



FOUNDED IN 1924

# *View* from Poole

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



WINTER 2023

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



The Society for Poole



@SocietyforPoole



SocietyforPoole

## TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

*A fresh approach to funerals*



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

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

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### TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

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## Chairman's Note



Welcome to the Winter 2023 edition of our magazine. As it again is the time of year for short afternoons and long nights, we reflect a little on the year that has gone and the year ahead.

For the Society we have pressed ahead with two major projects, the Heritage Lights along shore Road and the organisation of Beating of the Sea Bounds. The heritage lights have gone well, as I write this, they have not been returned to their plinths but having seen them being renovated I am sure they will look fabulous. We have however also worked behind the scenes to press ahead with another Blue Plaque, opening the Guild Hall for Dorset Heritage Week and through the Planning Committee, continued to comment on the plan for Poole and specific planning applications.

We also continue to share talks with the Pole Maritime Trust and to develop closer links with them as well as share articles with the Poole Museum. However, it is the state of the heritage of Poole as a whole which is of most concern. The BCP Council appear to have abandoned any notion of the protecting the heritage of Poole as BCP gets distracted by other issues. With this in mind, it is increasingly difficult to talk to individuals within BCP about heritage issues or to identify people who have specific heritage and cultural sway. As such there is a real concern that Poole's history will be eroded and diluted as we lose any heritage champion.

This is manifest by simple things like the regalia of Poole's Mayor being locked away in Bournemouth and some of the items such as the mace not now seeing the light of day. The fact that the Mayor is now not the first person of Poole, this is now the Chairperson of BCP! Subtle it may be, but when Royalty visit Poole the Mayor is not the person to welcome them. This is a situation which it is hoped can be changed with the potential creation of a Town Council for Poole (within the existing BCP set up) The Society supports this initiative and hope that we can, by small steps, continue to make a difference.

Mike Pearce  
Chairman  
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August 2023

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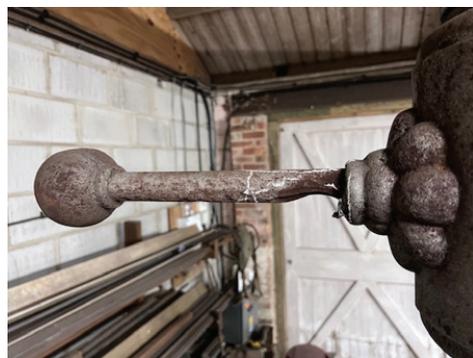
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**VIEW FROM POOLE DISTRIBUTION**  
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Executive meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at The Royal British Legion, North Road, Poole.

## Shore Road Heritage Lights



Many of you can remember the last few years when I have been saying that this project is going on behind the scenes and the frustration The Society has had to get this going. Well, as many who have walked or driven down Evening Hill will have noticed, the cast iron columns have disappeared and are now undergoing an extensive renovation.

In early September the columns were cut away from the plinths and transported to the foundry Ironwork of Distinction. There they have been stripped of all paint, inspected, elements replaced where the decay has been extensive, new fish have been cast to replace the broken ones and the columns are now being zinc coated ready to be painted.

The work has progressed really well although the amount of decay has been greater than anticipated. It was apparent when they inspected that sand had, over the past 100 years, been collected within the column and had formed an incredible inner 'crust' which is rock hard but which retains moisture and so it was critical to try to remove as much as possible. Also, the cast is mostly 20mm thick (nearly an inch – they built them to last in those days) and so the columns are incredibly heavy, but also fragile, as can be seen from the damage to the fish at the base of the units.

The lantern itself has been removed and taken away by BCP to be upgraded to take LED lamps and to be renovated and repainted to match the column. BCP have, now that

the project is up and running, been very supportive as such a special mention a Lynn White of BCP Engineering who has supported the works over the last year.

There is no specific time scale for the completion of the columns (the next issue is that the black paint is so specialized and hard that the gold colour will not attach to it – we are presently working this through), but we anticipate that they will be in place by Christmas and, when done, will highlight the glory that they spread when they were first erected.

We have applied for more funds to keep the project going and are waiting to see if we have been successful.

**Mike Pearce**

## Annual Lunch

The Society held its annual lunch at Isobel's Penn Hill on Wednesday 15th November. Unfortunately the Major Jo Clements couldn't make it so the Deputy Mayor Tony Trent stood in. The meal was excellent with lots of debate on each table. I'd like to thank everyone who made it out to us including David Squire, the Town Crier who woke everyone up by making the introductions as Master of ceremonies.

The annual lunch is an excellent opportunity to get together away from our talks and to reach out to see if there are things that our members consider we should be doing. The door of the Executive Committee is always open. Indeed there is a wish to broaden the Committee and we welcome anyone to step forward to assist in the running of the Society and to help manage specific heritage projects.

During the lunch we held a raffle with the top prize of a meal for 2 being donated by Isabel's themselves. The agreed charity was for Oesophageal Cancer. £126 was made at the lunch which will be combined with an event held by Jan March and her sister Jill to make a meaningful donation to the Charity.



Photo captions?

## Falkland's Plaque - Remembrance Day



### Falkland's Memorial Plaque

A potential new project - The Society for Poole has been presented with the second casting of the Falkland's Memorial Plaque, which form the centre of the memorial in Port Stanley, The Falklands. The bas-relief was commissioned by Gerald Dixon and designed by the sculptor Faith Winter. Mr Dixon had a house in Poole as well as being a 3rd generation Falkland Islander. His daughters have gifted the plaque to the Society for it to be available to the people of Poole.

The Society has had it transported from Liverpool to Poole and is now in discussions to locate the relief in the town. Suggestions have included against the sea sculpture all on the Quay and near the cenotaph in Poole Park. The relief is very heavy and very large (71 stone – 450kg and measuring 10ft x 3 ft -3m x 1m) so there will need to be a sturdy wall against which it can be located. The original memorial in Port Stanley of which SfP as a duplicate.

Once again, The Society for Poole has laid a wreath to the fallen at the cenotaph in Poole Park. Jan Marsh did the honours.

Last year there were issues about timings, so we have been pleased that this year it was much improved.

**Mike Pearce**



## 1787: Poole's First Sunday School – Solving its Mysterious Origins

**These children in period costume are from the Skinner Street United Reformed Church, Poole, re-enacting what is surely a unique founding for any Sunday school in the world, in its bicentennial celebrations.**

According to Densham and Ogle, in 1787 John Clench (Clinch, in some histories), 'a native of Bere Regis', ferried fifteen or sixteen Sunday school children across from Hamworthy to Poole. He walked them first to St. James' Church, but the warden declined to welcome them, then on to Skinner Street Congregational Chapel (as it was then), where a Sunday school was duly established and then thrived without further involvement from him.

The storyline echoes that of the stranger from nowhere who visits a community,



accomplishes a heroic deed, before (in Hollywood, at least) disappearing into the sunset leaving behind a boon. But why start a Sunday school in Hamworthy, only to gift it to a Poole church? Could Mr. Clench be identified, given his uncertain surname and so few historical details about him? Could his



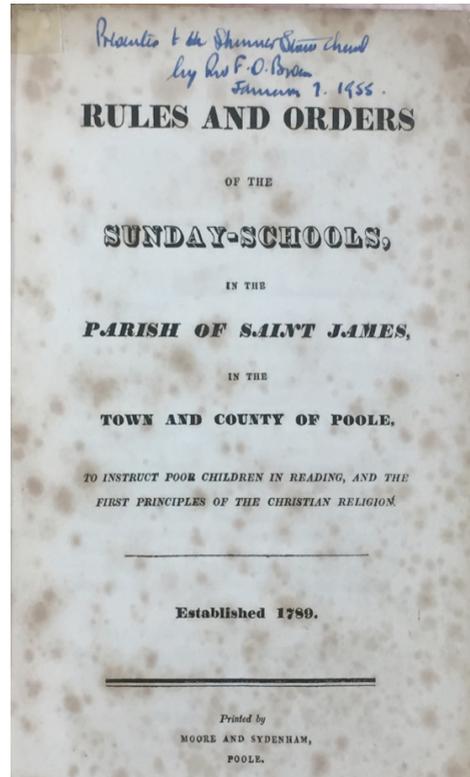
*Raikes with a Sunday school scholar*

sudden disappearance be explained? Incuriously, Densham & Ogle offer limited additional information. Mr. Clench lived in Hamworthy temporarily. Visiting Gloucester, he met Robert Raikes (1736-1811), the figurehead of the Anglican Sunday School Society (founded in 1785). Inspired, Mr. Clench copied its model back in Hamworthy, where there was no place of worship. Wanting the children to adopt the habit of regular Sunday worship, he ferried them across to Poole.

The Sunday school model Raikes promoted through his newspaper, *The Gloucester Journal*, and through a network of highly influential like-minded religious reformers, was started by Mrs Meredith in her Gloucester home in 1780. However, in 1769 a High Wycombe-based Methodist, Hannah Bell (1734-92) was an earlier pioneer, revealing an origin within independent dissenting churches. The key contributions of the newly formed Society were its model rules and a national vision. It is no stretch to trace universal child education back to these modest beginnings.

Short (1932) and H.P. Smith (1937), were the first local historians to explain why Hamworthy had no church, or rather, no Anglican Church. It had been destroyed by Roundheads in the 1640s and was not rebuilt until 1826. Barbara Kerr identified the Sunday school's mystery benefactor as one of the Clenches of Bere Regis, farmers there for generations. Had his local lineage been so familiar that earlier local historians omitted it? But if so, why was it not founded in Bere Regis? Further, the compressed storyline still remained unsolved. Then the equally 'shadowy': Mr. Clench appeared in my research.

According to an online history of Newfoundland, Rev. Dr. John Clinch (1749-1819) was an Anglican medical missionary there, the centre of an even more remarkable story (see below). Could this be Skinner Street Chapel's mysterious founder? The website features two primary historical



sources: articles which had sourced Clinch's correspondence and contemporary Newfoundland parish records, the former authored by John W. Davies (1970). Both sources link Clinch to Poole and Gloucestershire and are a far better match than Mr. Clench of Bere Regis as the true Poole Sunday school pioneer. Frustratingly, however, neither directly identify him as such, although the circumstantial evidence is convincing.

Dr. Clinch had been baptised in Cirencester's parish church in 1749 and had trained as a doctor alongside the illustrious Dr. Edward Jenner (a life-long friend from school days). Both were mentored by another medical pioneer, Dr. John Hunter. Dr. Clinch emigrated to Newfoundland as a medical missionary for the (Anglican) Society for the

Propagation of the Gospel in 1775. He settled and married in Trinity in 1783/84. His patients and parishioners included fishermen working for the Poole-based Newfoundland fisheries associated with the Lester, Slade and Garland merchant families.

Most significantly, the website records Dr. Clinch's ordination at St. Paul's Cathedral on 2 March 1787, placing him in England in the right year. Back on this side of the Atlantic, H.P. Smith provides the missing corroborating evidence: the membership records of Poole's Lodge of Amity: Dr. Clinch was a founder member (31 March 1780) and visited Poole a number of times, sailing home from Poole at least once. In 1817, he received permission to form a daughter Lodge in Trinity (corroborated on the Newfoundland website). Crucially, Smith identifies Clinch as Poole's Sunday school pioneer, repeating this story of its founding. Further, prominent Lodge members included some of the above-named merchant families.

Dr. Clinch was the minister of the St. Paul's Anglican Church, Trinity and a founder member of Trinity's Lodge. Its online parish registers record that his first born was christened *Edward Jenner* Clinch (1 January 1786) and that his sixth child was named *Frederick Garland* Clinch.

All historical accounts of the Sunday school's founding agree it was in 1787. This is why the date of birth of Clinch's second son, Thomas Clinch (3 January 1788) is so instructive. There were exactly ten months (inclusive) between Rev. Dr. Clinch's March 1787 ordination and Thomas' birth. (His homeward Atlantic journey would take two or three months.) Therefore, the Sunday school must have been gifted to Skinner Street in early 1787. The sense of the urgency hinted at in its origin story begins to make sense, possibly explaining why he gifted it to a dissenting, not an Anglican church - his first choice. (The relationship between Anglican and dissenting churches was generally one of antipathy.)

Some histories claim it was only because Hamworthy was in a different parish that

St. James' declined a golden opportunity. (*Only two years later, playing catch up, it formed its own Sunday school, on the Anglican model - see RULES AND ORDERS opposite.*)

These threads - Anglicanism, Gloucestershire, Raikes and the Sunday School Society, the Newfoundland-Poole links and a possible explanation of the compressed storyline - all converge upon Rev. Dr. Clinch, but barely at all on John Clench.

On that same Newfoundland website another article provides conclusive proof: Roger Guttridge of Wimborne (2000), cites his own and Ron Harding's research. (The latter was an elder of Skinner Street URC - now deceased). Guttridge writes: 'In response to [his Trinity parishioners'] petition, Clinch returned to Poole in 1787 to begin an intensive course of study and training for the priesthood. He lived during this period at Hamworthy and once again made good use of his remarkable talents...'

Quoting Ron Harding he adds, "Whilst there he gathered together a group of children who had no opportunity of attending school, taught them to read and write and introduced them to the teaching of the Bible." Then the familiar founding story is retold, ferry and all. Some of Guttridge's dates, however, seem suspect: first, Clinch must have been in Hamworthy earlier than 1787, if he was preparing for his ordination there, which makes sense. Second, Guttridge must be mistaken that Clinch returned to Newfoundland in 1789, given the dates above concerning his second child. Clinch's medical renown in Newfoundland? As in Poole, his renown had been largely forgotten.

The plaque, over page, (erected in 1968) commemorates the rediscovery of his pioneering small pox immunisation in St. John's and Trinity in 1800. He was the first to



immunise a 'New World' population. Jenner had sent him his treatise, *An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolate Vaccine* (1798), along with the vaccine. Hundreds, if not thousands, were saved. Both events reflect Clinch's character: a determined, self-effacing pioneer. Not so much a Hollywood loner, unable to settle anywhere, a commitment-phobe, more a regular saint, perhaps.

© Kit Pearce

Sources consulted:

*The Story of Congregationalism in Dorset*; Densham, W. & Ogle J.; (1899) / *Poole - The Romance of its Later History*; Short, Bernard C.; (1932) / *History of the Lodge of Amity No. 137*. Poole; Smith, Harry P.; (1937) / *Bound to the Soil - A Social History of Dorset 1750-1918*; Kerr, Barbara; (1975) / *A Historical Note on the Rev. John Clinch - The First Canadian Vaccinator*; Davies, John W.; [Transcribed from *The Fisherman's Advocate*, August 28, 1970] / *Vaccination began in Newfoundland*; Guttridge, R. Website: Newfoundland Grand Rapids <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Articles/clinch1.shtml> Photographs copied with the permission of Skinner Street URC.

Image of Robert Raikes: <https://research.lifeway.com/2018/07/17/sunday-school>

## From Pickaxe to Paver

Recently I came across an estimate from 1843 for repairing and 'Macadamizing' parts of the High Street and it made me think of the difference between the process of road surfacing today and in early Victorian times.

Everyone who has been into Poole in the last few months must have noticed that there have been a few road works in progress. Drivers into the town centre found themselves waiting in queues or undertaking unexpected little tours, directed by lines of red barriers and bollards. At first the pattern changed every week but once the resurfacing started, it was every half day or even every couple of hours. Bus stops were in and out of use like yo-yos and pedestrians learned to watch out for traffic on the wrong side of the road, smoking tarmac beneath their feet and rapidly approaching rollers.

At one stage, the resurfacing vehicles were parked at the end of our road in all their colourful splendour. The most intriguing one was a strange hybrid beast with two sets of tracks, an extended body and a long conveyor belt stretching out in front. Each morning, the kitchen cabinets would start to vibrate as this machine trundled past, like some pre-historic creature from a dead-end branch of the evolutionary tree. Some minutes later it would trundle back in reverse, but the precise purpose of this excursion, I never discovered. However, I would get to see the beast in action a couple of days later.

Back in 1843, the stone paving of the High Street was in a poor condition and the Borough Surveyor had requested a specification for resurfacing, using the relatively new technique of macadamizing. John Loudon McAdam was an experienced road engineer who had learnt his trade on the

turnpike roads of Scotland and the West Country. Adapting the techniques of road builders like Thomas Telford, he believed that massive foundations were unnecessary as long as the road surface was strong and waterproof. An underlying 20cm layer of stones 7.5cm or less in diameter was covered by a 5cm thick layer of stones only 2cm in size, much narrower than the iron wheels of the carts and carriages that travelled over it. This top layer was spread very carefully and evenly with only a slight rise to the centre of the road. No binding material was applied and it was found that the passage of the traffic alone would create a strong weatherproof surface.



Workmen in upper High Street



The corn market fountain later in the century

Twenty years or so after the first macadamized roads were laid down, Frederick Easton of Oakley wrote out his specification and estimate for the High Street job. The stretch to be resurfaced was from Weston's Lane to the Quay and Easton proposed that the present paving should be broken up 'and the stones

cracked on the spot to a size not exceeding one Inch & a half in Diameter'. The road as far as the corn market was to slope at least six inches from the centre to the sides with new border stones for the gutters where necessary. The top layer of stones was to be carefully laid 'at the rate of Eight yards in every perch and to have at least one yard of clean sand mixed with it'. From the corner of the corn market to the Quay, the road (being narrower) would slope not more than 3 inches from the centre to the sides. The corn market was 'to be curved and formed to the pleasure of the Surveyor' and there were some adjustments such as lowering the road near Morcom's house about 6 inches and eliminating a dip near Fish Street (now Castle Street). The cost for the whole job, 'to be performed in a workman like manner and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor' was £140.

If the present road works have caused some inconvenience, imagine the situation of the High Street residents and shop-owners in the 1840s. The road in front of their premises was to be torn up, presumably by a team of men with pickaxes and then the area would become a stone breaking yard with men hammering away all day long to reduce the stones to the size of small pebbles. How long they and their customers would have to put



up with the disruption, dust, mud and noise is anyone's guess.

Today the process of breaking up the road surface is much more streamlined as I discovered the day I saw the beast at its work. Hitching itself up on its tracks it manoeuvred into place and then with an unseen claw, started carving away the surface of the road with amazing speed, sending the broken fragments of tarmac up its conveyor belt neck into a truck moving slowly in front. No pickaxes, shovels or wheelbarrows needed. As I understand, this creature is called a road planer or as I like to call it, planersaurus. To resurface to road, the paver is brought into

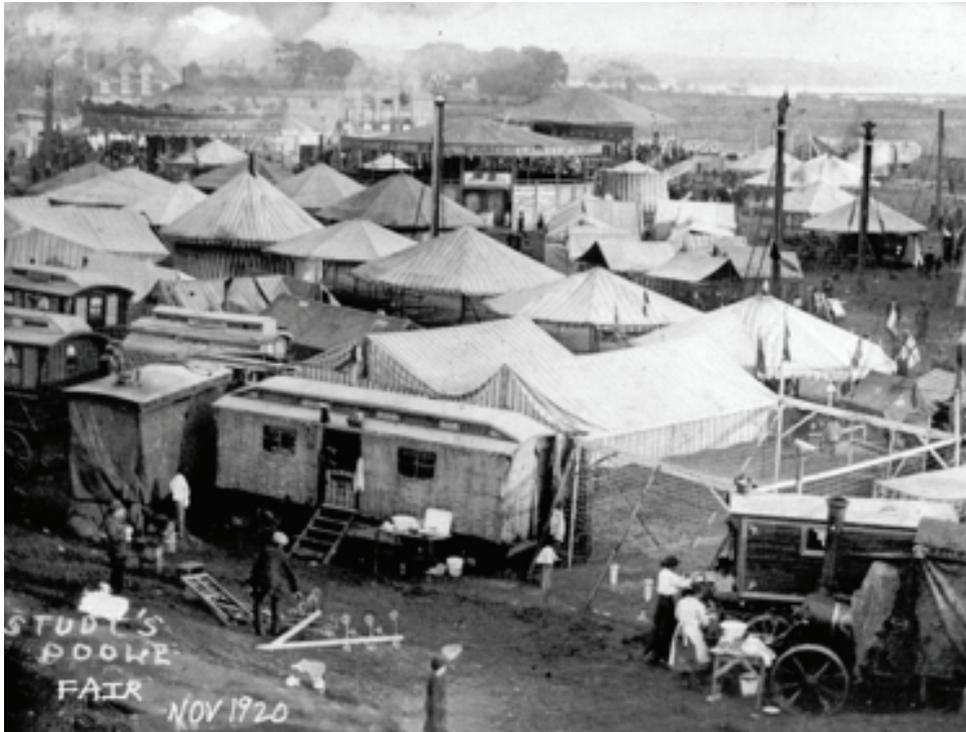
*Below: Roller and paver on Longfleet Road*

action. These square tarry machines move forward at a snail's pace, emitting steam and leaving a trail of sticky black tarmac behind them. The amazing thing is how such cumbersome vehicles manage to avoid grids and manhole covers so skilfully. Then the rollers are deployed to compress and smooth the final surface. The truth is of course that the machines are operated by men as skilled at their different jobs as the workmen of the 1840s. Nevertheless it was somehow reassuring to see a few awkward sections that the vehicles could not reach being tended by men with wheelbarrows, long-handled shovels and hand rollers.

**Jenny**

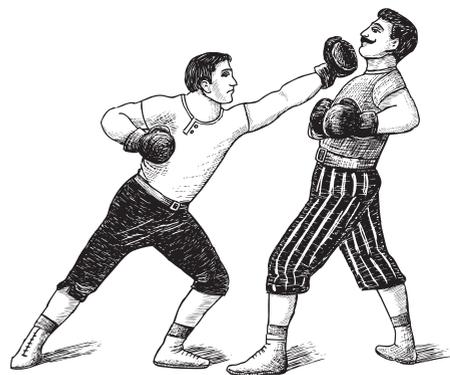


## Memory Corner



### Poole Fair

For many people, excitement meant that Poole Fair would be held on land behind the Telephone Exchange in Wimborne Road on the Stadium Car Park in the November as per the Charter given for Markets and Fairs. Our Founder told of the time he had challenged the Showman's Guild with proof of a charter to show the right of a Poole man to take part in the Fair, and thus Mr Bartlett of Strand Street, was able to set up his Coconut Shy each year, and would tour all the summer shows including the Traction Engine Shows, returning to Poole with his caravans to be parked at the rear of the Poole Arms on the Quay where his winter home was built. Poole Fair had many shows no longer seen including



boxing booths and games of chance winning a goldfish in a plastic bag of water. This return was welcomed after the war years without "the fair".

[Whither Poole & its Society. Chapter 4 p. 59]

## Memory Corner



### Ladies Walking Field

The Public Enquiry [1966] into the redevelopment of Ladies Walking Field was about to start with objections from residents affected at Kingland Road and organisations concerned at the loss of public open space. Following the closure of the Ropewalks, the land opposite the town's gas works was separated by the Poole to Bournemouth railway line and had been used for circuses, Poole Show, football pitches and was about to disappear under the new shopping complex called Arndale and an adjacent bus station. Householders along Kingland Road would be displaced for the new Arts Centre. There were two main objectors, one being Mr E J Cole who maintained that the "land exchange proposed at Baiter was not comparable to that being lost, and that the land at Baiter was full of water". Strange really because Ladies Walking Field regularly flooded each winter making football extremely difficult. The other objector was none other than Mr L Streatfield complaining that Baiter was too far away and Ladies Walking Field was used

daily. The Society of Poole Men had been objectors, but had negotiated this exchange of land brokered with the Council and the Ministry for Housing and Local Government. The Society had withdrawn objections having secured 7.64 acres, the size of Ladies Walking Field, at Baiter on reclaimed land, in addition to "Baiter Island". Mr Ernest Walter Gale, the Director of the Park and Recreation Department for the Borough of Poole, when called to give evidence to the Inspector, had recalled the amount of use for football over four seasons and the value of lettings. Between 1939 and 1945, the whole area was devoted to the provision of allotments, and following the war had been re-instated as public open space and for playing fields in 1948/49. Three Association Football pitches were made available and sub-standard dressing room facilities in a wooden shed with no lighting or washing facilities. The land was prone to flooding in winter. The Arndale Shopping Centre was built, now known as the Dolphin Centre.

[Whither Poole & its Society. Chapter 9 p. 125]



## Poole House

Ever busy, the Society in 1964 was involved in preventing the demolition of Poole House (also known as Styring House after the Poole brewer Frederick Styring) which was now in the ownership of the Dorset Iron Foundry then set up at Barbers Piles. Originally owned by the Weston family and built 1730, it had seen better days. They wanted a modern office block on the site, but there was a post war directive to create more modern roads so to do what they wanted to do would have meant losing the first fifteen feet for the provision of a road. After moving back fifteen feet there was little room to create an office at all! Society President "Jack" Valentine, was doing great things with the Society and indirectly the town at this time. He had suggested to the Dorset Iron Foundry, that it should approach the problem in a total new concept. Keep the original shell of a building, and rebuild within. Thus the restoration became a first for the town. It was taken down a brick or

stone at a time cleaned and re-erected but with a false ceiling on the ground floor and a void in the space above this and below the original roof. To all intents and purposes the building looked exactly as it had done when first built. The Society received plaudits and congratulations from Mr Stell of the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments for its efforts in retaining the building and overcoming the official line. When in later years the Foundry was relocated outside the Old Town, the company that acquired the land for housing, achieved a "reversal of Poole House" putting back all the requirements internally with one exception. Thus in 1988 inside the magnificent front door are two separate doors as the property is divided internally into two units.  
*[Whither Poole & its Society. Chapter 9 p. 121-2]*

## The National Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales, and its association with Poole.

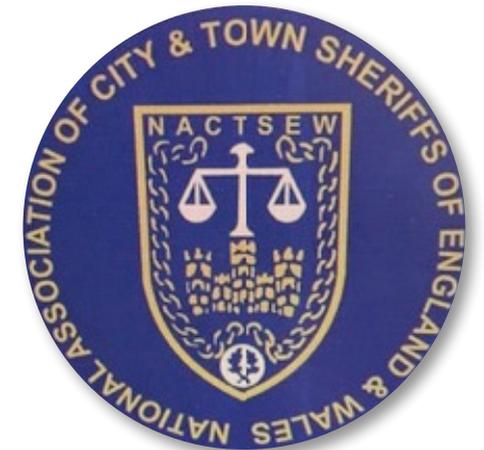


In days long past, during the Anglo-Saxon era, the word for chief was Gerefa, which later became shortened to Reeve. The Reeve was the chief of the various Shires and was appointed by the Monarch to run such things as law and order, and collection of taxes. The name Reeve became Shire Reeve, which name was changed to Sheriff in the reign of King John in 1215 when he presented the Magna Carter. During the ensuing late medieval centuries, various Monarchs, as well as appointing the Shire Reeves, appointed City and Town Sheriffs wherever such an appointment would be beneficial to the Crown. This was often because of the importance of seaports, or trade or industrial interests. The Sheriff was separate from the county sheriff and when a town or city was chosen, they became counties in their own right, separate from the High Sheriffs of the Shires or Counties.

Poole was granted the right to appoint a Sheriff of the County and Town of Poole by a charter issued by Queen Elizabeth 1st in 1568. Many other charters were granted over the centuries and, while many have faded into obscurity, some survived into the 20th century. In the late 19th century, there was a shakeup of local government where a second tier of local government was created by dividing

all administrative counties into either rural or urban districts. This very much reduced the power and necessity for town and city sheriffs, and many Shrievalties disappeared. However, some survived, including Poole where the history and heritage was deemed of too much importance to lose.

In 1972 there was another reform of local government that nearly saw the end of the City and Town Sheriff, but 19 clung on to the ancient title. Poole applied to Queen Elizabeth 2nd for a charter to continue with the sheriff which was duly granted with the continuation of the title of The Town and County of Poole, being the only town to have been granted a charter by two Queen Elizabeths. By 1984 the number of sheriffs had dwindled to just 15.



It was in the year 1984 that the Sheriff of Gloucester, Andrew Gravells, decided to try to do something to save the decline of the city and town sheriffs. He called a meeting of all the 15 sheriffs, most of whom turned up for a meeting at Gloucester City Hall. Poole's Sheriff



at the time was Randolph Meech, who shared Andrews concerns. With the other assembled sheriffs, it was decided to form the Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales, which is still going strong to this day.

The members of the association are as follows, in alphabetical order: - Berwick-On-Tweed, Canterbury, Chester, Gloucester, Haverfordwest, Litchfield, Lincoln, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Poole, Southampton and York. The current sheriffs of all the shrievalties attend an annual meeting, held at one of the towns or cities. The last one to be held in Poole was in the year 2015, when Zena Dion was sheriff. A general meeting was held in the council chamber, trips were organised, and a formal dinner was held at The Sandbanks Hotel. The weekend finished with a civic service at St James Church.

All the shrievalties keep alive ancient traditions which can be found on the National association's website. The tradition that is celebrated in Poole is The Beating of the Bounds, a tradition that was revived by The Society for Poole, formally The Society of Poole men. They organise the event which

is attended by the Mayor and Sheriff. This year sees another enactment of the ancient practice that was brought in before the days of maps, to inform people, especially youngsters, of the maritime boundaries of Poole.

I was Sheriff of Poole in the years 2009 to 2010 and really appreciated being part of the rich history of our fine town. I attended many civic events, accompanying the Mayor of Poole, always carrying my wand or staff and always before the Mayor in procession. This was to enable me to carry out my duty of protecting the Mayor from any attempted attack by fending them off with the staff. I also sat in the front seat of the Mayoral car, signifying the position of sheriffs in the time of the horse and carriage by sitting next to the coachman in case of any attack. The wand or staff, still used today is surmounted by a crown, signifying the association with the Monarch.

**who is article by as it refers to when I was Sheriff in 2009-2010?**



## Society talks

All Society for Poole talks take place at the Con Club, Darby's Lane (opposite Oakdale Church) BH15 3EU at 7pm for 7:30pm start (members of SFP and Maritime Trust £3, guests £4)

### 16th January 2024 – Talk

Punching the Tide – Pleasure boats from Bournemouth Pier  
*Peter Lamb*

### 20th February 2024 – Talk

Secret Poole – Spies of East Dorset and Poole *Ed Perkins*

**19th March 2024 - Talk** Purbeck Narrow Gauge Railway  
*Peter Sills*

**16th April 2024 - Talk** Purbeck Narrow Gauge Railway  
*Peter Sills*

**21st May - Talk** Tbc

**18th June 2024 - Talk**

19th Century Poole – Lives & Letters of Faith *Kit Pearce*

**17th September 2024 -Talk**

Dorset Shipwrecks *Gordon Le Pard*

## Poole Maritime Trust talks

At Royal Motor Yacht Club – Sandbanks - @ 7:30pm for 8pm unless stated Talks are free to SFP members

**4th January 2024**

Poole Maritime New Year Luncheon at RMYC (PMT Members ONLY)

**11th January 2024**

Peter Burt and Robert Heaton (Poole Maritime Trust) 8pm 'Underwater with PHHP in '23' – An archaeological update for work in and around Poole Harbour over the last year with our own

**8th February 2024**

David Bailey (*Wild Life Photographer*) will give a talk entitled 'Good Hare Days'. David is an author and fabulous photographer

**7th March 2024**

Leigh Merrick and Richard Balmforth (*Reuters – Eastern Slav Specialist and Bureau Chief*) will give a talk on the Ukraine. (Full details to follow)

## 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

