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View from Poole

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



SPRING 2021

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Chairman's Note

Welcome to this the Spring edition of the View from Poole.

First I need to pay tribute to Ian Andrews who recently passed away. This following on from the loss of Robin Moy means that Poole and indeed the Society for Poole has lost two strong characters who worked throughout their lives to promote Poole and retain its heritage. Both will be sadly missed.

Meanwhile lockdown continues meaning we are spending so much more time inside. We are all hoping that the vaccinations will continue to be rolled out as fast and efficiently as they have been to date and that by the time the warm weather gets to us we will be able to wander outside and resume our coffee stops with newfound confidence.

Unfortunately, we remain without our talks and events. At the moment we cannot see resuming them until potentially September but every one of us will know more in the future – but fingers crossed. Meanwhile The Society for Poole has started to reorganise the Poole at War event which we had to shelve last year. In 2020 we pulled together the Royal British Legion and many interested groups so the town of Poole could remember the 75th anniversary of the end of



the war. This year we have scaled back the parade due to covid concerns but aim to both erect the information boards down the High Street and organise the closure of the Quay to help create an exhibition of Poole's role during WW2. Planned for the 15th August 2021 (VJ Day) we aim to balance history and fun with many photo images of the town during the war, extended history information boards and static exhibitions along the Quay. We are working on all the details and hope to advise further over the coming months.

To help us we have secured some CIL funding from BCP Council and commercial sponsorship. Please watch out for the Poole

at War logos which will appear to promote the event and put a note in your diaries for the day. Meanwhile please stay safe, the warm weather will soon be with us. We live in one of the best locations in the Country with the sea and countryside so close. As such if there is a place to be confined to, I can't think of a better place than Poole!

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The Society for Poole

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VIEW FROM POOLE DISTRIBUTION

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Executive meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at The Royal British Legion, North Road, Poole.

Operation DYNAMO

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

By Peter Burt of the Poole Maritime Trust and member of The Society for Poole

This article is part of the delayed Poole at War 75th Anniversary event now to be held on the 15th August 2021 (VJ Day) on Poole Quay



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, Ferrymen, 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 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 they 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

RNLI Tomas Kirk Wright



The "Skylark" pleasure boats



BACKSTREET STROLL

While lockdown is still with us and walking for exercise remains our only "out" we thought we would add this "Backstreet Stroll" for when everyone is able to escape to the town!

Along the Strand



Start in front of Poole Museum at the bottom of High Street.

Cross the street, walk towards the sea, and turn left into Key Lane. In the 1880s, there was a smithy half-way down the lane on the right-hand side. Follow the dog-leg turn (left and then right) into Strand Street, and then turn right into the third alley after the corner, Bull Lane. Looking back from the Quay end of the lane you can see modern flats, contrasting strangely with the lamp lit alley below.

Turn left on to the Quay in front of the old Poole Arms. Thought to date from the early 1600s, the building is probably the oldest on this stretch of the Quay and is set slightly out of alignment and lower than the surrounding premises. It has been an inn



since at least the late 18th century. In 1850, it survived a serious fire in the warehouse next door. The distinctive green tiles, made by Carter's pottery, were added early in the 20th century.

Walk east along the Quay past the alleys. Buttons Lane is the only one which has retained its 18th century name. Beyond the Oriel Restaurant, turn left into Castle Street (formerly Fish Street). An old warehouse on the right, complete with its hoist, bears the date 1876 with the initials TB. At the end of the lane, exit into Strand Street. On the left, Merchant House is one of the few Georgian houses remaining on the street. It dates from the 18th century and was remodelled in the early 1800s.

Cross Strand Street to where



Castle Street continues northwards. Here, in the middle of the road, stood Poole's Tudor town house and prison, where the Rev. John Wesley, grandfather of the founder of Methodism and a minister in Poole, was imprisoned for six months in Charles II's reign. This area used to have many inns, including the Bell Inn and the Rising Sun, both medieval buildings, and the Castle Inn which probably gave the street its name.

Continue up Castle Street, much altered with the development of a multi-storey car park. Turn left before you reach High Street and then right into the narrow entrance of Bell Lane. At the end of the lane is Lush, once the Bell and Crown public house. From the back, some of the original 17th century structure can be seen, contrasting with the 19th century frontage on High Street.



Scaplens Court

By Jenny Oliver

Dear to heart of The Society for Poole

It was 1949 and Britain was near bankruptcy and still in the grip of rationing, food shortages, fuel shortages and a housing crisis but beginning to look forward to a more hopeful future. In Poole, the High Street firm of J. Looker Ltd. published the second edition of H.P. Smith's *Illustrated Guide to the Antiquities of Poole with special reference to the Old Town House (Scaplens Court) and the Historic Buildings on Poole Quay*, price: 1/- . Seventy years on, I have received a copy of this publication for the Museum Society through the generosity of a lady in Essex who found it among her father's papers. Looking through the guide it's interesting to see what has changed, vanished or been forgotten in the course of the decades.

The first part of the guide is devoted to Scaplens Court which H.P. Smith remembered as 'a warren of squalid tenements, condemned as unfit for habitation by the Poole Medical Officer of Health'. In the early 1920s it was home to seven families. The High Street frontage had been faced with 9 inch thick brickwork and fitted with Georgian style windows, but



Damage 1923

a passage way from the front led through to a 'quaint old-world courtyard' hinting at a building of considerable age. Most of the internal features of the original building were hidden by 19th and 20th century alterations and partitions. In October 1923, a chimney stack crashed

through the roof of the front block in a storm making it partly uninhabitable. On 1st and 2nd May 1924, H.P. Smith went over the building with the owner and made some amazing discoveries of ancient doorways, fireplaces and windows preserved behind brick, wood and plaster. The story of how he and others campaigned to save the building is well known. After more damage by the weather, it was finally acquired and opened as a museum in 1929.

Twenty years later in 1949, the High Street frontage of Scaplens Court was still a ruin and the lower hall resembled a courtyard open to the sky, giving a rather forlorn and very different appearance from today. Inside, however, there was plenty to see. The two rooms





in the south west wing which are not currently on display were then part of the tour. The first one, called the solar, was notable for its fine open fireplace with carved jambs and its 15th century beamed ceiling. This room had once been a single-room tenement housing four adults. Beyond were 'domestic quarters' with a wattle and daub partition, a blocked door to the garden and steps down to the cellar, still in existence in 1949. H. P. Smith described it as an original feature of the house lined with brick in more recent times. Many interesting items were on display throughout the house such as an old fireplace from the Ship Inn with quatre-foil decoration and several carved wooden heads from its hammer beam roof. Pieces of stonework, probably from the medieval church of St. James, included an alter stone with a cross,

a decorated capital, the base of a stone stoup and a sandstone font base. These had been found around the town or dug up in the garden. In the upstairs 'winter parlour' with its fine beamed ceiling, a metal chest with painted panels, believed to be an Armada chest, was on display along with relics of the Newfoundland trade. These included a seaman's chest, a seal hunting harpoon and paintings of old Poole ships. Other exhibits were Admiral W. H. Moore's sea chest and figureheads of the brig *Queen Charlotte*, built in 1790 and the 1,000 ton timber ship *Henry Duncan*, which used to sail between Poole and Canada. In the kitchen visitors could see the stone plaque of the old school in Thames Street, dating from June 1628 and the foundation stone of the corporation cellars at Hamworthy built

in 1724. There was also 'a valuable collection of early 19th century pamphlets'. Elsewhere was the base of the 18th century town beam, two lead pumps from the courtyards of old Poole houses and a notice board brought back from Cherbourg after D-Day with the legend ANKERN VERBOTEN (*anchorage forbidden*). There were also two old canon formerly used as gate-posts at the entrance to a yard on Poole Quay. A series of small objects found during restoration of the house were displayed in the solar including tobacco pipes, canon balls, wig-curlers, a medieval jug, coins and 18th century matches. No doubt many of these intriguing items are still in the Museum's collections if no longer on display. H.P. Smith believed that Scaplen's Court was the 'fair Town House of stone by the Kay', mentioned by John Leland in his description of Poole, the forerunner of the 1572 town hall in Castle Street. He may be right but as far as I know there is no specific evidence apart from the antiquity of the building. The guide continues with a brief tour of historic sites on the Quay and through the old town which shows how many interesting buildings have vanished in 70 years. These include Robert Rogers' almshouses in West Street dating from 1604 and George Garland's almshouses at Hunger Hill,

built in 1812. The house of William Skutt in High Street where Charles II dined in 1665, later the premises of Bacon and Curtis, has been replaced with a modern block. Number 1 Skinner Street, the home of the naturalist Philip Henry Gosse, is long gone as is the old Hamworthy church, dedicated in 1826 and the classically-styled St. Paul's church in High Street, built in 1833. The Quay pump, restored by the Society of Poole Men in 1929, with the inscription *John Strong, Mayor 1810* is no longer on display. Another lost structure is the old powder house at Baiter, now reduced to its foundations. According to H.P. Smith this was built in 1756 with stone from 'the ruins of the old Quay Porch which adjoined the Town Cellars'. It would be fascinating to know where this information comes from. The most recent casualty is the town beam which blew down in storm Freya in March this year. H. P. Smith describes it in 1949 as dating from the 18th century and having been recently repaired by Mr. Alfred Burt of the local firm, Burt and Vick. The inscription on the plaque said that it was repaired in 1947 and if this was the last major repair, it stood on the Quay in all weathers for 72 years: a pretty good record. When at last the massive wood structure failed after nearly three quarters of a century,



St Pauls Church. The site was later occupied by McDonalds

the event was caught on CCTV and broadcast on television the same evening. Hopefully the beam will soon be back in position. What is more encouraging is the number of buildings mentioned in the guide which do survive, such as the cluster of buildings round the medieval Quay, Tudor properties around the town, the 17th century manor house at Hamworthy and examples of Georgian architecture including the Guildhall and six or seven fine mansions. In spite of post war clearance and massive change and development, H. P. Smith would probably still recognise his adoptive town.

The Illustrated Guide can be seen in the Poole History Centre.





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In search of Alderney Manor

By Jenny Oliver



The history of Alderney Manor, the heathland property on the edge of Poole where Augustus, his family, assorted livestock and artistic guests led a bohemian and rather chaotic existence. The manor itself is described by John's biographer, Michael Holroyd, as a '*curious, low, pink building, an elongated bungalow with Gothic windows and a fantastic castellated parapet*'. Several sources state that it was built by an eccentric Frenchman. Besides the manor, there were other buildings on the site including a stable, a coach house which Augustus used as a studio and a cottage larger than the manor where guests stayed. Gypsy caravans and tents housed the overflow. Looking into the background of the property, several questions came to mind: who built the cottage and the manor and when, where did the name Alderney come from and who was the eccentric Frenchman? So far I have not managed to answer any of these questions! I

have however unearthed some curious details and larger than life characters associated with the property. All the evidence suggests that the cottage preceded the '*manor*'. The site was beside the road from Poole to Ringwood, between Knighton Bottom and Howe Corner. On Isaac Taylor's map of 1795, the road is shown as '*New Turnpike Road*' and there is no sign of the cottage or of any location in the area with the name Alderney. By the time of Greenwood's map of 1826, the cottage has appeared, surrounded by plantations of firs.



1795 Map

The first text reference I have found is in 1808 when William Beaumont Esq. of Alderney Cottage near Poole is

listed as a contributing member of the Society, Instituted at London, for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. In 1810, an inquest was heard on Ann Hogg, a servant of Beaumont's. He and his servant Charles Burt gave evidence that Ann had been 'much addicted to liquor' and had been drinking heavily the previous afternoon. The jury brought in the verdict that she met her death 'by excessive drinking and not from any other cause whatsoever'. No other details are provided about the tragedy.



1826 map

I have not discovered whether William Beaumont built the cottage or had any connection with the island of Alderney but he does seem to have been involved creating the plantations. In November 1811 the Salisbury and Winchester Journal advertised a sale of part of Beaumont's farming stock and household furniture including 80,000 pinasters (maritime pines), 840,000 Scotch firs and some white thorns of one or

two years' growth. These were said to be '*admirably calculated to be set out on heath land, having been raised on it*'. The goods for sale suggest a working farm with a comfortably furnished gentleman's residence. They include cart houses, a wagon, plough shares, harrows and drags as well as four-post bedsteads, white dimity furniture, Venetian carpets, a mahogany dining table, a brace of pistols and a '*Pipe of excellent PORT WINE*'. In July 1813, Beaumont announced another sale, this time of all his household furniture, his '*capital Norman Cow in full milk*', and other effects. He may have moved out, but continued to be listed at the cottage until at least the Waterloo year of 1815. The next resident I've found definitely did have a link with Alderney. He was Colonel (later General) John Le Mesurier who was listed, address Alderney Cottage, as one of a number of people issued with game licenses in 1829. Le Mesurier was the last in the line of hereditary governors of Alderney, the position having been granted to his family by Charles II and confirmed by George III. Born in 1781, he had joined the army as a boy of about 14 and served in Ireland, Malta and Egypt before retiring on half pay and taking over the Governorship of the island on his father's death in 1803. As the war with France came to its climax, he petitioned to get back into the army but was told that he could

serve the country better in his present position. He finally signed over the governorship to the British Government in 1824, having served for over 20 years.



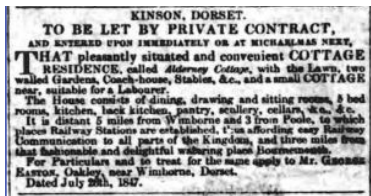
John Le Mesurier

Why Le Mesurier came to Alderney Cottage is another unknown but he was probably attracted by the hunting available in the area, frequently mentioned in local newspapers of the time. In the late 1820s and early 1830s, '*Mr Lester's harriers*' were often reported as meeting at the back of Alderney Cottage and '*the Charborough hounds*' also met there to take advantage of the game in the plantations and the heath. The new resident may not have stayed for very long. In September 1831 the cottage was put up for let or sale. Also for sale were two hunters, a grey mare, a chestnut filly and a '*Stanhope*' (a light, open carriage) besides 233 dozen of superior old wines in port, claret, sherry

etc. The advertisements in the local press provide a description of the property with its 200 acres of land including arable, pasture, heathland, fir plantations, orchards and walled gardens. The cottage contained '*dining, drawing, breakfast and sleeping rooms, all 9ft 3 high, on the same floor*'. The basement storey contains a good kitchen, coal and beer cellars and an excellent wine cellar.' There were two labourers' cottages, a coach-house, dairy, barn, five-stall stable, brew-house, farm yard and piggery. Altogether it sounds like an attractive property for a country gentleman.

The next resident was Cornwall Jolliffe, the brother of the Rev. Peter Jolliffe, Rector of Poole, and a descendent of important family of Poole and Newfoundland traders. He had previously lived at Ensbury and in April 1832 advertised his Ensbury house to let. Maybe Mr. Jolliffe was also interested hunting as the hunt continued to meet regularly at the cottage, apparently undeterred by a disaster which occurred in 1833. On 10th April a fire broke out near the cottage and '*about 200 acres of firs were wholly consumed*'. In 1841, the first detailed census recorded the household at Alderney as consisting of Cornwall Jolliffe, aged 60 and Frances Humphrey, 70, both listed as being '*of independent means*' and four servants Mary Jolliffe, 60, James Cropp, 30, Sarah Cropp, 35 and Elizabeth,

aged 13. Cornwall died in 1847 at the age of 67. He was a bachelor and left effects of under £20.



The cottage was again advertised to let, this time with the added inducement of newly built railway stations not far away at Wimborne and Poole (Hamworthy). The new tenant was the first of several medical men to be associated with the property. John Basset, came from Devon and had qualified in Edinburgh. The census of 1851 describes him as a surgeon, not practising, and shows him living in the cottage with three servants, Thomas Tuckey, Elizabeth Berry and Jane Austin. By 1854, the cottage was uninhabited again and was leased out by Lady Charlotte Guest of Canford Manor to a new tenant. (Whether the Canford estate had owned the property all along or bought it sometime in the preceding decades, I don't know.) Lady Charlotte was the widow of Sir John Josiah Guest, a rich ironmaster, who had purchased the Canford estate in 1846 and died in 1852, leaving his wife to manage the estate until their eldest son, Ivor Bertie, came of age. Alderney's new occupier was Scotsman

William Petrie Waugh, the owner of Brownsea Castle and Island and Lieutenant Colonel in Her Majesty's Regiment of South Hussars. He had bought Brownsea in 1852 believing that the island contained rich deposits of fine china clay. In the next few years he spent lavishly in Brownsea, setting up clay pits and a pottery with a tramway, draining the lagoon on the north east side of the island, refurbishing the castle, building a church and creating a village for his workmen. In 1954, he leased the *'full and exclusive right of hunting, shooting, coursing, sporting, fishing and fowling'*, over 2,100 acres of the Canford estate, including parts of Longham, Alderney, Longfleet, Parkstone and *'the sand banks at North Haven Point'*. The lease also included Alderney Cottage, its garden, stable and appurtenances. The term was 15 years and the rent, £40 a year. This must have seemed modest compared with what Waugh was spending elsewhere. How much time he spent at Alderney or hunting on the estate, we don't know. The clay deposits on Brownsea turned out to be only suitable for coarsewares, such as bricks and chimney pots, and Lt. Col. Waugh's debts began to mount. In 1856, he fled to Spain to escape his creditors. Alderney's second medical resident was Richard Elgie. Born in Spitalfields, London he had previously practised in Holdenhurst at

a time when Bournemouth was developing as a health resort. In the 1861 census, Elgie, aged 49, was described as a surgeon, not practicing. He lived at Alderney with his son, Walter, daughters, Margaret, Louisa, Alice, Gertrude, Clara, Helen and Edith and maid servant, Louisa Willis. How the young ladies liked the isolated cottage, surrounded by heath and dark plantations we don't know, but it was probably a contrast to life in Holdenhurst.



Being on the edge of thinly populated heathland, Alderney was prone to petty theft and vandalism. In April 1860, Samuel Jeffrey, a small farmer from Kinson was sentenced to one month's hard labour for stealing hay from Richard Elgie. As quantities of hay had already gone missing, P.C. Brown was on watch at the cottage and caught Jeffrey in the act. Jeffrey's excuse, that he was just borrowing the hay, failed to convince. More serious was a massive fire that broke out the following month. It started near Bournemouth and spread rapidly, fed by an easterly wind. *'On Tuesday evening the inhabitants of Poole and neighbourhood were attracted by a lurid glare which seemed spread*

over the whole sky in the direction of Ringwood and Bournemouth'. At one time the flames extended over an area of 10 miles and could be seen from 40 miles away. Strong winds *'hastened the progress of the fire, driving it in every direction, causing it to leap from bank to bank and igniting the heath in adjoining fields'*. On Wednesday morning it attacked the plantation near Alderney Cottage. Men struggled to bring the flames under control but the destruction of heathland and woods was considerable. Evidence suggested that the fire had been started deliberately as it had broken out in four separate places. Perhaps it was the fire which decided Richard Elgie and his family to move elsewhere, and not long after they relocated to Parkstone. Alderney Cottage was once more available for a new tenant. Enter the Honourable George Charles Grantley Fitzhardinge Berkeley, earl's son, soldier, Member of Parliament, writer and sportsman. Grantley Berkeley was the sixth son of the fifth earl of Berkeley. He served in the Coldstream Guards for five years before retiring on half pay at 21. He married Caroline Benfield in 1824, the couple having two sons, and was Member of Parliament for West Gloucestershire from 1832 to 1852. He also wrote several books and pamphlets including novels, works on sport, travel and natural

history, poems and an autobiography.



Grantley Berkeley

One notorious incident illustrates his impulsive and occasionally violent character. His first book *'Berkeley Castle'*, a romantic novel based on his family history, was the subject of a scurrilous review in Fraser's Magazine of August 1836 which included some offensive remarks on the author's parents: *'Mr Grantley Berkeley's mother lived with his father as his mistress, and that she had at least one child before she could induce the old and very stupid lord to marry her'*. Grantley and his brother Craven (both of them Members of Parliament) went round to the bookshop of the magazine's publisher, James Fraser, in Regent Street to demand the name of the reviewer and when Fraser hesitated to tell them, Grantley knocked him to the ground and beat him savagely with a whip while his aristocratic brother held the door closed. For this attack the brothers had to pay £100 damages. In a counter suit for libel, Grantley was

awarded £2. Meanwhile the reviewer, Dr. Maginn, made himself known and met Grantley in a duel where shots were exchanged but no-one was hit. The incident tended to divert sympathy from Grantley Berkeley to Fraser and also ensured that the review was repeated in dozens of newspapers. Berkeley continued to write, travel and participate in sports. He regularly spent his summers near Highcliffe from where he observed with some scepticism the transformation of Bournemouth into an ultra respectable *'pretty but dull'* resort, poking fun at town worthies in his writing. He was in his early 60s when he took the lease of Alderney, where he was able to live a sporting life, entertain friends and write: *'I have again a hut of my own, or a little shooting-lodge, surrounded by forest and moor – a castellated structure by the way . . . Nevertheless it is more a hermitage than a castle, and to anyone fond of seclusion must possess unusual attractions; for there are no neighbours to peep beneath the bushes. Indeed, so completely out of the way is it, that that evidence of civilisation, the postman, will not venture within two miles of the place. Here, however, as the tenant of Sir Ivor Guest, I am content to remain, pursuing my customary recreations in shooting and fishing, and studying the characteristics of animated nature on a wide expanse of land that is bounded on*

one side only by the sea'. It seems to have been during Grantley Berkeley's tenure that Alderney Cottage underwent a transformation into Alderney Manor, not as far as I can tell by any rebuilding but simply by assuming a more aristocratic status. It was from 'Alderney Manor' that Grantley fired off his many letters to the press on hydrophobia, politics, the value of rabbits, an exhibition of Berkeley family jewellery, management of the New Forest, game laws, the wages of labourers and other topics. He also wrote a number of books and pamphlets including his autobiography 'My Life and Recollections' in 4 volumes.



It was perhaps inevitable that Grantley came into conflict from time to time with some of the more lawless local residents. In 1867, William Sherwood of Kinson was charged with assault on Harry Toovey, Grantley's gamekeeper. According to Toovey, he caught Sherwood throwing stones at pheasants on the Alderney estate and challenged him. Sherwood who was drunk then struck

Toovey, who knocked him down. Sherwood was fined 10s. In 1869, Mr. Cutler, a farmer of Howe, brought an action against Grantley Berkeley for seizing and detaining a dog. Toovey had taken the dog from Mr. Cutler's son, Edmund, accusing him of being after game but the Cutlers denied that the dog was ever used for hunting, except over the land they rented. A fine of £7 11s 6d was awarded against Grantley Berkeley. In the dry summer of 1870, a serious fire broke out across the heath which 'nearly surrounded Alderney Manor, totally destroying the game preserves of the Honorable Grantley Berkeley' and threatening Newtown and Messrs Howell's foundry at Waterloo. It was suspected that the fire had been started by arsonists. The 1871 census lists Grantley Berkeley J. P. aged 71 with two maid servants and two man servants including the gamekeeper, Henry Toovey. The two cottages on the property housed another gamekeeper and a groom with their families. Grantley continued to live at the manor for the next decade, still writing to the newspapers, relating his anecdotes, feeding his birds and observing local wildlife. In 1880, being in poor health, he took a 'one of Mr. Darnford's new villas' in Longfleet for the winter where he died in February 1881. For a while the manor was unoccupied and then it seems to have been rented

by William Abbott a farmer and brickmaker who was living there by the time of the 1891 census with his wife Mary Ann, his 17 year old step son, Reginald Atkins and his son, William junior aged 14. Dairyman Frederick Warren and his wife Mary Jane lived in one of the cottages. By 1900, a new tenant was in negotiation with Mr. Paterson, the agent for Lord Wimborne of Canford Manor. Dr. Walter Denton Johns was the third medical practitioner to lease Alderney and intended to open a sanatorium to treat tuberculosis patients by a fresh air system using huts in the grounds. The property to rent consisted of the dwelling house, vegetable garden, grounds, outbuildings, 16 acres of rough grassland and about 500 acres of shooting. Dr. Johns clearly wanted to attract wealthy patients by offering the facilities of a country estate as well as a healing regime. The favourable rent of £75 a year was an acknowledgement of the fact that all the buildings were in a state of disrepair and the tenant undertook to put them in good order within 12 months as well as refurbishing the main house and the caretaker's house. The huts were laid out and the sanatorium set up. Dr. Johns asked for dangerous trees to be felled in the 'sun garden' and Paterson said he would send the Wood Manager to take down the trees but advised caution. 'Trees don't grow in a day; and were it not for the Trees,

Alderney Manor would simply be a 'Bleak House' standing on a no less bleak Moor!'



The Manor as a sanatorium

Dr. Johns' story at Alderney Manor is told in detail in the excellent [Poole's health record blog](#). The sanatorium continued at Alderney for a decade attracting quite a number of patients but probably not proving as successful as Dr. Johns had hoped. By 1911, the manor was empty once more, and the Canford estate seeking a new tenant. In September of that year a lease was signed between Lady Cornelia, Baroness Wimborne (for her husband Ivor Bertie who was described as mentally infirm) and Augustus Edwin John of 153, Church Street, Chelsea, artist.

Augustus John

Alderney Manor had been recommended to Augustus John by his friends, the Everetts who lived not far away at Wool. Katherine Everett described it as 'an unusually attractive house built by a Frenchman, set in woodland, on the Wimborne property'. After alterations and repairs had been completed, the family moved in, Augustus, his mistress, Dorothy (Dorelia) McNeill and seven children,



Self Portrait

five by his wife Ida who had died four years before and two by Dorelia. Augustus spent much of his time in London, coming down to Dorset at week-ends so it was Dorelia and her sister, Edie who probably created the 'colourful and artistic interior' described by Katherine, revived the garden and tended the cats, cows, pigs, donkeys, ponies, horses and bees.



Dorelia

Guests tended to drop in and stay for days or sometimes weeks sleeping in the cottage, caravans or gypsy tents. One visitor was the artist Henry Lamb who described the manor as 'an amazing place, a vast, secluded park of prairies, pine woods, birch woods, dells and

moors'. The children lived a fairly free existence running barefoot about the gardens and the heath, only occasionally hauled in for a telling-off or to pose for their father. It was an unconventional household which would have amazed those military and sporting gentlemen John Le Mesurier, Col. Waugh and the Hon. Grantley Berkeley. Some things did not change however. In his autobiography *The Seventh Child*, Augustus's son, Romilly John describes how the bell that was rung to summon the family and guests to lunch would also alert the local 'poachers, stealers of wood, and other malefactors' to enter the Alderney woods while the coast was clear. The John household occupied the manor until 1927 when they moved to Fryern Court in Fordingbridge. They were to be the last tenants of Alderney Manor which was later demolished and replaced with a housing estate.

Main sources:

Articles and adverts from the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, *Dorset County Chronicle* and other newspapers, many located thanks to Mr. Gambier. Documents at the Dorset History Centre: *Inquest on Ann Hogg* 1810 D-WIM/JO-1349, *Lease to Col. Waugh* 1854 D-WIM/JO-827, *Agreement with Dr. Johns* 1900 D-WIM/JO-877A, *Letter from Mr. Paterson* 1901 D-WIM/JO-877D.

PLANNING ISSUES CONSIDERED THIS YEAR

Grateful thanks to our Members (particularly the late and sadly missed Robin Moy) who shared their concerns about planning issues affecting Poole under the difficulties of the pandemic. My thanks also go to those who have already responded to the advert seeking help in dealing with expected consultations associated with a proposed plan for our 'three towns partnership' and since many hands make light work – we could do with more volunteers, to help ensure "common sense" prevails. It now seems responsible, at the turn of the year, to outline some of the matters that have been considered, as follows :-

1: Poole received 1421 formal planning applications which were considered by us and which required 199 comments to be made for the benefit of the relevant Councillors. Our comments tried to be supportive when possible but some had to be strong objections. We applauded the approach to community engagement adopted by the development team for the Thistle hotel site on the Quay which had produced

an exciting architectural scheme and also ensured that the applicant became aware that provision of genuinely affordable housing is a local priority. However, and with regret, we did recommend refusal of that application since it failed to serve the established priorities of the 'public interest' - namely those to provide or facilitate affordable dwellings.

2: We have examined the Poole sites on the Brownfields Register and established that many of them are tree covered. We now understand that all sites on that register can only be developed by compliance with normal constraints including the Habitats Regulations and the UK Bio-Diversity Action Plan, let alone the Climate Emergency. This was very reassuring as we continue to express concerns about the drive to require developers (interested in building dwellings that most locals cannot afford from earned income) to build excessive numbers of such dwellings. They create infrastructure imbalances for our communities and can increase harbour pollution. The recent review (submitted to HM Treasury by Professor Dasgupta)

about the Economics of Biodiversity is a welcome move - it advances a simple truth : **"our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it"**

3 : We have previously expressed our interest in the Town Centre North project (renamed The Heart of Poole project) and now part of BCP Council's "Visioning Processes". It is hoped that after the Full Council meeting (planned for the 23rd February 2021) we shall learn more about the necessary involvement of all our communities in finding sound and sustainable solutions to the increasing dereliction of large parts of our built environment.

4: We were pleased to learn that the playing fields at Turlin Moor are being re-considered for their suitability for housing : a matter that may just encourage the recycling of derelict, under-used and misused urban land before depriving anyone of recreation space.

5: We responded to the survey on "community engagement" by suggesting, amongst other things, that three or four pre-set meetings should

be set annually (with pre-notification of attendance to aid practicalities) – perhaps such meetings could be held by the Poole Charter Trust, to aid their duties of ensuring the intentions of the Royal Charters are being fulfilled (**Ad Morem Villae de Poole**).

6: We have disagreed strongly with the central government planning proposals (to weaken local and democratic influence on our built environment) and supported a 'vision for planning' produced by 18 organisations including the Town and Country Planning Association and the Open Spaces Society.

I look forward to further prompts / queries from Members over the coming months, to ensure that our Society does assist our various elected decision-makers as they consider how best to plan the future of our conurbation of which Poole is such a significant part. Such action should help ensure the welfare and progress of Poole as a valuable and respected partner in our region, the 12th largest local authority nationwide.

Gerald Rigler
Planning Sub-Committee
Chairman (2020/21)
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From the pen of
Len Way



Useful Phone Numbers

Adult Education 01202 262300
Adult Social Care 01202 633902
Bin & Street Cleaning 01202 261700
Birth, 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
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