

View from Poole



FOUNDED IN 1924

View from Poole

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



WINTER 2022

www.societyforpoole.org



The Society for Poole



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SocietyforPoole

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TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

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Chairman's Note

Welcome to this the Winter 2022 edition of the View from Poole.

It is getting dark again however I hope everyone is keeping warm in these difficult times, it won't be long until Christmas and longer days – honestly.

We remain committed to Poole's heritage however things are becoming more difficult with BCP being a larger and more impersonal organisation, the fact that we are part of a larger conurbation doesn't help as there is less of a focus on Poole itself. It is therefore disappointing that our present Mayor, as passionate as he may be, appears to have got swallowed up in the system. We desperately need our heritage leaders to step up, be bold and to be a rallying point for the cause of Poole, to shout loudly about heritage issues of concern to us all and to effectively communicate between like minded groups when battles need to be fought. Unfortunately, since the creation of Charter Trustees, this does not appear to be the case. All Poole Councillors are part of the Charter Trustees for the town and must take a step forward. The debacle of the Remembrance Sunday event in Poole Park is an embarrassment to us all and must not be allowed to be replicated.

To this end the Society continues to fight for the missing heritage lamp post, recently trying to cajole the CEO of BCP Mr Graham Farrant, as well as the Chairman of BCP Cllr Hedges (who has previously supported us on this point). We have been told "soon" and indeed



I have been asked to attend a meeting, so fingers crossed we can make progress on this and the refurbishment of a couple of the light units for which we have been allocated £20,000 but have been blocked so far from doing anything.

We are also now committed to our next large project which is to Beat the Sea Bounds in 2024. This, one of Poole's most high-profile heritage events, has not occurred for several years and indeed the last event in 2016 with Mayor Xena Dion, had to be organised unofficially as the Poole Council of that time, wouldn't sanction the event. This time we hope to shut the Quay, provide an afternoon of entertainment on the Quay with sea shanties etc whilst the sea bounds are beaten, returning to a pirate event on and in the Quay! Presently we have reached out to Poole Maritime Trust, Poole Rotary, Pirates of Poole and PHC but hope to engage with local businesses and other organisations to create the full experience. This will be a fitting event for our centenary year in 2024 and one I hope everyone can come along to and enjoy. If however you are able to help us organise this please let me know! Meanwhile keep warm and safe.

Mike Pearce
Chairman
chairman@societyforpoole.org
November 2022

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

Jan Marsh
Janette.marsh@ntlworld.com

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.

Annual Lunch

It was a pleasure to see everyone who attended our annual lunch at the Grasshopper. We welcomed the Mayor, Cllr Tony Trent and presented him with our pennant and honorary membership of our Society for the year.

It was an opportunity to better understand his approach to the role and aspiration for the rest of his term in office and allowed us to see if we could gain his assistance to work with the Charter Trustees for our Beating of the Bounds in 2024.

By the noise around the table it is hoped that everyone enjoyed the lunch. Many thanks for Jan Marsh for coordinating the event and to the staff of the Grasshopper who looked after us so well.

We will look to see if we can get back to the Quay Hotel next year however the supplement of £500 for the room hire this year meant that it was decided to try somewhere new.



Proclamation of the King

I am proud that The Society for Poole organised the proclamation to the new King in September. Motivated by the disorganisation of BCP Council and the Charter Trustees of Poole who failed to confirm or communicate their intention to make the proclamation we stepped up and was pleased to arrange our Town Crier, David Squire, to make the Proclamation from the steps of the Guildhall.

The proclamation was undertaken during the open day of the Guildhall, which The Society for Poole took the lead, in support of the Dorset Architectural Heritage Week. The event regularly held has been promoted by the Society for many years but it gave us the perfect opportunity to cover the heritage of the building with the proclamation itself.

With 200 people gathered David stepped out on the top step and made an excellent scripted speech for the whole of Poole. Unfortunately, the Mayor, who was invited, supported the event but did not appear in his official capacity. Indeed, it is regretted that the Mayor, 5 days later, under pressure from the BCP machine, made the same speech outside the empty Civic Centre building to a handful of Councillors.



Buying a Corn Mill on the High Street - Poole and the London

One of Poole's public houses with a long and interesting history is the Butler and Hops in central High Street, known for 100 years or so as the London Tavern Inn, which has occupied two buildings on the present site. It was in the early 1760s that John Butler, Gentleman, rebuilt or converted a house on High Street into an inn known as the Angel. In 1766, it was given a new name of the French Horn and Trumpet and by 1771, the London Tavern name appears in local press notices. As one of the larger inns in Poole, the London had an



A MACHINE TO LONDON.
POOLE, WIMBORNE, RINGWOOD, ROMSEY,
and WINCHESTER MACHINE, (through Alresford, Alton, and Farnham) in one day and a half, for the winter season, is removed from the Saracen's head, in Friday-street, to Mr. John Lomax's, the Bell and Crown inn, in Holborn. Sets out from thence every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at four o'clock in the morning, and from the London tavern, Poole, at eleven the same day, meet at Romsey, and return to London and Poole the day following. Price as usual.
 The Proprietors are determined to make this Machine as commodious and expeditious as any in the kingdom, by endeavouring to remove every occasion of complaint, and providing a proper guard; but will not be accountable for cash, plate, jewels, writings, &c. unless entered and paid for as such.
J. SHIPTON, POOLE.
E. GILBERT, STAINEL.
J. LOMAX, LONDON.
 Perform'd (if God permit) by

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 20th Mar 1775

important part to play in the life of the town. It was there that Poole merchants and businessmen could catch the

coach which ran three days a week to London, taking only two days for the journey. The rooms of the inn were frequently in use for official meetings and gatherings. In 1771, for instance, bankrupts John Churchill and Peter Jolliffe the elder met with their creditors 'at the house of John Baynton, the sign of the London Tavern Inn at Poole'. The trustees of the Turnpike Trust held their meetings there for many decades. In the early years of the 19th century, the authorities hired a room at the London to hold inquests, when sad stories were often revealed. Naval Lieutenant Alexander

W. GOODWIN begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has taken and entered on the **LONDON TAVERN INN**, in the High-street, **POOLE**, and has laid in a choice stock of spirituous liquors, &c. and trusts by a strict attention to merit their support.
 Gentlemen Travellers will have a good bed, and every attention paid to make them comfortable.
 Those who frequent the Market, may be accommodated with a room, and any quantity of provisions ready dressed, from 6d. and upwards.
 Good Stabling for 22 Horses. [269]

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 26th Jan 1801

Richardson was probably suffering from extreme depression when he hanged himself from the bedpost with a handkerchief in 1804. The verdict was that he committed suicide being 'lunatic and distracted'. Even more tragic was the death of a 3-year-old boy, Richard Taylor, who blew into the fire and accidentally set his clothes ablaze. Neighbours quickly smothered the flames, and applied oil and treacle, but he died later from burns and shock.

Auction sales were frequent. In the comfortable surroundings of the London Tavern, you could put in a bid for a horse or a house, buy a carriage or even invest in a sailing ship like the ketch *William and Catherine* (74 tons) and the 90-ton schooner *Amity* on offer in 1807. Businesses were offered for sale there, a corn mill and mill house by the River Stour at Longham Bridge and in July 1811, a Poole brewery, with dwelling house, malthouse, offices and twelve tied public houses, including the Jolly

Sailor, Air Balloon, Anchor and St. Clement in Poole and the George and New Inn in Longfleet.



The old George Inn and toll house, Longfleet

The London Tavern was also a centre for the liberals in the town and in the election of 1818, a dinner was given for the (defeated) candidate, Christopher Spurrier and his supporters. His carriage was drawn to the London Tavern by 'the populace' preceded by a band with colours flying. The dinner was served in high style and consisted of 'every choice delicacy the season could afford and wines of a superior quality'. The evening ended with loyal toasts, songs and speeches,

Mr. Spurrier's address being greeted by 'thundering plaudits'.

The London Tavern's main business as a coaching inn continued to develop, as roads improved, and more routes and faster services were added. In 1815, the **Wellington Post Coach** operated between the London Tavern and Bristol three times a week, taking 13 hours or so each way. By 1822, the **Sovereign**, an elegant light post coach, was making the journey to

London in just one day. It left the London Tavern at 6 am. and arrived at Southampton in time to catch the London coach, reaching London nine jolting hours later (or around fourteen hours for travellers from Poole). In 1830, the London Tavern, together with the Antelope was used to accommodate some of the entourage of King Charles X of France when he arrived at Hamworthy on his way into exile. The former king himself was entertained by the Welds at Lulworth

Mr. Sands made his public entry into the town between eleven and twelve o'clock this day. Mr. E. Brown drove the ten beautiful cream-coloured horses, accompanied by the whole of the stud, down the High-street, round the Quay, and returned up Hill-street to the London Tavern Inn. The manner in which Mr. B. handled the reins excited the admiration of all, more especially on his return when he drove into the London Tavern yard, and that which most considered impossible was performed so cleverly as to astonish every one—the task being accomplished by that gentleman with the greatest facility. The weather having turned out unfavourable, the attendance this morning was but indifferent. There is, however, no doubt but the pavilion will be crowded this evening.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal 26th May 1843

Castle. A very different sort of visitor was Richard Sands and his American Circus, which visited Poole on tour with its stud of 35 horses and 25 equestrians in 1843. The spectacular entry of the horses into the London Tavern yard was much admired.

The growth of the railways gradually curtailed the coach routes. Soon, the London coaches from Poole were travelling only as far as Southampton where passengers could travel on by rail in greater speed and comfort. In 1847, the railway reached lower Hamworthy. William Furnage, the enterprising landlord of the London Hotel (as it was now known), made a virtue out of the new era by providing a horse-drawn omnibus to meet every train 'day and night' and convey the passengers over the Hamworthy bridge to Poole, with an omnibus three times a day to Bournemouth. He also collected the mail

for distribution through the town and acted as an agent for the South Western Railway Company. When the railway at last connected Poole with Bournemouth and beyond in 1874, the hotel's omnibus routes were made



redundant, but its services were still in demand by travellers, local organisations including the Poole Liberals, auctioneers, businessmen and others. In May 1874, the successful Liberal parliamentary candidate,

Mr. Charles Waring, was pulled in his carriage by his supporters from the London Hotel to Parkstone, round the town and back to the hotel, preceded by an omnibus carrying the town brass band. Unfortunately, Mr. Waring's agents were accused of bribing the electors with promises of unlimited beer, and he was unseated.

Photographs of the London Hotel show a plain Georgian 3-storey brick building of 8 bays with sash windows. At one time, a pillared portico sheltered the main entrance so that guests could alight from their carriages under cover. Access to the stables was probably from Hill Street at the back of the

premises. As the need for stabling diminished, the out-buildings were put to other uses. At one stage there was a bar accessible only from Hill Street, known as the London Tap.



High Street with the London Hotel on the right, decorated for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

It was in the 1930s that the proprietors decided to demolish the old hotel and rebuild in a more modern style. During demolition, a foundation stone with the date 1725 was found, and later built into the garden wall. The new building was designed by architects Cooper and Austin of Poole and built by Mr. R. J. Bishop of Parkstone, with paint, enamels and other supplies provided by W.E.Boone's in the High Street opposite the hotel. Most of the furniture

came from Harvey Nichols, including the green leather chairs in the lounge, and the kitchens were fitted out with the very latest equipment.

At the reopening in 1936, the local newspaper described the new building as 'pleasing in its simplicity' with 'the suggestion of hops in the Purbeck stone over the entrances'. The decorative '30s style windows are also highly distinctive. Round the walls of the lounge was a unique painted frieze produced

by Cecil Todd of the Poole Art School and some of his students, depicting Poole scenes, public houses and local characters (described and explained in Andrew Hawkes' book *A Pint of Good Poole Ale*). Several of the panels of the frieze are now in the Poole Museum. (see below) Only four years after the opening of the new London Hotel, the building was badly damaged during a bombing raid on Poole which destroyed the tailor's



A scene from the frieze - waiting at the level crossing, High Street



as the London Hotel until 1969, when it was renamed the Old Harry after the 15th century Poole pirate, Harry Paye.

In the last 50 years it has had several names including the Globe Café and now, the Butler and Hops, reflecting the name of John Butler who started the inn on its long tradition of hospitality, 250 years ago.

Jenny

Main sources: Salisbury and Winchester Journal / Poole and Dorset Herald / Hawkes, A. A Pint of Good Poole Ale / Oliver, J. The Book of Poole High Street.



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Poole Fish Shambles



A fish market was granted by Charter in 1667 By King Charles the second. It was in the High Street behind the Custom House. The Custom House then was in Strand Street, which then places the fish market was where Dibbins is today. All Poole fishermen were obliged to display their catch in the Fish Market 'for the better accommodation or victualling of

the inhabitants of Poole' before taking it for sale elsewhere. Shambles comes from the Latin SCANDLUM meaning a small bench or stall used for meat or fish sellers to display their wares. In 1789 it was relocated to Poole Quay near where the Pottery would be sited.





In 1830 was replaced by a new building on Poole Quay

In 1913 the last one was erected in November after the tender of Messrs E. P. Percy of Parkstone of £734.10.0. It was 63 feet by 26 feet.

End elevations red and blue Staffordshire bricks 'with local terra cotta dressings' while the side walls with 10 stall openings on either side of the building were reinforced brickwork partly fitted with white glazed tiles inside and out were set back 6 feet so that when the Market was not in use, it could provide 2 covered shelters both 60 feet long for fishermen and sailors. The roof was

slated and in the centre was a bell turret with louvered ventilators in which was hung the bell of the old building. In addition an 8 day clock complete with copper dial was put up in the west gable. The floors were concrete with cement rendering. The 20 stalls were arranged that when they were not in use they could be tilted upright to act as shutters. The surface of these stalls were covered with sheet metal and the iron framing was galvanised whilst the fittings and fastenings were of brass aluminium and galvanised iron to prevent rust carried by sea spray.



On 14th May 1914 the Mayor G.C.A. Kentish opened the new Shambles commemorated by a plaque on the western gable. Lighting was provided by gas 'each lamp being lighted and regulated separately by the attendant in

office." The Shambles were demolished in February 1959 by Comptons.

Today the Fish Shambles has been replaced with a shelter to look like the Fish Shambles, and it retains the name.



From the pen of Len Way



Blast from 100 years ago

If you have a Poole accent and think that in 2022 Poole is in trouble, have a go at translating this conversation from 1922 from Herbert Carter's book "Wha's Mar'r Wi Poole" conversational scaps overheard on Constitution Hill published in 1922.

WHA'S MA'R WI' POOLE?

I wor zot out on top 'ill, in me usual zeat t'other night, smoakin me evermen pipe and watchin' the sunset, when all 'twanst zummat put me in mind o' zummat as 'ad 'appened las wik an' me blood begin to bile accardin.

Zammy Bridle, 'im as doos a bit o' jobbin' gardnin' wuz zot up agin I an' I turns to 'ee an' zes, riled like,

"Look yere, Zammy," I zes, "do us live in Bourne or be it Poole? Is this yere Constooshun 'ill part an' passel o' Bourne ar is it a bit o' good ole Poole? Is Zandbanks an' Canvord Cliffs an' Branksome an' Branksome Park—be 'em all bits o' this yere Bournemouth ar be 'em still Poole?"

"Good Lar, Joe," ses Zammy, "what bist a-draivin at? Thee s'know zo well's I that, barrin' Purbeck 'ills, all's ye can zee from theas 'ill be Poole, an' Bourne a'nt got nothin' to do wi' it!"

"Sartin sure," ses I, "'tis what I've always believed; but these 'ere cherry bang conductor chaps 'ave a-meade me zart o' veel that p'raps there've bin a earthquake or zummat an' in the sheake-up Bourne 'ave a-come in an' collared the blimmin lot."

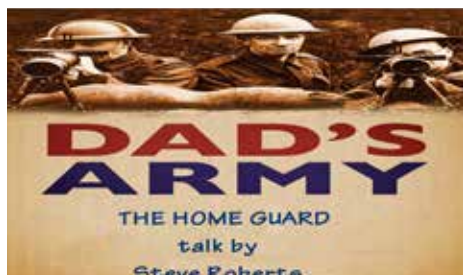
"Las' wik there come a big, blue motobang, as I calls the girt stinkin' contrapshuns. The draiver pulls en up jist be'ind where I was zot smoakin' an' the conductor begins to let off his 'ole yarn."

"Mos'ly lies, ban' 'em," ses Zammy.

"Lies is a mild word to use for all what 'e zed," ses I.

"Ladies an' Gents," ses 'e, "what 'ee zees in front of ee is the vinest view in Bournemouth. T'other side of Zandbanks are the blue watters o' Bournemouth Bay, an' overright Zandbanks is the purty li'l' villidge o' Studland what we'm gwain to jine up to Bourne wi' a steam-verry. Zandbanks, ladies an' Gents, is a risin' subbub o'

Society talks & AGM



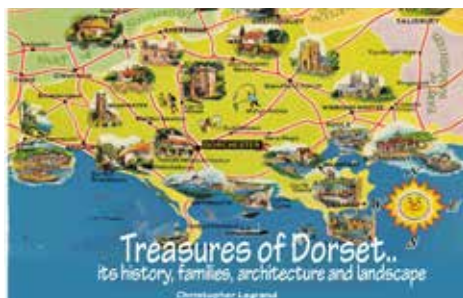
All Society for Poole talks take place at the Royal British Legion Hall, North Road Poole BH14 0LY at 7pm for 7:30pm start. Members £3 Guests £4 Pay on door

17th January - Dad's Army
Fact and Fiction
Steve Roberts



21st February - The true story of the African Queen
Kevin Patience

21st March - Treasures of Dorset, Christopher Le Grand



18th April AGM (FREE ENTRANCE)
Coffee/Tea and nibbles with a talk about the Poole Maritime Trust

16th May Talk - A Labour of Love
East Dorset Hospitals in WW1
Jan Marsh



Poole Maritime Trust Talks

At Royal Motor Yacht Club – Sandbanks - 7:30pm for 8pm
Talks are free to SfP members



12th January Talk
The History of Brownsea Castle
Speaker tbc

2nd February Talk
Defence of the Realm
Mike Curtis



2nd March Talk
The Lyser Legacy, the foundations of the Port Line Ltd (1937-1982)
Jonathan Clark

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