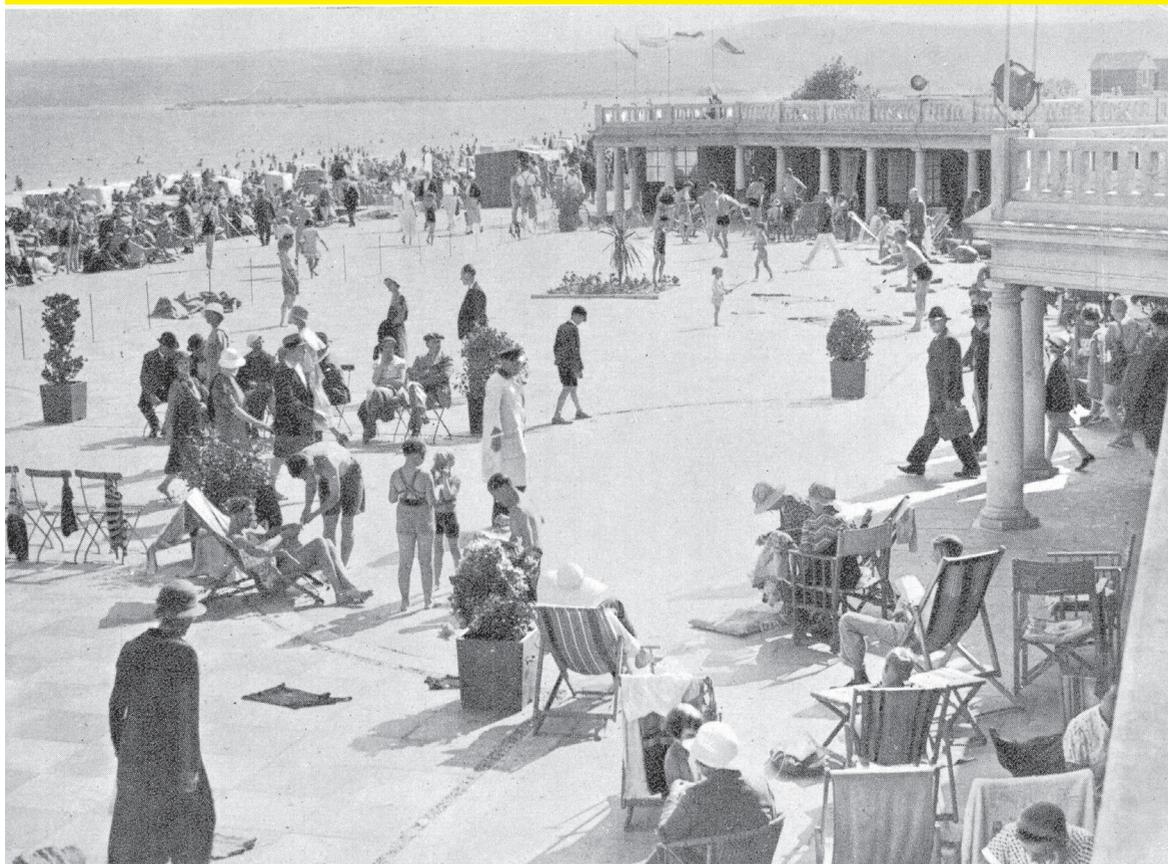




FOUNDED IN 1924

View from Poole

The Society for Poole: promoting Poole; its history, culture and people



SUMMER 2020

www.societyforpoole.org



The Society for Poole



@SocietyforPoole



SocietyforPoole

TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

A fresh approach to funerals



Our independent family business was established in Poole in 1904. We now have funeral homes throughout East Dorset and West Hampshire.

We provide traditional and woodland burial or cremation and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 2017, we were proud to open a spectacular new crematorium, based at Harbour View, our woodland burial ground overlooking Poole Harbour and the Purbeck Hills.

We also provide prepaid funeral plans, tailored to your requirements, and can assist with memorials and floristry.

TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

32-34 Parkstone Road, Poole BH15 2PG

 01202 673164

 pooleoffice@tapperfuneralservice.co.uk

 www.tapperfuneralservice.co.uk

Chairman's Note

What a difference a virus makes. As I write this we don't really know when the lockdown will end for certain although many areas of life are now drifting back – not to normal – but people are returning to work and the roads.

I trust everyone is fit and well, even if a little tired of the situation and stir crazy from not going out. If there is anything we can do please let one of the Executive know.

Unfortunately for the foreseeable future meetings and events will not be able to take place and so regrettably our talks and event the VE/VJ Day parade and events on the Quay has had to be postponed. We now plan to aim for the summer of 21 and mark the 75+1 anniversary of the victories and to acknowledge the town and it's people's role in the War. This is naturally some way off and as we have seen, many things can change but we hope that by next summer we can arrange a bigger and even brighter event than we originally had planned!

We worked well with a team to organise the event, including BCP Council (they eventually came up trumps with financial and moral support) also with commercial sponsors and our organising partners



in the shape of the Royal British Legion, Poole Quays Forum and Poole BID. We decided not to put up the information boards down the High Street – as no one was going there however Poole BID are placing a poster on the window of what used to be G&T Cards near Lloyds Bank and with the help of Andrew Hawkes a Facebook page called "Poole at War" has many interesting images of Poole.

We don't know when the talks can be resumed as naturally keeping everyone safe is key. We will work with the Royal British Legion to see how we can have access to the hall and maintain distance etc but that is for later.

Meanwhile, stay safe, I hope you enjoy this magazine and I look forward to seeing everyone as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mike Pearce, Chairman
chairman@societyforpoole.org

The Society for Poole

General Contact for the Society:
info@societyforpoole.co.uk

PRESIDENT

Andrew Hawkes
99 High Street, Poole, BH15 1AN
01202 674292
(work number with answer phone)
president@societyforpoole.org

CHAIRMAN

Mike Pearce 70, Haven Road, Poole,
BH13 7LY
chairman@societyforpoole.org

TREASURER

Colin Hinwood, 14 Hatherden
Avenue, Poole, BH14 0PJ
01202 747432
treasurer@societyforpoole.org

HERITAGE SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Jan Marsh
Janette.marsh@ntlworld.com

SECRETARY

Vacant

PARKS & GREEN SPACES

CHAIRMAN: TBC

PRESS OFFICER

Vacant

PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Gerald Rigler, 9 Sundew Road,
Broadstone, Poole, BH18 9NX
gerald.rigler@gmail.com

REGISTRAR

Mike Gale, 10 Manor Avenue, Poole,
BH12 4LD
07836740048
registrar@societyforpoole.org

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Vacant

VIEW FROM POOLE

DISTRIBUTION

Jan Marsh
Janette.marsh@ntlworld.com

Executive meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at The Royal British Legion, North Road, Poole. Dates of meetings/talks can be found on page 18.

Quiet Poole – Poole in Lockdown.

Poole has been quiet, which even though the sun has been shining, has been a good thing. The roads have been empty except cyclists and joggers. Many people have commented how peaceful it's been, you can hear the birds and the roads are safe for young cyclists to try out their new skills. Indeed push bike sales have rocketed over this period.



Our beaches have been empty and the vast majority of people have heeded to call to stay indoors. Oh what a fantastic Easter it would have been.



And the VE Day commemorations were reduced to bunting and flags.



Even the Sandbanks ferry has been out of place (although this has not been too unusual this year!)



Large boats came to the Quay. Which even made the Sunseekers look small.



But even with the open roads and quiet Quay Poole and indeed the Country will bounce back. It won't be easy especially for our retail and hospitality enterprises but there is a suggestion that Staycations this year

and next will mean more visitors in the future and there may be more demand for homes as people come to appreciate the beautiful town and surrounds we have on our doors step.

Baiter Hospital: The Inception of Poole's Harbourside Isolation Hospital

Poole's first permanent hospital was built within yards of the shore of Poole Harbour, almost on the beach, and fully exposed not only to the worst of the weather but also to the tides. It occupied a small strip of land joined by a narrow causeway to the mainland and the town, cut off and on an island when the tides were high. And yet, at the time it was built, the location was considered perfectly suitable for an isolation hospital for those with infectious diseases.

A series of public health acts in the 2nd half of the nineteenth century had led to acceptance of the need to have a suitable and planned place of isolation for those with infectious diseases. Local councils were required to appoint a Medical Officer of Health – a local doctor who could identify risks to public health and find ways to combat the frequent epidemics that affected the country in the nineteenth century. Poole duly appointed Dr Ellis as its first Medical Officer of Health in 1873. He was a general practitioner with no public health qualifications, but he had been a member of the council and its Sanitary Committee, so was well aware of the issues Poole faced.

Administration of public health nationally was through the Local Government Board in London. This body in turn

set up sanitary districts for each locality – both urban and rural sanitary districts. Town and municipal councils became the sanitary authority for the urban districts; Boards of Guardians became the sanitary authority for rural districts. In this way Poole Council became an urban sanitary authority, but in fact it was twice a sanitary authority, as the Local Government Board requested in 1873 that it take on responsibility as a Port Sanitary Authority, to manage all public health matters relating to the whole of Poole Harbour. The town and port authorities were constituted as separate entities, but in practice worked as specialist committees of Poole Council.

Port sanitary authorities had a duty to inspect visiting ships for any indications of infectious disease among

passengers and crew, and to provide a hospital place for any found to be infected. This was a potentially onerous responsibility as visiting ships may have sailed from ports in areas with current epidemic diseases. This was also a problem – Poole had no hospital of any kind in 1873. The Mayor had told Council in March that year that while he supported the idea of a smallpox hospital, they couldn't afford it.

This lack of an infectious disease hospital was a longstanding problem. In earlier times there had been pest houses, to isolate the infectious from the general population. Whenever smallpox, cholera or other epidemic hit the town, it was necessary to attempt to find somewhere quickly to forcibly remove those affected. By the 1870s, however, public health legislation had given

councils greater means to manage such situations, led by their own expert in the Medical Officer of Health. The succession of cases of infectious disease in the 1870s in Poole was no different from previous decades, but the response from the Council was now able to be more effective.

In 1871 a pauper called Young, infected with smallpox, had been removed to a cottage in Longfleet to isolate him; soon followed by a visitor also infected with smallpox. In May 1872 a Mr Macey was diagnosed with smallpox and was sent to a building on Hamside, accompanied by a nurse, and soon followed by more affected patients. Local people often objected of course if infected people were removed to a nearby cottage; this occurred in Mr Macey's case. It must have been an effective protest, because it needed the intervention of the Lord of the Manor to solve the situation. Sir Ivor Guest (later to be Lord Wimborne) offered an unused cottage at Hatch Pond as an isolation house for the smallpox patients; a carriage was bought for £5 to transport them. It was clear that the council needed a facility of its own for future cases, and time was important if spread of the infection

was to be avoided. At this point the idea of a hospital tent was raised; the Town Clerk undertook to locate one to take up to 10 patients. When in July 1873 Dr Ellis reported a problem in isolating another smallpox patient, with further infected people feared likely, the response was to go ahead with the purchase of a tent – an Emigrant tent – purchased for £18 from Messrs Edgington & Co in London. This was a company specialising in such tents – Poole was far from the only council adopting them as temporary hospital provision. The Local Government Board did approve such tents, as long as constructed to withstand the weather, but never approved them as permanent isolation hospitals. So Poole's tent could only have been a temporary solution. It was erected at a place called The Conduit Piece on Constitution Hill, overlooking the town and harbour. Constitution Hill was hardly an ideal location for a tent, being high and exposed to the prevailing wind. An Emigrants Wooden House was quickly sought to replace the tent, so it must have been soon found not fit for purpose; in September 1877 it was sold at auction.

There was another possible solution under discussion. At its very first meeting, in August 1873, the Port Sanitary Authority had considered the lack of a hospital to meet its obligations, and proposed that a ship could be used to isolate patients. It put aside £100 to purchase a lighter for this purpose. However at that time there was a desperate need for immediate accommodation because there were cases of cholera to isolate. Their decision was to take over the Lightkeeper's House at North Haven as a temporary hospital. North Haven is at the end of the Sandbanks peninsular, a place known today for millionaire mansions rather than cholera hospitals. The dispossessed lightkeeper was said by the Mayor not to need his house as he only slept in it!

Dr Ellis served as Medical Officer of Health for both the urban and port sanitary authorities, and he naturally gave the same advice to both bodies. He had therefore, put forward in December 1873 the idea of a floating hospital to the town authority as well. He stated that while he had considered erecting a hospital within the borough, *there would remain considerable difficulty as to the*

selection of a site at once far enough from any habitation to preclude all possibility of the conveyance of infection, and at the same time near enough to the town to be within easy access of the medical attendants.

He therefore proposed fitting out a ship for the reception of 10 patients – in a 6-bed male ward and 4-bed female ward. He made no recommendation about where such a hospital ship should be anchored or berthed.

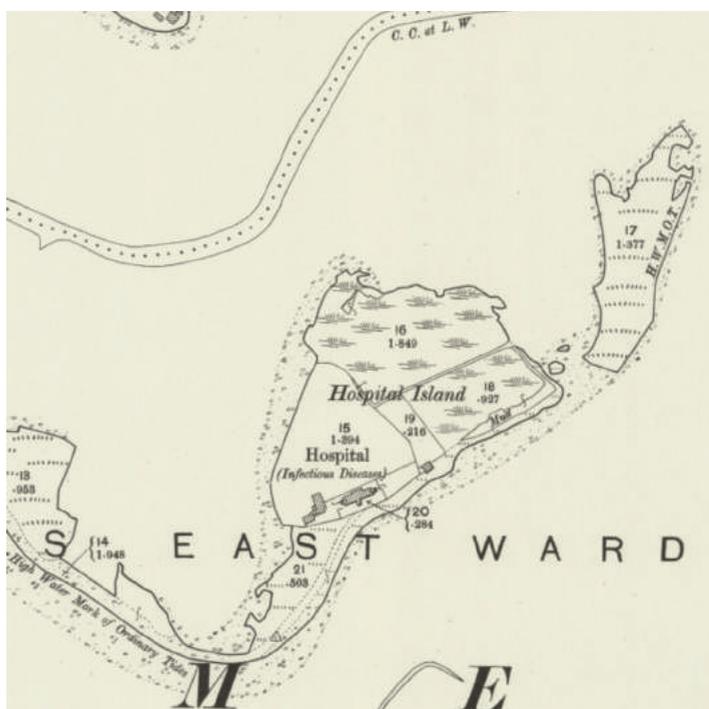
Obviously infected sailors could be taken straight to a hospital vessel and not be landed in the town at all. Use of ships or hulks as infectious disease hospitals was adopted elsewhere for these same reasons, most notably in London on the Thames, and in Portsmouth.

However Dr Ellis was to be rebuffed and the idea swiftly rejected for Poole: *Your committee are of opinion that if a Stationary Hospital could be erected upon a site combining both considerations it would be more acceptable to*

patients. Who could disagree that the affected patients would prefer to be on land rather than subject to the waves of a choppy harbour? The committee noted that one hospital in this way would answer both for borough and port sanitary purposes.

The decision was taken to forget floating hospitals and hospital tents. Sir Ivor Guest's agent, Mr Pyne, was approached for a possible location and a plan was submitted in March 1874. The location chosen had to be as near as possible to the town, yet still isolated, whilst

easily accessible to the Harbour. The solution was in Powder House Close, next to the eighteenth century powder house building on the headland called Baiter. The powder house had been erected to store gunpowder unloaded from ships, so as not to risk taking it to the town quay. This is where there had previously been a windmill, probably a better building than a hospital for somewhere so exposed to wind, rain and tides. The windmill had also been used as a pest house in the 17th century, so the sick had been removed to the spot previously. The area had



also boasted a plague pit and a gallows in its past – all adding to its allure as a spot for a hospital. The neighbourhood of the Powder House was, however, accessible both from land and water, and was certainly isolated. Considerable discussion involved questions of ownership of the land around the Powder House, it being concluded that the Powder House was actually built on waste land. However the piece of land chosen was clearly within the Canford Estate. Inevitably questions were raised concerning the suitability of the site, including the fact that the site would be an island when the tide was high. The location was, in fact, from then known as Hospital Island.

Hospital Island and the hospital on an Ordnance Survey map – reproduced with the permission of the **National Library of Scotland**.

Having agreed to the council's proposal, a lease was drawn up, dated 21st April 1874, between Sir Ivor Guest, Bart. and the Mayor and Corporation of Poole. It was for a piece of land of 20 perches for a period of 99 years, at a rent of £1 a year, *for a house to be used as and for the purposes of a hospital*. (A perch was a linear measure used in

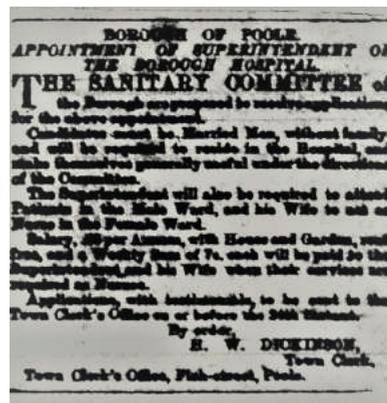
defining land area = 16½ feet.)

Tenders for erecting a Messuage and Outbuildings to be used as an Hospital, near the Powder House, **Baiter** were invited in an advertisement in the local newspaper on 2nd April 1874. The resultant figures submitted ranged from £698 7s 6d to £588. This was a simple building, built of brick, with 2 wards plus a house for staff. The number of beds was not reported, but a decade later there were only seven beds, fewer than the number put forward for the floating hospital. No plans have yet been traced, but it is assumed these were open wards rather than the cubicle-style wards later adopted for isolation hospitals.

This meant that there was no means of separating patients with different infectious conditions. The lowest and accepted tender was by a Mr Tilsed, and by June 1874 construction was under way. Thomas Jenkins Tilsed, 31, was a local builder based in New Street. Later the hospital was fenced off and a road was usefully added to run along the causeway, built by a Mr Ballom for £110. Later still

a boat was acquired to transport patients to the hospital when the road was impassable.

An advertisement for staff was published, seeking a Superintendent of the Borough Hospital: *candidates must be married men, without family, and will be required to reside in the Hospital, and make themselves generally useful... The superintendent will also be required to attend Patients in the Male Ward, and his wife to act as Nurse in the Female Ward*. The post came with house and garden at the hospital, which must have helped attract candidates, at £5 pa plus 7 shillings per week when patients were admitted.



The advertisement in the Poole and South Western Herald for staff for the new hospital

Recruitment would not be easy – there was a great risk of being cross-infected from patients. The reality was that the hospital was to be staffed not by trained clinical staff, but by a caretaker and his wife. It was recognised that only when there were patients in the hospital would any nursing duties be required, and there would weeks, or months, when no patients were there at all. Medical coverage, such as it was, was by the Medical Officer of Health unless the patient's own doctor was willing to attend. Actual treatment of the patients was not necessarily very extensive; they were there mostly to be kept away from the general population. They were of course only from amongst the poorer part of the population; those who could afford to pay for medical attendance would be kept isolated at home or somewhere more comfortable.

The Sanitary Authority meeting of May 1875 was told that the hospital had been completed. However, before then in April, Dr Ellis reported that scarlet fever was prevalent in Parkstone, and he recommended that 3 children of the Tilley family should be removed to the Borough Hospital – presumably the first patients admitted

to the new hospital. The Superintendent of the hospital was named as Christopher Wilkins, a labourer, but was not yet resident there with his wife. The salary, a combined one, was now to be £8 pa, plus 7s a week each when patients were there.

Faults were immediately found with the building; a Mr Barnes was contracted on 28th May to change the self-acting water closets and to install 3 baths with means of heating water. Problems also inevitably arose from building the hospital in such an exposed place close to the water's edge. In February 1877 the roof was damaged and the chimney pot lost in a gale. The same month the Borough Surveyor reported on the state of the hospital at a time when no-one was resident at the hospital. He stated that everything was *more or less damp*, the wards needed ventilating, together with the beds and linen, and that 2 days' notice would be required before any patients could be admitted. This of course defeated the object of the hospital being ready to take patients at any time. It was the Surveyor who arranged for a man and his wife to attend the hospital 3 times a week to maintain it properly. In 1878 it was reported that during the highest

tides, the water actually got under the floor of the hospital due to the use and positioning of perforated bricks in the damp course. The surveyor commented on the *damp, fusty and altogether disagreeable smell* he found when inspecting the wards before the imminent admission of a patient. In August 1878 Poole Rural Sanitary Authority asked its Poole Urban counterpart whether 3 scarlet fever patients from Kinson could be admitted to the hospital – natural cooperation between the two authorities, but also indicative of the fact that this new hospital would need to serve needs beyond the town of Poole. However, not for free – a charge of 12 shillings per patient was made, plus costs of removal, food and medical attendance. Not surprisingly it also proved a continuous difficulty to staff the hospital in those conditions. The Wilkins had not stayed long; a James Donovan and his wife Mary were reported early in 1878 as being willing to hold the situations on the same terms as the Wilkins. Mary Donovan was actually named as a nurse in the 1871 census, although her husband was a labourer, this may have been the first trained nurse

there. An advertisement in December 1878 again sought a new Superintendent and wife. The salary was now £10 pa with rent free house and gardens plus coals, and extra 5 shillings when **required as nurse**.

However despite its difficult birth, the hospital served Poole until the 2nd World War. It was never continuously occupied, but stood ready to receive patients when infectious disease struck. It later became one of the few smallpox hospitals in the county, and was run in conjunction with Poole's larger isolation hospital at Alderney. Baiter itself has since been subject to a huge reclamation project and the site is now part of Harbourside Park. No longer isolated and no longer somewhere people approach with dread.

The site of Baiter Hospital on the left, close to the Harbour shore, and today in parkland

Although generally known as Baiter Hospital, named after its location, the hospital was referred to by several names, even in official council records. When opened in 1875 it was referred to as the Borough Hospital, which perhaps sounds more substantial than it really was. Other titles included: Powder House Hospital,



Port Sanitary Hospital, and even the lengthy Baiter Peninsula Isolation Hospital.

Sources:

Poole's Health Record – blog at worldpress <https://pooleshealthrecord.wordpress.com/2017/09/>
Poole Borough archive at Dorset History Centre,

including the lease for the land.

Local newspapers: *Poole and South Western Herald*, *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, *Southern Times and Dorset Herald*.

Poole Museum History Centre, where Dr Ellis' report advocating the floating hospital is available.

Real & Relevant Planning

"There are decades when nothing happens and then there are weeks when decades happen".



Greta Thunberg (the Swedish climate activist) has noticed how the Covid-19 response changed things very quickly when people came together and sought appropriate and credible advice.

Planning is about change and hopefully change in a sustainable manner towards that which most of us would like to see as appropriate and credible.

That is the reason why, when our new Local Authority (serving Poole and the other towns in the district) asked for views about 'community engagement and consultation strategy' we suggested that three or four pre-set meetings should be set annually (with pre-notification of attendance to aid practicalities) – having in mind that **The Poole Charter Trust** could hold them and, at the same time, acquire information to assist the discharge of their duty to uphold the spirit and intention of the Elizabethan Charter (signed on the 23rd June 1568) : a duty that includes, in current

language, "the encouragement of good people and also that peace and all other acts of justice may be kept and done without delay". It was felt that such a duty related to 'the good rules of government' which include the well-known Nolan Principles that foster "accountability to the public". Such meetings could be a worthwhile activity (for the few pounds in every Poole Council Tax bill for the Charter Trust) and should also ensure the ceremonial activities do not become just pantomimes.

A few months ago central government was advising us that a "White Paper" on planning for the future would be issued – no doubt to accord with the 25-year environmental plan. As we know, Covid-19 has intervened and, as Greta has suggested, we can expect things to be delayed and to be different. Hopefully the opinions of local communities will be granted more respect so that planning will be refined to:

1 : deliver the right houses in the right

places to suit local needs – not necessarily to suit targets derived from flawed formulae or just the aspirations of investors / developers.

- 2 : ensure employment opportunities are suitable, placed to reduce excessive travelling on available roads and, designed to include trees and shrubs.
- 3 : ensure all infrastructure services and facilities are suitably co-ordinated and always adequate to support proposed employment, housing and other developments,
- 4 : ensure all existing disused, misused and underused ('brownfield') urban land is recycled before approving developments on greener land – the concept of a national 'brownfield' map is welcomed,
- 5 : ensure terrestrial planning engages constructively with marine environmental requirements so that pollution in Poole harbour actually reduces, and
- 6 : meet the general approval of local communities. In this connection the evolution of the above-mentioned meetings (to include Neighbourhood Forums and Residents Associations) should become significant in ensuring due attention is given to concerning issues.

To assist such planning, it is also hoped that Local Authorities will no longer be held responsible for delivering the housing that they have approved, that applicants gaining any planning approval should be held so responsible instead (since the matter is within their control) and, Local Authorities should be suitably encouraged to use compulsory purchase to stop the scandal of the long-term hoarding of 'brownfield' urban land. Planning without attention to the timing of delivery seems pointless if controlling the built environment is to suit the public interest.

If any of this chimes with you, do share your thoughts with me. It would help the effort of our Society to secure real and relevant planning in Poole, as it seeks to support the evolving and hopefully dynamic 'three towns' partnership whilst allowing communities to flourish.

Gerald Rigler : Planning Sub-Committee Chairman (2019/20) : gerald.rigler@gmail.com



VE (Victory in Europe) DAY

The plans for VE Day in Poole had begun as early as 1st May until on Monday 7th May 1945 the Echo headline "Hostilities in Europe at an end" was the cue for the plans to go ahead. Winston Churchill declared that the celebratory period should be brief as the war was still on-going in Japan and the Far East.



VE Day on Poole Quay

A special committee of Poole Council suggested that workers should be given 3 days holiday with pay and that schools would be shut for 3 days. On 8th May a Thanksgiving service was to be held in St James Church which all the Council would attend and a United service would be held in

Poole Park the following Sunday.

Churchill made the official announcement on the radio at 3pm and in Poole red, white and blue bunting blossomed throughout the town. Sirens were sounded along the Quay and rockets were fired. The local fishermen collected material for a

bonfire at Fisherman's Quay. Above it they built gallows from which hung a figure in German field grey complete with moustache. Another bonfire was built at Stanley Green with some fireworks. There was dancing in Poole Park and the boats on the lake were illuminated. There was

more dancing near the bonfire at West Quay. More bonfires were lit the following day at Constitution Hill, Parkstone and Oakdale but the main events of the day were centred on Poole Park. A football match between WRNS and male members of the naval service took place – the men played with their hands tied behind their back and their goalie was on crutches! There was a tug-of-war between the police and American soldiers. The police won in 2 straight pulls. Sports were held for the children and boxing

events. There was a display by the Girls Training Corps and the massed bands of the Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts and Nautical School beat retreat. The evening ended with dancing in the Park with music from Poole Town Band and Poole Military Band.

Dozens of street parties were held for the children including those at Woking Road, Lester Avenue, Sherwood Avenue, Arne Avenue, White Horse Drive, Palmer Road, Castle Street, Haskells Road and Stanley Green Road. Bunting was

strung across the streets and trestle tables set up down the middle of the roads. Cake and jelly had pride of place. Rationing was still in force, but some hoarding of food had taken place in order to put on a good spread.

A United Service of Thanksgiving was held by the Cricket Pavilion in Poole Park on Sunday 13th May. All local organisations including the Home Guard, WWS, Fire Service and other auxiliary services as well as the Armed Forces paraded in Ladies Walking Field before marching to the Park.



VE Day street party held at Tatnam



Dates for your Diary

21st July – Tuesday

Talk – Aviation around Poole Bay
By Kevin Patience



15th September – Tuesday

Talk – Battle of Britain over Poole
By John Smith



Tuesday 16th June 2020

Talk - A Very Dorset Disaster
The story of a Forgotten Tragedy
by Rod Hughes

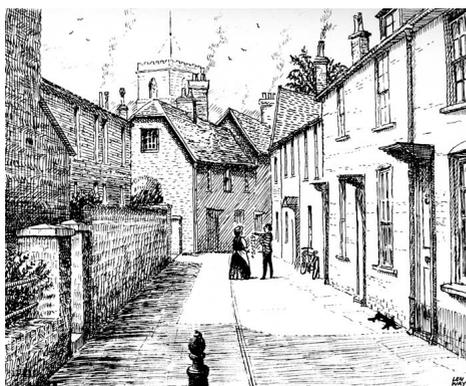


SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

All talks are held at the Royal British Legion Club, 66 North Road Poole BH14 0LY 7pm for 7.30pm start. £3 for members £4 for non members.

The Society for Poole

"Promoting Poole: its History, Culture & People"



Barbers Piles. "A early morning bargain"



Len WAY The Old Thatched Cottage. "Letter from the Captain"

Alexandra House



Registered Charity
No. 1014697

A welcoming care home
in the heart of Parkstone



A homely and safe place to live

In the heart of Parkstone, the newly rebuilt Alexandra House is a warm and comfortable home, offering residential and dementia care in a peaceful setting and at a reasonable cost.

Full ensuite bedrooms and a range of light, spacious, air-conditioned communal areas at Alexandra House offer an environment where everyone can feel at home. Our residents can be safe in the knowledge that someone is responsible for their well-being and care at all times, whilst relaxing and enjoying their surroundings with family and friends.

We are now open and welcoming residents

– for enquiries please call **01202 747001**
or visit **www.care-south.co.uk**

Alexandra Road | Parkstone | Poole | Dorset | BH14 9EW



CARE SOUTH IS A LEADING PROVIDER OF RESIDENTIAL AND HOME CARE ACROSS DORSET

Operation DYNAMO

The Evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk 26th May 1940 to 4th June 1940

During May 1940 the British Expeditionary Force were fighting to stop the Nazi Invasion of Belgium and Northern France. An integral part of that force was the 2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment under the command of Colonel Stephenson. After five days of fighting which saw them beating off attack after attack by a greatly superior German force they suffered 40 killed, 110 wounded and 158 taken prisoner. On the night of 27th/28th May Colonel Stephenson assembled his 245 survivors plus 40 men from other units and personally led them on a long march across the German advance to the beaches at Dunkirk where they joined up with over 380,000 troops being assembled ready to be evacuated.

During this time back in Poole, the Senior Naval Officer Commander Cosmo B Hastings RN, supported by the

RN Transport Officer Captain JRC Cavendish RN Rtd, based on the requisitioned Motor Cruiser Florinda home of the Royal Motor Yacht Club, at Poole Quay, summoned all local owners of small craft, Ferryman, pleasure craft and private yachts. He ordered them to go home have a hot meal, fuel up their vessels and be prepared for a "Special Task" a long voyage to a South Coast Port. This they willingly did and a small flotilla was assembled. This included Harvey's yellow Ferry Nymph and Southern Queen,

Tom Davis's blue Felicity and Island Queen. It also included Bolson's Skylark V1, Skylark V111, and Skylark V1 plus the newly designed inshore Life Boat Thomas Kirk Wright. These craft were manned by local men some who had never been to sea before. There were also a number of fishing smacks from the Poole fishing fleet and those already at sea were signalled and joined the group later.

They all left late on 28th May for Dover and Ramsgate, the flotilla under the command of local Captain H



Bolson's Skylarks
(Photo courtesy Poole Maritime Trust)



Thomas Kirk Wright – Poole lifeboat
 (Photo courtesy Poole Maritime Trust)

Quick. In charge of the Skylarks was local Captain H Bennet who at the age of 75 had the experience to get the craft safely to their destination. Thankfully the weather was good as they tracked along the South Coast picking up a miscellany of other craft on the way. The Poole Flotilla arrived safely after 28 hours at sea and reported to the Royal Navy ready for the task ahead.

Other craft also left Poole that were Dutch Schuits which had just brought in hundreds of Dutch refugees and off loaded them on to Brownsea Island by kind permission of the island's owner Mrs Florence Bonham Christie. These were

manned by men of the Royal Naval Reserve from Portsmouth.

The craft from Poole excelled themselves in assisting bringing off over 338,000 troops of which one third of them were French. The last trip for the Thomas Kirk Wright was all French Soldiers despite being damaged by heavy enemy machine gun fire.

The Island Queen and Southern Queen were both sunk off Dunkirk. Skylark V1 was damaged and abandoned with bomb damage but later was salvaged and towed back to Bolson's Shipyard in Poole where she was fitted with a larger engine and became an Air Sea Rescue craft.

Useful Phone Numbers

Adult Education
 01202 262300

Adult Social Care
 01202 633902

Bin & Street Cleaning
 01202 261700

Births, Marriages & Deaths
 01202 633744

Blue Badges
 01202 633605

Bus Passes
 01202 634249

Children's Social Services
 01202 735046

Council Tax Payment Line
 01202 672932

Family Information Services
 01202 261999

Poole Hospital (A&E)
 01202 665511

Housing Benefit Enquiries
 0345 0344569

Libraries
 01202 265200

Parking Penalties & Permits
 01202 634240

Pest Control
 01202 261700

Road & Pavement Maintenance
 01202 265255

Street Lighting
 01202 262223

Schools Admissions
 01202 261936

Toilets
 01202 261700



COMPTON ACRES



Compton Acres – Not Just

Dorset's Finest Gardens...



Compton Acres is renowned across the UK as one of the country's finest private gardens... BUT

Did you know that the multi-award winning tourist attraction is also home to a wide variety of charming gifts and culinary delights?

Visit the Compton Acres Gift Shop & 'Gifted Moments' store for:

- Locally sourced and fair trade treasures
- Scrumptious confectionery
- Sophisticated wines
- Hand crafted children's toys
- Stylish kitchenware
- Luxury beauty products
- And more!

Compton Acres is also home to one of Dorset's most popular Café and Tearooms. Indulge in wholesome, home-cooked dishes, inspired by Great British classics, as well as a mouth-watering variety of traditional homemade cakes and pastries.

If you're looking for a world of elegant gifts, tastes, smells and delights - right on your doorstep, **visit Compton Acres...**

164 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole, Dorset BH13 7ES | Tel: 01202 700 778

WWW.COMPTONACRES.CO.UK