



FOUNDED IN 1924

# *View* from Poole

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



AUTUMN 2022

[www.societyforpoole.org](http://www.societyforpoole.org)



The Society for Poole



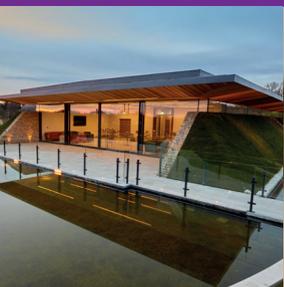
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SocietyforPoole

## 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

## Chairman's Note

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Society magazine.

It's been a long dry summer but I hope everyone is well. The Jubilee garden parties are all a distant memory! Unfortunately, we didn't have the numbers to make ours work so had to cancel the event however I hope everyone had a good time in their street.

We did not manage to make it to Harry Paye this year but have reached out to the Pirates to assist us with the Sea Bounds next year. This opportunity hasn't been picked up by them so we will have to look for a different date to make this work and may even have to push it back to 2024. This may not actually be a bad thing as we gear up to our centenary year! If you would like to assist in organising this event please let me know. We have meanwhile renewed the plaque at the Poole boundary at Branksome Dene prom and hope to get the blue plaque back from the manufacturers for Louie Dingwell in order for us to erect it at Sandbanks soon.

Meanwhile our £20,000 fund from BCP to refurbish a couple of the heritage lights at the bottom of Evening Hill may now be in doubt as their Engineering Department contemplate if we are allowed to "touch" any of their assets. Meanwhile we continue to stress that 7 years to



replace one of the damaged lighting units is too long and any further delays are unacceptable. Unfortunately, BCP appear to be a law unto themselves, as can be seen by Private Eye's description of the Council as the most corrupt in the UK, so their focus to save heritage assets such as the lights and the elements of the Civic Centre listed by the Society may not be fully relied upon despite assurances.

Nevertheless, our Planning subcommittee continue to work hard reviewing and commenting on planning proposals and the team will again be present at the Guildhall on 13th September for the Dorset Architectural Heritage Week open event. Also our Association with the Poole Maritime Trust continues, we have been invited to join a trip to Portsmouth with them and potentially are in discussions to hold a joint lunch at the RMYC in March 2023. More details when we have them. I hope everyone is able to enjoy any Autumnal warmth and I look forward to seeing everyone at our talks or at lunch in November.

**Mike Pearce**  
Chairman  
chairman@societyforpoole.org  
August 2022

## The Society for Poole

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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.

# The Lamp Post Saga



In December last year David Brinkman came to The Society to see if we could assist in getting the heritage light unit, which was removed from the sea wall in Sandbanks, back in place after it was damaged by a boat and removed by Poole Council some 7 years ago. Apparently, the insurance money had been paid but the Council had removed one unit of the damaged lights and had not repaired or replaced it. We have been pressing BCP to pick up the pace on this and whilst they said to David that it was not a priority, 7 years is an unacceptable period. In addition to pressing BCP on this light unit it was considered that all the units required refurbishment. The Society for Poole therefore applied for money to refurbish a couple of lights as a specific project. The

Society was subsequently allocated £20,000 as a CIL grant (Community Infrastructure Level – a pool of tax money from developers to be used for local projects). The grant was made in February 2022 but from January BCP's Engineering department has been unavailable to even respond to the numerous messages and mails sent. Finally with the assistance of Cllr Hedges (Chairman of BCP) and Cllr Haines (Sandbanks) a response was received so at least it can now be confirmed that the Engineering department has a pulse. Having now met their representative on site apparently the holding down bolts, which were set in the base for the repaired unit to be screwed to, were not straight (*it has taken two months to confirm this*) so they need to be adjusted before the light is returned to its place.



It was also confirmed that the light unit has, after 7

years, only been painted black. It was suggested by us that they also detail in gold the dolphins etc, as the other lights. So, fingers crossed that after 7 years and lots of mails from us as well as David the lighting unit will be installed soon and painted correctly. Meanwhile we have now been told that as we are not licenced to work on BCP assets we may not be able to do any work or to use the CIL money allocated (so it would have to be returned to BCP). When challenged to see if we could employ any licenced contractors, they refused to provide us with the names of any. Apparently, there is a legal liability issue with allowing The Society to be involved in the refurbishment of the existing units, even as a funder, so this has been referred to their legal department. On a positive note, I was assured that BCP would electronically test a sample unit for cracks and inspect the base to see how easy it would be to remove them in order to undertake the refurbishment work in the future. Hopefully our intervention will spur BCP into activity either with or without us. But I'm not holding my breath!

# A Poole Potpourri 40 years ago

by Jenny Oliver and with thanks to the pool museumsociety

The Borough of Poole Report for 1980 to 1986, depicts a time of rapid developments and changes, forty years ago. The report covers a miscellany, or in the words of the introduction, a potpourri of topics, the development of Canford Heath, civic heraldry, the electronic revolution, rebuilding Scaplen's Court, the Roman invasion, and the design of the new crematorium among them. At the time, Poole had a population of 128,000 compared with nearly 160,000 today. Two local government reorganisations were still in the future, the change to a unitary authority in 1997 and then to BCP in 2019. Local services were delivered partly by the borough and partly by Dorset County Council. Poole's Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer

was the late Ian Andrews, (a long-term enthusiast of Poole's heritage and member of the Museum Society). Computers were about to change the world, and telephones had already gone mobile and shrunk to the size of a mere brick. This article is a quick trip through some of the highlights and byways of the report.

## Poole Supporters

The leaping dolphin and three scallop shells are familiar from the Poole coat of arms at various locations across the town, but I must admit that I have never paid much attention to the supporters on either side of the shield. The report explains that these were granted to the town by the College of Arms in 1976 as a gift from the Rt. Hon. Oscar Murton, Poole's M.P. from 1964 to 1979. On the right of the shield

(or left as we look at it) is a golden lion holding an upright sword and standing on a grassy mound. On the other side is a golden dragon bearing a silver oar resting on blue and silver wavy lines representing water. The lion and sword are a link with William Longespee (Long-sword) who gave Poole its first charter and whose shield displayed rearing lions. The dragon is taken from the royal coat of arms of Queen Elizabeth whose charter of 1568 made Poole a county corporate. The same charter also gave the Mayor of Poole the position of Admiral of the Port, hence the oar. A silver oar is actually part of the civic regalia. The theme of land and sea is appropriately conveyed in the 'compartment' or base of the arms.

## Dignity and Serenity

In 1984, work began on the building of Poole Crematorium on a 10-acre site off Gravel Hill in Broadstone, screened with mature trees. The building was designed by the borough's Department of Architecture and Town Planning and aimed to express a feeling of dignity and serenity with strong,



Longespee tomb, Salisbury Cathedral and the Poole Coat of Arms

simple lines, a steeply pitched roof, and the use of natural materials, timber, clay tiles and brick. It provided a main chapel, waiting area, wreath display area and a chapel of remembrance. Work was completed in October 1985 and the building was dedicated in November by the Bishop of Sherborne at a multi-denominational ceremony. The following year, the council was delighted to hear that they had won a Civic Trust Award for the Crematorium. The judges commented that the building 'achieves a most appropriate calm, reflective result throughout, enhanced by a naturally beautiful and isolated setting, amidst natural heath and woodland. The building is characterised by sweeping, generous roofs, warm coloured, natural materials and detailing which is bold, economical, well-conceived, and well made.'

### Museum of Domestic Life

A rather different construction project described in the report was the partial rebuilding of Scaplen's Court, medieval merchant's house, inn, tenement house and, since 1929, museum. The building had been partially ruined by the collapse of a chimney through the roof in the 1920s and although tidied up, the front range



Poole Crematorium

was still open to the sky and presented a rather forlorn view to the High Street. In 1985, the Curator Graham Smith proposed a complete renovation of the building including reconstruction of the front range. The Area Museum Council Southwest would supply 45% of the funding. The project would provide better facilities and a better flow of visitors round the building, besides creating a large upper hall which could be used for events. Rebuilding took place in 1986, using appropriate materials and styles. The roof of the new hall, for instance, was designed to a medieval

pattern. The restored frontage was probably closer in appearance to the original building than at any time since the 18th century. Inside were displays illustrating domestic life at different periods, including children's toys and a Victorian kitchen, a hit with school parties.

### Greater yet smaller

The borough's involvement with office automation started in the days when a computer occupied a whole room rather than a pocket. As the report relates, Poole originally had an arrangement to use the Dorset County Council

computer but by 1981, communication difficulties persuaded the borough to buy its own small computer, an ICL model ME29, and three visual display units (VDUs). It was at this time that the information technology explosion really began, and by 1985, the council had about 50 VDUs, and a number of personal computers were working in specialist areas. In the accountancy section, for instance, four IBM PCs were networked together to allow financial spreadsheets to be used. In 1986, the ME29 was replaced by a state-of-the-art ICL series 39 computer bringing 'the latest in computer technology with much greater and sophisticated power, yet much smaller in physical size.' By now the computer was handling data processing in a many areas of the council's work and the new system was felt to be 'capable of expanding to meet all of Poole's conceivable future requirements.'

### Doing a Wheelie

Another form of rather lower-tech technology was on trial in 1986 – the use of wheeled bins for refuse collection. It's hard to remember that before they were introduced, men physically carried the bins to the dustcart for emptying or the rubbish was carried across in bin bags. This



Paving work on High Street

heavy work caused a high rate of industrial injuries, and there was also the problem of waste being spilled or blowing about in windy weather. The new bins could be wheeled across to the cart and were lifted by hydraulic means. Their close-fitting lids also meant less spillage. The trial of the new bins involved 10,200 households and was an overwhelming success, resulting in a decision to adopt the wheelie method throughout the borough. Elsewhere, however, wheels were out. After a series of traffic bans and one-way orders, the High Street was finally pedestrianised in 1986 with new paving, seating and tree planting.

### Village on the Heath

By the time of the report, the development of the

Canford Heath estate had been in progress for about 20 years. The area being developed had expanded from 200 to 733 acres and 3,500 homes were planned or completed. All types of housing were included, blocks of flats, starter homes, elderly persons' dwellings, council housing, Housing Association and private sector development. The borough also needed to provide facilities for the community, in effect creating a new village on the heath from scratch. At the centre of the development was the Neighbourhood Centre, the International Stores, a supermarket of about 20,000 sq ft., 10 other shops and a pub. There was also a car park for 400 cars, a petrol station, public toilets, a health clinic, doctor's surgery, St. Paul's church, and 4 squash courts. A first school was built opposite the Neighbourhood Centre with another in the plan, depending on demand and a secondary school was under construction by



Scaplen's Court before and during the rebuilding



Canford Heath shops and Fighter Pilot pub

Dorset County Council. A sports facility and youth centre, open space and recreation areas were also planned. The streets of Canford Heath were named after pilots of the Royal Flying Corps and Air Force, and the pub was christened the Fighter Pilot.

### Discerning Holiday Makers

One growth industry during the period covered by the report was tourism. Ten years before, it had brought about £10m into the town's coffers but now the sum was approaching £50m. Poole prided itself on attracting 'a new generation of discerning holiday makers seeking a combination of activity, comfort, culture, entertainment, history and scenery'. The new tourist information centre on the quay had proved very successful, dealing with about 300,000 enquiries, twice the expected number. New or improved attractions included Upton House, open to the public from 1981, Sandbanks beachfront with upgraded facilities and a refurbished pavilion, and the rebuilt Scaplen's Court. The Arts Centre was well established, and a new maritime museum was in the planning stage. Tourism was creating jobs when traditional industries were declining, encouraging the growth of small businesses, and helping to sustain

amenities for the local population. In fact, the tourist sector was likely to be a very important part of Poole's economy in the future.

### The Romans are here

It might be a surprise to find the Roman invasion of 43-4 AD featuring in this 1980's Poole report. The link is an excavation carried out at Lake Gates near the Stour in the early 1980s by the Poole Museums Archaeological Unit. The area was first investigated by Norman Field in the 1960s to try to determine why the Roman road from Hamworthy to Badbury Rings abruptly changed course at this point. His excavations revealed the presence of a Roman fort, commanding the river crossing, but its extent was not clear. The Poole dig was carried out in advance of the building of the Wimborne by-pass across the part of the site. It revealed a section across the western defences of the fort, which consisted of a small outer ditch and larger v-shaped inner ditch backed by an earth and timber rampart. Behind this was an inner perimeter road or via sagularis. Timber slots revealed a partial outline of two barrack blocks, while demolition pits in the area of the officers' quarters yielded pottery, including samian ware, bronzes and other artefacts. Outside the fort was evidence

of industrial activity. A magnetometer survey of the southeast corner of the fort enabled its size to be estimated at about 30 acres, suitable for half a legion (about 3,000 men). Hamworthy is believed to have been a supply port for Roman troops during the invasion of the south and west, and the fort at Lake Gates probably served as headquarters for invading troops or during a later consolidation phase. It seems to have been abandoned and demolished around 65 AD.



*Samian ware bowl*

This is just a sample of what was occupying the time and attention of the borough council 40 years ago. There is a lot more in this 177-page report which I have omitted, (including many pages of serious civic statistics) but I hope this gives a flavour of the times.

### Jenny

Main sources: *Borough of Poole Report 1980-1986. Poole Borough Council ed. M.A. Thomas Assistant Town Clerk. / Reeves, D. The Muse and Poole Museums. Memoirs of Graham Milton Smith Poole Historical Trust 2014.*

## Annual Lunch Wednesday 16th November 2022 The Grasshopper, Poole

Unfortunately the Quay Hotel has decided to double their charges from that of last year as such we have decided to transfer our loyalty to the Grasshopper pub at 139 -141 Bournemouth Road Poole BH14 9HT.

We have secured a large area just for us on the ground floor and there is plenty of flat parking for everyone.

They have asked for the menu choices by the end of October, it helps us to know numbers and they will need to cater for all of us, an unusual number for November lunch time!

As previous years we kindly ask if you can fill in the separate menu choice leaflet which is within this View from Poole and return it to Gill Kershaw together with you cheque so pass it on.

We hope again to have the Mayor joining us and look forward to a lovely lunch in a nicely refurbished old Poole pub.

I look forward to seeing everyone there then.

**Mike Pearce**



Grasshopper, 139 -141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT.

# PLANNING catering for local needs

TRUST is a fragile thing - easy to break, easy to lose and one of the hardest things to get back.

Planning is based on Trust. Why else would the law be satisfied that once an approved planning application has been started it will be delivered? Also central government imposes sanctions on Local Authorities who fail "The Housing Delivery Test" : nonsensical when Local Authorities do not deliver all of the housing for which they have granted approved planning applications, unless (of course) central government still trusts that no applicant would fail to do what they had applied to do. Perhaps, one day Parliament will be minded to ensure substantial delivery (within a reasonable time) of approved plans rather than rely upon nominal starts.

For the first time, our new Unitary Council is tasked with preparing a Local Plan that is acceptable for the local three towns partnership and it has recently been announced that the current "community engagement and evidence gathering" stage will finish in early 2023, so that a "draft Local Plan" can be issued by the beginning of September 2023. Obviously, since the eventual Local Plan will affect decisions by the Council over many years (probably three local election periods), we need to ensure the 'public interests' of Poole are fully recognised. So far we have commented on the Council's "Issues and Options" document (copy of our comments available on request) and we are seeking to find ways of checking that what we have expressed has been understood

correctly. Our team of Members (concerned with the proposed Local Plan) do appreciate that our concerns relate to a 'marathon' (rather than a 'sprint') and expect to consult with each other when the Council releases any insights into its proposals. It is held that Poole does well when it deploys 'common sense' and therefore, please let me know if you would like to help us in insisting that **Trust in effective planning must be promoted** by use of 'common sense'.

At the moment some Councillors have received a planning report which stated that "a third support our (the planners) overall vision" but the full data show that "over 40% disagreed with the overall vision to be the UK's newest city region brimming with prospects, positivity, etc.". More importantly the Council has been advised that there is strong support for lower housing numbers (when compared with the higher target numbers advocated by central government) and that there should be real effort to deliver the right mix of homes including affordable homes. "Build, build, build" has not lowered (or even stabilized) the prices at Sandbanks.

Also, from our perspective, it seems necessary to ensure that planning law operates to serve the 'public interest' as intended by Parliament. Poole, like many places across England, has too many approved applications for dwellings that are not delivered although technically they have



been started by the demolition of existing buildings and then the site is hoarded for purposes best known by the landowner. The impact on affected communities is the accumulation of cleared urban sites and demands for release of greener land – even protected Green Belt land. It is hoped that other sites in Poole will not be added to the existing cleared sites until there is real evidence that existing buildings cannot be repurposed or sold to another owner without any need to consider approving a relevant "change of use".

Lastly, please do not hesitate to share your personal views with us so that our Society is fully enabled to try to minimise misunderstandings which undermine trust in effective planning for the common good : every little helps. Such assistance should aid us all in serving the local public interests Ad Morem Villae de Poole, not just the interests of developers / landowners.

**Gerald Rigler**  
Planning Sub-Committee Chairman  
(2022)  
gerald.rigler@gmail.com

# Land Boundary Plaque

You may not be aware but the Society tries to maintain our town boundary markers where we can. The plaque at Branksome Dene was looking well weathered as such we decided to replace it with a new plaque but retained the old wording. This would not be an issue if we hadn't changed our name in between the erection of the plaque and now. Maybe next time we'll remove the "Society of Poole Men" wording!



## DORSET HOUSE

Coles Avenue | Hamworthy | BH15 4HL

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Care South is a leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care homes across the south of England and a **not-for-profit charity**.  
Registered Charity No. 1014697

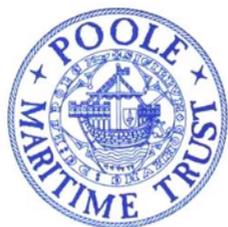


In the heart of the Poole community



# Care South

It's the care that counts...



## POOLE MARITIME TRUST ANNIVERSARY COACH OUTING TO PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>**

### COACH DEPARTS

Selsdown Lane, Poole (opp, bus station) 08.45

Canford Cliffs library 08.55

Westbourne Bingo Hall 09.05

### COACH RETURNS

Depart Portsmouth 16.00 Arrive back (approx) 17.30 – 18.00

**Inclusive fare £30.00.**

Ticket entry to the dockyard will entitle guests to enjoy three of the following onsite attractions:

HMS Victory

The Mary Rose

HMS Warrior 1860

National Museum of the Royal Navy

Action Stations

HMS M.33

Boathouse 4

Laser Quest Portsmouth

Dockyard Apprentice

Victory Gallery

For full details and booking form see PMT website -

[www.poolemaritimetrust.org](http://www.poolemaritimetrust.org)

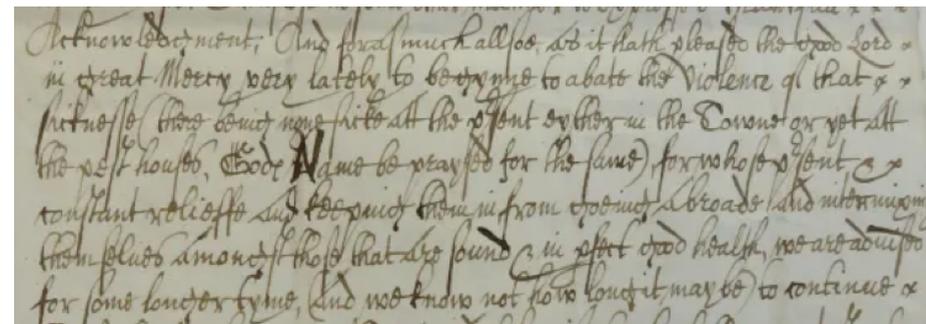


# Charitable Benevolence



The year was 1645, the date, the 12th December and the country was in the midst of the Civil War. The town clerk of Poole, Richard Bramble, took up his pen to write a letter of thanks to the parishioners of Christchurch for their charitable gift to Poole during its recent ordeal, an outbreak of the dreaded plague.

According to the town accounts, the gift consisted of £9 13s 7d in money, four small cheeses, a bushel of meal and six bushels of Hampshire corn to be made into bread. To a town in isolation, struggling to nurse the sick, contain the epidemic and feed its citizens plus a garrison of parliamentarian soldiers, such gifts from local towns were a matter of survival. Fortunately, Bramble was able to report that there were at last no new cases in the town. The letter, in his distinctive handwriting, can still be seen in the Dorset History Centre archives. The language is flowery by modern standards, but the sentiment is heartfelt: *fforasmuch as wee are credibly given to understand the the good Lord hath beene most graciously pleased to stir upp your hearts to Consider and Commiserate the miserable and sad*



Gentlemen

*distressed Condition of the poore and needy sick people of this towne and Garrison of Poole by rayseing a free and charitable Benevolence towards their Relieffe & Subsistance for wch your pious & zealous Care wee humbly returne you abundant & humble thanks till fitter Opportunity may minister Occasion in some other manner to expresse our thankfull Acknowledgment; And forasmuch allsoe as it hath pleased the good Lord in great Mercy very lately to begynne to abate the Violence of that sicknesse (there being none sicke at the present eyther in the Towne or yet att the pest houses, Gods Name be prayed for the same) for whose prsent and constant relieffe and keeping them in from goeing abroade and intermixing themselves amongst those that are sound and in pfect good health, we are advised for some longer tyme, (and we know not how long it may be) to continue their*

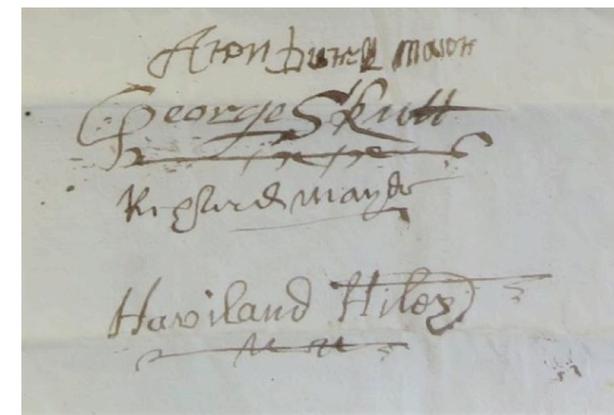
*Relieffe & keepinge of them in and likewise to cloath the greatest pte of them before we may safely lett them abroade, to our exceeding great charg farr beyond our abilities; These are therefore to desire you to be pleased to make or cause to be made, the delivery of your charitable Benevolence towards their Necessities unto our loveing friend Mr John Pittman the bearer hereof, whom we have addressed unto you herewithall for the same, whereby you oblige & engage us evermore to rest & remayne.*

Your ffaythfull & very thankfull loving ffrinds:  
Aron Durell maior, George Skutt, Richard Mayer, Haviland Hiley. Poole the 12th day of December Anno Dmi 1645

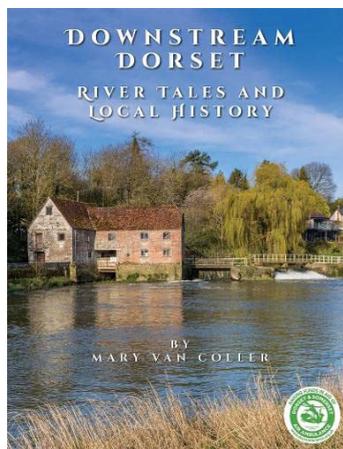
The pest houses mentioned in the letter were rough wooden houses, probably about 10 in number, hastily built to nurse the sick in isolation. They are believed to have been built at Baiter where many of the dead were also buried.

**Jenny Oliver**

Poolle Museum Society  
Main sources: The Christchurch letter (Druitt 79/26), Poole Town Accounts 1645-6 (DC-PL/DA/2/82)



# Book Reviews

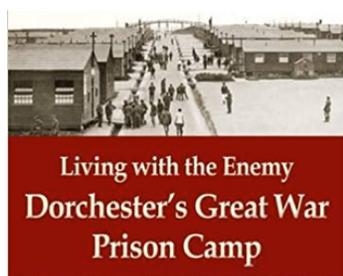


## Downstream Dorset

An easy-to-read journey of exploration and discovery along the rivers and streams of Dorset. Written by Mary van Collier  
Country Books **£14-95**  
(Available on Amazon or local bookshops).  
20% of profits go to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance )

## Living with the Enemy – Dorchester’s Great War Prison Camp

For those of you who missed Brian Bates fascinating talk at the last Society for Poole meeting, on Dorchester’s First World War I prisoner of war camp, he has written a book on the subject. Available from Amazon **£12**



## Who killed Lawrence of Arabia?

A director of a film shot in Dorset is publishing a book about the death of Lawrence of Arabia. Mark JT Griffin, who directed the award-winning Lawrence After Arabia, publishes the nonfiction Who Killed Lawrence of Arabia? on August 16. At more than 200 pages, the book expands on the evidence shown in Mark’s film and examines in depth Lawrence’s motorcycle crash near his Clouds Hill home near Wareham, which ended his life six days later. Mark said: “It is the result of many years of intense research, drawing on references including biographies, original documents, maps and photographs, many in colour, and is the first time that all the information on Lawrence’s crash has been contained in a single volume.” To order a signed copy of the book visit the website <https://www.lawrencethemovie.com/product-page/who-killed-lawrence-of-arabia>



**The Society for Poole**

Promoting Poole; its history, culture and people

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### 12th September Dorset Architectural Heritage Week

Guildhall Poole; Open Day (morning) 10am – 12noon  
There will be short talks at 10:30 and 11:30am

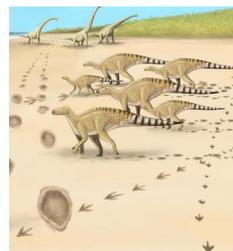


### 20th September Talk - Mary Sparks Mapping the Manors

(Exploring the landscape and landholding in Rowbarrow Hundred Prehistoric to present



### 18th October Talk - Don Nutt Alleyways of Old Poole



### 15th November Talk - Brian Petit Wildlife of the Jurassic Coast

**All Society for Poole talks take place at the Royal British Legion Hall, North Road Poole BH14 0LY at 7pm for 7:30pm start**

## 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

Pest Control  
01202 261700

Road & Pavement Maintenance  
01202 265255

School Admissions  
01202 261936

Street Lights  
01202 262223

Toilets  
01202 261700



COMPTON ACRES



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- Hand crafted children's toys
- Stylish kitchenware
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