blandford Yuletide Festival Group in 2019. Since then, the Town Council has engaged the services of a local electrician to carry out the installation, connection and removal of the small Christmas trees and the column lights.

Woodhouse Gardens will also be lit up again from early December until early January. The lights in the gardens will be turned on between 4.30pm and 9pm every day during the festive season (apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). We will continue to have our inflatable guests for younger visitors to the Gardens!



Free Parking Dates - 2nd & 22nd December 2023

Dorset Council car parks that are included: Marsh & Ham, Station Court, Church Lane, Langton Road and Eagle House Gardens (time limits still apply). Please 'Shop Small' in Blandford Forum!



Town Council Elections - 2nd May 2024

May is a few months away, but we would like you to start thinking about the following:

1. Register to vote - don't leave it to the last minute.
2. Make sure you have the appropriate photo ID for the polling station, as this is a new requirement and you cannot vote without it.
3. Consider if you would like to become a Town Councillor. You are welcome to come along to our council meetings to find out what it is like.

Please follow the link for more information: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/town-council/elections>

Blandford Forum Calendars 2024

For the sixth year running, thanks to photos taken by local residents, the Town Council has created a calendar to showcase the beautiful open spaces of Blandford Forum. The calendars costs £5 each and proceeds will go to the Mayor's charities; Blandford Food Bank and Blandford Town Museum. Available from the Town Clerk's Office now!



Plastic Free Community

We would like Blandford Forum to work towards becoming a plastic free community and working with Blandford War on Waste to help achieve this. If you are interested, please visit our website for more information: <https://blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk/the-town/climatechangebiodiversity>

