SUMMER 2021

EPINES AND CHINES

The magazine of the Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association



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Welcome

I am writing this just after the non-essential shops have opened and we are proceeding along the route to normality, whatever that is. Do hope that all is well with you and yours.

I think one thing that I noticed during the lockdown was how different people looked without a visit to the hairdresser. I eventually went for the 'homemade' kind of cut and no doubt will receive some comments when I venture to the barbers in Penn Hill.

The garden is growing again, and the grass will soon need mowing which means I sit on the veranda and observe. I class myself as a 'static gardener' who likes watching other people actually do the work but delights in the bursting of colour that work produces.

Looking out on the garden I now understand why my Dad liked the spring so much. It really is a time for rebirth and renewal. However, not everything works out and a few years ago we planted some vines but so far it would have been much cheaper simply to have bought grapes from Tesco. I think we have had four grapes in total.

Still, it is the getting outdoors that is important and the lockdowns have meant we are walking more than ever before and have thoroughly enjoyed the cycle rides to Sandbanks. You really do see much more the slower you travel, and I continue to be amazed by what we did not notice when travelling by car.

The magazine will get to you after the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, I do hope you took the opportunity to vote. Talking about crime, the government is pushing through legislation to strengthen police powers in dealing with unauthorised encampment which is good news for us. Several times in the past residents have suffered from anti-social behaviour followed encampments on the Beach Road car park.

Cycling along the Chine is still an issue although it is good to see the Council have put up 'No Cycling' signs and enforcement is ongoing. The overriding point is that the Chine is a much valued, conservation area and people need to respect that.

One area the Association is currently looking out is how the significant sums raised by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in our area are spent. It appears that very little is spent in our area and there are plenty of issues concerning road safety that need addressing. The sums involved are in the millions! Watch this space.

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Design & Print: Shadow Design Bournemouth www.shadowdesignbournemouth.co.uk

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As always, however, we need to remind ourselves that we live in a fantastic location. Enjoy it.

Thanks to all our contributors and if you feel a nagging desire to write an article for the magazine then please contact me. Does anyone have a hobby they would like to share with their neighbours?

Enjoy the read. Very best wishes John Gunton



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Association's magazine and, thank you, as always, to the Executive Committee and members for their continued support.



Despite the fact that the Association has been unable to hold its regular monthly meetings since March 2020 and its Annual General Meeting in April 2020, the Executive Committee were able to meet at Compton Acres, adopting Coved 19 guidelines, until the beginning of this year when Tier 3 restrictions were introduced and all group meetings were cancelled.

Subsequently, the Executive have been kept in touch during the latest 'lock-down' by email and telephone calls.

We hope to renew the Association's monthly meetings as soon as Covid 19 restrictions allow us to do so. In the meantime, a note for your Diary – the Association's AGM is, provisionally, planned for **11 December 2021** at 10.00 am at Canford Cliffs Village Hall

I wish to pay tribute to all members of the Executive during this difficult time...

Roger Allen, our Vice-Chairman who has done a sterling job keeping the Association running while we search for a new Chairman and, also, keeping our website www.pinesandchines.co.uk, up-todate, with Newsletters and other items of local interest.

Roger also continues with the assistance of his loyal band of helpers, to look after the Sunken Garden at Pinecliff Gardens. Volunteers to help with this work are always welcome.

There has been no let-up in the referrals to Dugald Eadie, our Planning Officer, and he has handled these in his usual efficient manner. Dugald also produces a regular monthly report of Planning decisions affecting the areas of Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs which is published on the Association's website.

Jackie Heap, our Treasurer continues to carry out a sterling job in this role, whilst, at the same time, doubling up as the Association's Membership Secretary, whilst we continue to search for someone willing to take on this role.

Vicky Moss, our Special Projects Co-ordinator continues to work tirelessly with the help of our Ward Councillors and BCP Council officer, Wayne Terry, to deal with anti-social behaviour incidents in Branksome Park Woods.

BCP Council is inviting bids for money from its updated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Portion scheme from May 2021 and Vicky is co-ordinating the Association's response to this opportunity.

John Gunton, our Magazine Editor, has been busy putting together this edition of our magazine and, last but not least, grateful thanks

Does something feel different to you?

You may have noticed that this edition of the Pines & Chines magazine feels different to previous editions and this is because we have switched to an uncoated recycled paper.

When I first met Roger Allen and John Gunton to discuss the redesign of the magazine, both were keen to improve the print and finish of the publication. We recommended using a silk paper throughout with a gloss laminated outer cover as these finishes give a premium feel, help attract advertisers and improve picture guality. However, the material and the finishes used are not as ecofriendly as they could be. The gloss lamination on the outer cover is essentially a plastic covering and therefore we removed this and the paper used throughout the magazine is now an uncoated recycled paper.



to Carol Parkin, our Honorary Secretary.

I set out below the Aims and Objects of the Association. For example, from time to time, we receive reports from residents concerning Planning Enforcement, Tree Preservation Orders/Tree replacements which are passed on to the appropriate BCP Council Department for attention.

John Sprackling President

In manufacturing all paper starts out uncoated. Paper is made out of bleached wood fibres, fillers, clay and caulk fillings. To make silk paper, a white clay and caulk filler is used to cover up any imperfections in the paper and this gives it a smooth and brighter appearance. It takes more energy to make the paper this way and therefore is less 'green' compared to uncoated paper which, although goes through 'processes', doesn't go through as many compared to silk.

In the past uncoated paper was only used for office stationery or home printing, certainly not for high-end publications; uncoated paper absorbs the ink and dulls down pictures and colours.

However, it is being used more and more, and the reason for this is that the paper hasn't changed, it's the printing presses that have improved and now use LED-UV ink drying which results in much richer colours even on uncoated paper.

Pines & Chines magazine has always been printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) papers, which means that the trees the papers are sourced from come

The aim and object of the association

The aim of the Association is to protect the interests of residents, and to investigate on their behalf any aspects which could be detrimental to private properties or public services.

The Association endeavours at all times to maintain good relationships with the Poole Borough Council and to bring to their notice all matters which adversely affect the amenities of the whole of the District.

It also submits

recommendations to the Council concerning any plans, developments or financial matters which would improve the Environment, Community, Safety, Amenity and Cost Effectiveness of the area and the residents' quality of life.

The Association is a member of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

The minimum Annual Subscription is £5.00 per member (or couple). There is a special bulk subscription rate of £3 per flat for apartment blocks.

from sustainable forests, and the ink used in the printing process, are vegetable based. By changing the paper stock and removing the lamination it now makes Pines & Chines magazine a much 'greener' publication.

Ross Saunders Shadow Design

Treasurer's Report

Our financial position continues to be in good order and I am pleased to report a surplus for 2020 of £1,520. Our bank balance has increased to £37,075 at 31st December 2020.

During the year the membership fee was streamlined to £5.00 per household and the fee for the bulk apartment block scheme was increased to £3.00 per apartment. This has resulted in the income from the bulk scheme rising in the year. We have struggled to collect subscriptions from individual households due to the Covid-19 situation. The effect of the changes is an increase in revenue from membership fees of £1,250 in the year. You may be interested to know that the majority of the membership now resides in apartments rather than individual households.

The Summer 2020 was not produced as a print edition and advertisers were not charged for advertising space. The executive committee agreed to extend the free advertising to the Winter 2020 edition to support those local businesses through a very difficult year.

During the year our main area of expenditure were the magazines, £3,087 and the maintenance and development of the website, £1,232. The website is an asset to the association and during 2020 we have added PayPal in the hope that members will choose this as a method of paying their membership fees. We will be looking at ways to further improve the website in 2021. **Branksome Park, Canford Cliffs & District Residents' Association** Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions received during the year		7,685		6,435
Deposit interest		18		46
	-	7,703	_	6,481
	-	.,	-	0,101
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Magazine and circular expenses	3,412		4,345	
Less advertising revenue	325		4,810	
(Surplus) deficit	525	(3,087)		(465)
Committee and secretarial expenses	88	(3,087)	660	(403)
Committee and Association meetings	00 191		475	
Annual general meeting	-		458	
Legal and insurance	189		197	
Website	1,232		1,217	
Gardens	607		605	
Sundries	289		540	
		2,596		4,152
Donations and subscriptions				
•				
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights		500		750
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights		6,183		4,437
•				
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure		6,183		4,437
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights		6,183		4,437
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019		6,183		4,437
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund		6,183		4,437
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019		6,183 1,520 35,555		4,437
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund		6,183 1,520		4,437 2,044
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019		6,183 1,520 35,555		4,437 2,044 33,511
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by:		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by:		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by: Debtor-advertising revenue	22,981	6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520	22,963	4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by: Debtor-advertising revenue Cash at bank: Barclays saver account	22,981 5,767	6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520	22,963 4,746	4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by: Debtor-advertising revenue Cash at bank:	5,767	6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520	4,746	4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555 125
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by: Debtor-advertising revenue Cash at bank: Barclays saver account Barclays current account		6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520 37,075		4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555 125 3 <u>5,430</u>
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights Excess of income over expenditure Balance sheet at 31 December 2019 Accumulated fund At 1 January 2019 Excess of income over expenditure At 31 December 2020 Represented by: Debtor-advertising revenue Cash at bank: Barclays saver account Barclays current account	5,767	6,183 1,520 35,555 1,520	4,746	4,437 2,044 33,511 2,044 35,555 125

Approved by J. Sprackling (President) & J. Heap (Hon Treasurer) 25 March 2021

We continue to support local initiatives including the Pinecliff Sunken Gardens and the Canford Cliffs Village Christmas Lights although with a reduced donation of £500 this year due to the difficulties experienced in producing the display.

A large proportion of household subscriptions are collected by our wardens. My annual plea is that all members who currently pay their

Planning Report

Since my last report in September 2020 the planning process has been a bit variable, but progess has been made. As always, there has been some disappointment, but also some success.

of housing.

One area which has become a serious worry is the stretch of Burton Road from number 2 to number 6. There are now three separate applications for blocks of flats, which should not be possible in our main Conservation Area. If all three existing houses were demolished and replaced with blocks of flats, it would be detrimental to a large number of neighbours, including those in Dover Road. I have pointed out on many previous occasions that the existing blocks of flats in that area have large gardens, good tree coverage, and plenty of parking and garaging. None of that would apply in these three sites.

There have been a number of cases where Planning Inspectors have dismissed appeals where applicants wanted to increase density by site-splitting or by building houses so large that they are too close to the edges of the plot. The importance of tree cover has also been recognised. These decisions are mainly for sites within a Conservation Area, and I am pleased if that is still being taken seriously despite all subscription by cheque or cash consider alternative ways of paying either directly to the associations bank account or by using the PayPal facility on the website. If you were unable to pay your subscription in 2019 and/or 2020 I would be grateful if you would bring your subscriptions up to date. We have adopted a policy of removing members from our list every January if their subscriptions are more than 2 years overdue.

the pressure to increase density

Over our neighbourhood as

a whole, it is clear that we do

still need to see a continuous

process of development. There

are many properties which will

course. The challenge is how to

achieve this without destroying

In my view the key issues are to

avoid removing too much space,

and to try to preserve the sylvan

ambience by protecting trees,

new ones. As always, I remain

grateful to the Planning Team,

appropriate balance.

2 Wilderton Road.

APP/18/01072/F

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS

ALLOWED ON APPEAL

After a long and complicated

and retain the existing listed

building, but the immediate

process, the Planning Inspector

allowed this development of 25

flats. Most people have accepted

that it was not possible to restore

17 November 2020

who do work hard to achieve an

or at least planting plenty of

the overall quality of our area.

need to be replaced in due

Finally, I would like to place on record my thanks to Peter Schofield of Schofield's Chartered Accountants who has once again prepared the final version of the annual accounts without charge. Peter has kindly provided this service for many years and I am most grateful to him for his continued support.

Jacqueline Heap Hon Treasurer



neighbours would have preferred a smaller building, and remain concerned about their privacy. The new block of flats will be quite well shielded from the road, but there remains concern about the protected trees. The development has now started, and it will be interesting to see how it looks once it is completed.

3 Brudenell Road. APP/20/00407/F GRANT

23 November 2020

This site has been derelict for a number of years, and now there is permission to build a block of 6 apartments, together with 2 detached houses. Many immediate neighbours were unhappy with these proposals, but at least we can now expect the site to be restored.

2 Chesterfield Close. APP/19/01531/F DISMISSED ON APPEAL 11 January 2021

The Planning Inspector made it clear that this proposed sitesplitting was not appropriate in the Conservation Area. He

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EPINES AND CHINES

confirmed that the proposed 2 houses were too close together and did not leave enough space at the edges of the site.

4 Western Road. APP/20/00932/F DISMISSED ON APPEAL 18 February 2021

This was another revised plan for a block of 4 flats, with car parking on the ground floor. The Planning Inspector stated that the building was too large for the small site, and pointed out that many of the windows and balconies would overlook neighbours rather than the garden of the property.

16 Western Road. APP/20/00456/F DISMISSED ON APPEAL 19 February 2021

This appeal was lodged because of a lack of response from the Planning Department. Both versions of the proposed large house were included. The Planning Inspector pointed out that the existing bungalow was already on a split site, and said the proposed house was too intrusive and too close to the boundaries. The proposal was not consistent with the management plan for the Conservation area.

12 Eaton Road. APP/20/00698/F DISMISSED ON APPEAL 25 February 2021

This site-splitting proposal had an appeal lodged because of a lack of response from the Planning Department. Although it does not seem appropriate for the Chester Road Conservation Area, the Planning Inspector dismissed it for other reasons. A new application has now been submitted.

7 Canford Cliffs Avenue. APP/20/00424/F ALLOWED ON APPEAL 23 March 2021

The neighbours in Canford Cliffs Avenue and Widdicombe Avenue will be disappointed by this decision, which allows a new house to be built in the garden of the corner house. The new house will be much closer to the road than those next to it, and the access is on an awkward slope. The Planning Inspector decided that it was not inconsistent with the overall pattern of Canford Cliffs Avenue.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES STILL

OUTSTANDING 2 & 2A Burton Road/ 22 Balcombe Road. APP/19/01224/P 31 October 2019

As soon as the 30 flats were granted permission at 18 to 20B Balcombe Road, this new proposal appeared for a block of 37 flats. This should not be possible, as the site is in the Branksome Park Conservation Area.

Carisbrooke, 172 Canford Cliffs Road. APP/19/01569/F 6 January 2020

The BCP Planning Committee granted permission on 26 November 20 for this McCarthy & Stone development of 60 assisted living/extra care apartments. However, a decision notice has not yet been posted on the planning website.

2-4 Leicester Road. APP/20/00276/F 12 March 2020

This is a proposal to replace three bungalows with three blocks of flats (37 in total). It is within the Conservation Area, but of course is quite close to the McCarthy & Stone development in Lindsay Road. One serious problem would be the impact on traffic near Penn Hill, between the two sets of traffic-lights

6 Burton Road. APP20/00437/P 5 June 2020

The previous application has been withdrawn, and replaced with this new one, which seems to be very similar. It has received a large number of objections from neighbours. This is an outline application to demolish the existing bungalow and erect a block of 12 flats. The site is on the edge of the Conservation Area, and next to a listed building. The proposed building would have a particularly damaging impact on properties in Dover Road, and the parking and traffic issues are a major concern.

20 Leicester Road. APP/20/00558/F 30 July 2020

This is the third attempt to build a new house in the garden, next to the main road. Previous efforts were rejected by two different Case Officers and two different Planning Inspectors, but the applicant will not give up! This site-splitting should not be allowed in the Conservation Area. An Appeal has now been lodged, confirmed on 12 February 2021.

2A Martello Park. APP/20/01013/F 30 September 2020

This development has now been acquired by another developer who once more applied for permission to add an extra flat on the 5th floor, even though this was previously rejected. The application was Refused by the BPC Planning Committee on 18 December 20. An appeal has been lodged, confirmed on 21 February 2021. Meanwhile, two strange applications have been made by the same developer to add extra flats to neighbouring blocks of flats – these are requesting "prior approval", and seem to be related to the recent change in planning rules in relation to raising the height of buildings.

28 Bury Road. APP/20/00900/F 5 October 2020

This is a proposal to replace a tennis court with a detached

house. The site already has a history of similar attempts, and this one would be particularly damaging for the house on Canford Cliffs Road which backs on to it. There is also concern about the impact on the footpath which joins Canford Cliffs Road to Bury Road. As this is in a Conservation Area, the site-splitting should not be allowed.

Flaghead Cliffs (SE of Cliff Drive). APP/19/01265/P APPEAL

9 October 2020

This was a revised proposal for 12 new Beach Huts, after a previous one for more was refused. It is controversial because it is not clear how it would affect the safety of the cliffs, and they would be privately owned, meaning that the Council might not be able to control the use of the huts. Following the refusal of this application, an Appeal has now been lodged (confirmed on 9 October 20).

142 Canford Cliffs Road. APP/20/01365/F 9 December 2020

This site currently has a rather attractive "Mock Tudor" house called Mount Grace. Unfortunately, this is an application to replace it with a block of 13 2-bedroom apartments. There is a history of proposals for this site, all of which have previously been refused.

4 Burton Road. APP/21/00211/P 9 February 2021

This is yet another proposal, this time to replace the existing dwelling with a block of 13 flats. The first application was to demolish the existing single house and replace with 5 houses, with very little space for parking, and built quite close to the boundaries. After the refusal, a second application was made (15 Oct 19) to make changes to the existing house and build 3 new houses in the garden. This was also refused, quite promptly. The plot is in the Branksome Park Conservation Area, and should not be developed in this way. Residents of Dover Road are particularly concerned, as the plot is above their back gardens.

12 Eaton Road. APP/21/00339/F 1 March 2021

Following the dismissed appeal on 25 February 21, this application has been re-submitted. It still seems inappropriate for the Chester Road Conservation Area. The proposed house is very close to its neighbours, and uses a garden area that must have been left open deliberately when the road was originally developed. More trees would be a better solution.

Dugald Eadie

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Let's look at Lindsay Road

Starting at the junction with Leicester Road, close to Penn Hill Corner, Lindsay Road winds uphill to St Aldhelm's Church and then runs parallet to Poole Road util it joins the Frizzell Roundabout (County Gates).

A Lidl food store opposite the church in St Alhelm's Road was once the site of a newspaper and periodical printing plant under the name of Southernprint. Originally known as the Times-Herald building, the plant printed the Bournemouth Times. Poole and Dorset Herald and other local newspapers together with a number of national magazines and periodicals.

Houses listed in the 1918 Kelly's Directory for the north side of Lindsav Road after St Alhelms were Wyuna, Reedley, Tottenhall, Highwood, Yaverland, Holly Lodge, Kilbride, Brackloonagh and Christowell. By 1939 several of these were in multi-occupancy, Lindsay Manor has appeared near County Gates and Lindsay Hall next to St Aldelm's Church. Several properties had been built on the downward stretch between the church and Leicester Road (mainly bungalows). By 1961 Lord Ventry was living in Lindsay Hall where now stands Ventry Close.

Lord Ventry had two main interests, one was the Scout Movement and the other was airships. In the 1950's he was Group Scoutmaster at the 4th Branksome Scouts at St Joseph's Church. His large garden was used by Poole Scouts as a



Courtesy: Terry Udall

training ground and for District events such as campfire evenings. With his consent the Lindsav Hall Training Ground was equipped to form part of the Poole Baden Powell Memorial Plans as a practical way of commemorating the work of the Founder of the Boy Scouts. Lord Ventry was once reputed to have said that Lord Baden-Powell had done more for the world's youth and all the world's politicians put together.

The site in Lindsay Road was given by Lord Ventry to the Borough of Poole Scout Association: the land was sold and the proceeds invested. Before he died Lord Ventry had agreed that this was a sensible decision. For any years the Dorset Scout Council had wanted to acquire a permanent training ground and camp site that would be available for Scouts from all over the county and after a lot of research a suitable site was found in the Purbeck, not far from the East Dorset Golf Club. The money invested from the sale of Lindsay Hall enabled Buddens farm (near Wareham) to be purchased at the end of the 1990's and has proved a most valuable acquisition.

Travelling eastwards towards what is now Liverpool and Victoria roundabout, Tesco's is found bounded on one side by Poole Road and Lindsav Road on the other. The opening of the supermarket on 7 December 1993 followed several years of controversy as to whether the store should be built. The site was previously occupied by F English Limited with a Ford motor showroom, workshop and petrol station. The development was the first to breach the high brick wall along Poole Road which had served as a boundary of C W Packe' Branksome Estate. The wall divided the residential area of Branksome Park from the rest of Branksom. and four large properties had been demolished to make way for the 'state of the art' showroom and filling station.

Published by kind permission of Iris Morris from her book 'Looking Back at Branksome Park'.

Accompanying picture of Lindsay Manor is by courtesy of Terry Udall (How is it that old buildings always look nicer than modern ones? Bet they weren't as energy efficient though-Editor)

DIMENSION KITCHENS

BESPOKE KITCHEN DESIGN FOR BEAUTIFUL HOMES





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Our Councillors' Corner

We very much hope that you are keeping well and looking forward to lockdown being lifted so that we can once again meet with family and friends. It has been a challenging time for many, with some having to shield, some putting themselves at risk to continue providing essential services and to parents who had to juggle home working and home schooling.

Then there are also the many volunteers that have stepped up to help others. We thank all of you for staying the course and doing your bit to keep us all safe.

With summer nearly upon us, plans are in place to deal with what is expected to be a very busy season. We have listened to the issues that raised most concerns such as toilet provision and litter. Toilets on the seafront will remain open for longer hours and triple-sized bins (as seen above) have been provided along the seafront to deal with waste, and more daily collections will take place, with manual crews being stood up on days when the promenade is busy.

Other issues such as bonfires, overnight camping and anti-social behaviour are also included as part of this tactical response. As your ward councillors, we have worked hard to highlight all the issues that were raised with us from last year to provide a comprehensive plan that covers all the eventualities that we are aware of.



The plan was drawn up with the police who are working alongside the council. Cllr Mohan Iyengar as cabinet member with responsibility for the Seafront areas and Cllr May Haines who has responsibility for Community Safety are part of the task group that helped to shape this plan which went into operation from 29th March.

Read more about the plans on https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/ News/News-Features/Summerreadiness/Summer-readinessacross-Bournemouth-Christchurchand-Poole.aspx

Or alternatively, google BCP Summer Readiness plan

Cllrs May Haines and Cllr Mohan Iyengar Apartment Block Membership Scheme



The Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association is an active group of local people, their families and local businesses who seek to preserve the wonderful environment in which we reside. We work closely with residents, councillors and local stakeholders to conserve, enhance and preserve both local amenities and the local environment. The BPCCRA is also an optimistic organisation that is willing to support worthy projects that will serve to further enhance where we all live.

We always welcome new members and offer an Apartment Block Membership Scheme. If all apartments join as a block, then we offer a discounted rate of £3.00 per apartment per annum. We bill you annually through your Managing Agent with one invoice covering the fees for all the apartments in the block. Twice a year the Pines and Chines magazine is delivered to the apartment block, residents can attend our meetings and subscribe to our newsletter.

Contact our Treasurer for more information: treasurer. bpccra@gmail.com



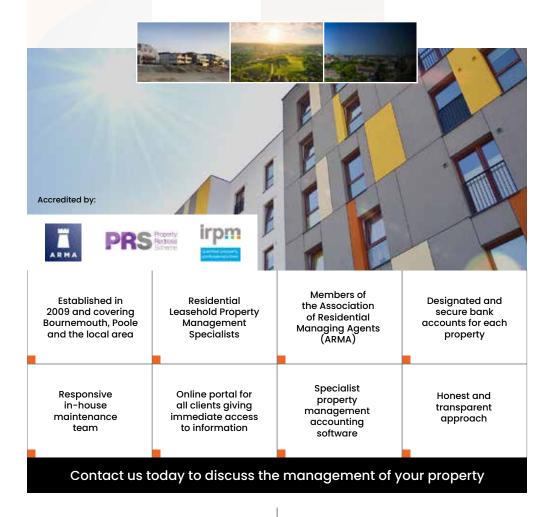
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A jewel in Branksome Park

There are many benefits to my living in Branksome Park. Opposite, the start of Branksome Chine a wooded walk of some thirty five minutes down to the sea. Quiet roads, almost country greenery, empty save for the odd dog walker, both aspects providing me with 'green therapy' during lockdown. But one destination through those roads and footpaths is a mere half an hour's walk away, the bijou gardens of Compton Acres.

'Bijou' in its original sense of being a 'gem'. But also, in the estate agent's cliché ('bijou residence'), small, for ten acres is not large by public garden standards. But, within that area, at least half a dozen quite different and separate gardens Linked by meandering paths, you come upon each as a surprise. First the wide open formality of The Italian Garden now backed by the Italian Villa. A wonderful wedding venue in happier times. Through a 'grotto' tunnel and into the 'Wooded Valley'. This is 'natural' landscape, shrubs like rhododendrons and camellia under a canopy of pine. This was a favourite for Fay and I. Ground cover plants growing there would also do well on our own little slice of wooded hillside. conditions being similar. Logically, at the lowest point of the valley where water will accumulate. a bog garden has now been created.

The path continues along the valley floor Passing a well concealed housing for a pump which provides power for an amazing series of waterfalls down the valley, the highest must be at least 20 ft drop. Open areas bright with spring flowers, including the quite exotic looking native, the purple snake's head fritillary. Up again, and through another grotto and into the 'Rock and Water Garden'.

The adventurous take the higher path, a hump-backed bridge over the water. The wheelchair path has a view through the perfect curve of the bridge, of a graceful dancer, a sculpture in the middle of the stretch of water. A viewpoint at the end commands a view over the whole of the steep valley.

On past the small summertime cafe, where, from its terrace, you can see Poole Harbour and Brownsea. Then on to the steep and rocky hillside of The Heather Garden. Through there, and widely acknowledged as the best of all, is The Japanese Garden. An authentic red painted Japanese Tea house reflected in waters which the adventurous can navigate by a series of stepping stones. I lifted my lockdown spirits with their early spring flowers, RHS membership giving me free off-season access. But I was even more happy to buy a 'family ticket' for daughter-in-law Julie, and eight-year old Blake. His first experience of 'gardens' (apart from granddad's). An ideal introduction, helped a little by the 'Easter Bunny Hunt' which by naming each garden made him more conscious of the structure.

Winding paths, exciting tunnels, a bronze sabre-toothed tiger lurking in the undergrowth: and the constant variety of quite different styles of garden, held his interest. A good introduction to gardens and garden design, and hopefully starting the youngest of the next generation on a love affair with gardens

David Reeves (Ed-absolutely agree David that Compton Acres is a gem. Well done to Bernard and Kaye and their team for keeping it going during lockdowns and everything else that was thrown at them)



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Signs of Spring on Dorset's Heaths

To the uniformed our local heathlands might look a little scrubby but they are chock-a-block with wildlife! This in never truer than in late spring and early summer when they are simply buzzing with life.

In April, heathland is alive with activity as warm spring weather triggers all manner of natural changes. The bright yellow flowers of European gorse (Ulex europaeus), which blooms in January, are a familiar sight and smell (think coconut scented lotion) to those who visit our heaths. With spring, other heathland flowers will start to bloom, such as the beautifully delicate Heath Milkwort (Polygala serpyllifolia).

Since late February, early emerging butterflies, such as red admirals, commas and brimstones have been spotted going about their business on our heaths. With spring we start to see some of the other heathland species. The silver-studded blue butterfly is a heathland specialist with an unusual lifecycle. The fully formed caterpillar of the species hatched from its egg during March and is now being closely attended by black ants which feed on sugary secretions from glands on its body – the caterpillar receiving protection from predators in return for this gift!

The warm weather is also enjoyed by other heathland invertebrates. The adults of the green tiger beetle (*Cicindela campestris*) are sun lovers. As average temperatures rise they will become active, patrolling sandy patches of the heath to look for their prey, other invertebrates.

This is of course a very busy time of year for birds too, as many species are now mating and nesting. As traffic is still slightly



©Ray Hamilton

less that other years, take the opportunity to listen out for the symphony of song during the breeding season as you are out and about. On the heath the Dartford warbler and stone chat perch on conspicuous gorse branches singing to guard their territories.

The onset of warmer weather encourages our reptiles to emerge



The lowland heath we have on our doorstep an extraordinary habitat with a fascinating annual calendar. I hope you have been able to enjoy the signs of springs on our heathlands or elsewhere. Please remember to follow the Countryside code and 'take only photos, leave only footprints'.

the first of our snakes to appear, with some emerging from their hibernation sites (known as hibernacula) over two months ago! By this time of year male adders have started 'dancing', which is actually a wrestling match for dominance in which they intertwine and try to push each other to the ground. Note, they do not use their venom in these competitions. Venom is a vital resource and they save it for the more important task of immobilising their prey. Grass snakes typically come out of hibernation in late March or April, seek a mate, and lay their eggs in rotting vegetation in leave piles of vegetation and you may be lucky enough to Smooth snakes are the last of our British snake species to emerge from April and into May. Due to the secretive nature of the species, we know little about its preferences for hibernacula – something we hope to better understand during ARC's four-

from hibernation. The adder is

At Amphibian and Reptile Conservation we are always working to take action to conserve reptiles, and we use the latest science to help us to do so. This is especially important for the smooth snake, our rarest and most elusive reptile, and a local to Dorset!

The lowland heath we have on our doorstep an extraordinary habitat with a fascinating annual calendar. I hope you have been able to enjoy the signs of springs



on our heathlands or elsewhere. Please remember to follow the Countryside code and 'take only photos, leave only footprints'. Owain Masters

Engagement and Education Officer at Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

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"Excellent service from beginning to end. Also saved us some money, always a bonus! Everything was explained simply and in a straight forward fashion.' - Mrs Boucher

* * * * *

AVIVA

BUPA Vitality ANA Health amii 🛞 YMCA 🚱

For those who are not familiar we operate out of an iconic 1920's Bournemouth building with a rich history.

The Fire station in Wimborne Road, now renamed The Old Fire House served Winton and the surrounding area throughout the Second World War and into the 1950s alongside the Fire Station in Redhill.

Previously a dedicated living quarters for firemen and once home to a local hero Jim Collingborne who tragically died trying to put out a blaze on the East cliff in 1956.

Although the bravery of its previous inhabitants can never be emulated, Globacare takes pride in continuing the spirit of the old building, the old school morals & ethics of helping others much like its previous occupants.

This isn't just something we apply when helping our clients protecting their health, guiding through claims or providing value in how their policy operates in future. We continue to take huge pride in our charity work and sponsorship within the local community and some of our endeavours include;

YMCA - The Big Sleep Easy - the businesses that have taken part have collectively raised over £1.5m since 2010.

Our sales Manager Will embarked on running 100 miles spread out over the freezing temperatures of January raising over £1300 for the Alzheimer & Dementia UK society.

We continue to raise funds for the Dorset & Wiltshire Air Ambulance, a cause close to our hearts. A big thank you for all those who have generously contributed to these worthy causes. At times like these, helping local charities is imperative to continue their efforts helping others.

> Globacare have partnered with the prestigious West Hants Tennis Club for the past 3 years supporting local talent, the academy, encouraging tennis in the local community & nationally around the country.

> > Once restrictions are lifted we hope to get out into the ocal community more so we can put a face to the name of some of our lovely clients and also continue doing home visits for prospective clients who like to discuss their options in person.

> > > If you are someone who currently has a private health plan and would like a free independent review. Please feel free to arrange an appointment by calling us on 01202 929349



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Membership Application

BRANKSOME PARK & CANFORD CLIFFS RESIDENTS' Association

The Aims and Objectives of the Association

The aim of the Association is to protect the interests of the residents and to investigate on their behalf any aspects which could be detrimental to private properties or public services. The Association endeavours at all times to maintain good relationships with Poole Borough Council and brings to their notice all matters which adversely affect the amenities of the whole of the District. It makes appropriate recommendations for improvements. It also submits recommendations to the Council concerning any plans and developments which relate to the District.

The Association is a member of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Members receive two magazines – our Summer and Winter editions. These cover much of our ongoing work. Plus we hold regular monthly member meetings to which you will receive notice through our email newsletter. Regular news items and much more feature on our website **www.pinesandchines.co.uk**

It's so easy to join, just follow these four steps to pay your annual fee of £5.00 per household:

- 1. Make your Standing Order payment to Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
- 2. Barclays: Sort Code: 20-11-39: Account Number: 00201804
- It is particularly important to provide your name and Postcode for the payment reference.
 Email your name, address, telephone number to the Association's Treasurer <treasurer.bpccra@gmail.com>
- Or, pay through PayPal

<https://www.pinesandchines.co.uk/paypal-membership-form/>

Or, complete the application form below and the STO mandate opposite then return them to Jackie Heap at The Parish Office, Branksome St Aldhelm Centre, 401 Poole Road, Poole, BH12 1AD.

Name	
Address	
Post Code	Tel No:
Email	

We look forward to receiving your application.

Contact will only be made by members of the Executive Committee and all information provided on the Application Form is restricted to use within the Residents Association and is not shared with anyone or any organisation outside of the Association.

The Association registered with the Information Commissioners Office and adheres to the Data Protection Act.

*Contact the Treasurer for further information.



Standing Order Mandate

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Branch address	
(insert your bank details)	
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 Account Name
 Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association

Account number 00201804

Sort code 20-11-39

This replaces any existing standing order to the Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association paid to this account or to its account with Santander.

Debit my account as follows:

Account name	
Account number	
Sort code	

With the following amount and on the same date each year until further notice: (£5 per household)

Amount in figures	
Amount in words	
Payable on following date	
<u>Reference: insert</u> membership no. if known	

Name	
Address	

Signature	
Date	

Gardening on the Cliff Top

Our BPCCRA Garden volunteers are a happy band of brothers and sisters, burrowing away on the cliff top. And we're back after another enforced lay off. Some of us did sneak in a bit of weeding when taking our daily constitutional, observing government guidelines of course.

No picnics, no sly bottles of Rioja or Chablis. Face masks firmly fixed in place and trowel in hand so a few weeds could be removed during the lockdown.

Sometimes under the cover of darkness but always by singletons crouching low behind the hedges, occasionally communicating by well known local bird calls.

After a surreptitious bit of hoeing the lone walking gardener would then retreat through the woodlands risking life and limb as the BMX boys hurtled around the woodland paths.

Now we're back to normal, or almost. The BMX boys are back at school and our little platoon can now show themselves in all their gardening finery. Long haired lady gardeners fresh out of lockdown have been pruning with a vengeance. The boys have been on fine form too. But we have a new development close by and quite a welcome one too.

The shelter at the top of the steps has turned into a daytime cocktail bar with ribald laughter and fiery debate and what a fine group they are. There is talk of an affiliation between the Garden Volunteers and the Canford Boozers but I see a snag.

Our crowd will be up for a drink or two but will they help out with the weeding and pruning?

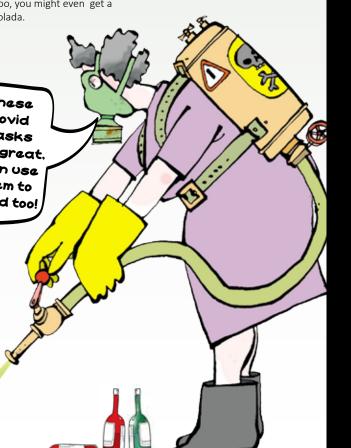
That's a question to answer. The main thing is normal service is resumed on Thursday mornings and on other days as well, if the weather is fine. So drop by and say hello, lots of people do.

Our garden keeps us oldies out of trouble, unless we get involved with the new cocktail bar, so why don't you come along and say hello too, you might even get a Pina Colada.

These Covid masks are great. I can use them to weed too!

And finally a big thank you to our committee and all the members that vote us the funds to maintain the wonderful Sunken Gardens for all to enjoy.

Roger Allen Just one of the volunteers







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Brownsea Open Air Theatre (BOAT) On Line

One of the biggest theatrical projects in the south, BOAT's traditional Shakespeare productions have been set on The National Trust's Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour ever since 1964 until COVID-19 intervened.

In 2020 and again in 2021 BOAT aimed to put on Romeo and Juliet nine times over three weeks, creating a quality show for up to 530 people each night. The experience of the trip to the island, the picnic in the grounds, the show itself and the boat back is something people return for again and again.

With the pandemic preventing productions in 2020 or 2021, the inventive minds of BOAT's creative people decided to develop ways of using the internet to bring Shakespeare to everyone. 'Shakespeare Shorts' is a series of extracts from Shakespeare's works, performed and presented in highly innovative ways. Choose from Hamlet, Richard III, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Macbeth and Twelfth Night.

See www.youtube.com/c/ BrownseaOpenAirTheatre

'Stir up Shakespeare' is a hands on way to learn about Shakespeare. Make your own scene from Romeo and Juliet in a shoebox or make fake pies for a feast. These are just two of the many projects for young people to try using materials easy to find in the home.

See www.brownsea-theatre.co.uk/ stir-up-shakespeare As restrictions lift BOAT is already looking forward to 2022 when we hope to be back on Brownsea Island. These beautiful surroundings make for a wonderful show, and a fantastic evening of traditional Shakespeare.

BOAT receives excellent national and regional coverage, and has been featured in The Guardian as one of the UK's Top 10 Open Air Theatre Venues, Debrett's 2009 list of the top five things to do in England and, in 2019, Woman's Weekly featured BOAT as one of the Top 5 Open Air Theatres in the UK.

It all began when in 1964 The Bournemouth Little Theatre Club 'Stir up Shakespeare' is a hands on way to learn about Shakespeare. Make your own scene from Romeo and Juliet in a shoebox or make fake pies for a feast. These are just two of the many projects for young people to try using materials easy to find in the home.

hit upon the idea of marking the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth with an openair production on Brownsea Island, recently opened to the public by the National Trust.

A team made visits to the island, which was hugely overgrown, waist high in many places and chose the area in front of the farm as the site for the performance: the cowshed being the only source of electricity. To this day the cowshed plays a vital role, being a



store in the winter, a workshop in the spring, as the set is built, and as dressing rooms during the run.

As they had an island setting for their performances, the play chosen in 1964 had to be The Tempest. Three evenings in August were planned. Open air Shakespeare was a novelty then and attracted TV interest from both BBC and ITV. The three evenings sold out very quickly and a fourth evening proved necessary to cope with the demand. Usually nine performances take place each year. BOAT is a registered charity, raising funds primarily for the National Trust and the Dorset Wildlife Trust. BOAT is professionally run, but all those involved with BOAT, whether onstage, backstage or front-ofhouse are unpaid volunteers.

Keep your eye on www.brownseatheatre.co.uk for information about 2022.

Steve Annandale & Brian Woolton

The Roots of Social Change Life in Britain and the Empire 1815 - 1939

This book is for release in late July/ early August. Take a rollercoaster ride- told through stories, voices and events. Explore how life was transformed, why and for whom and the triggers of social change, seeking to improve life quality. Discover why tensions existed and dip into daily life at all levels of society.

What emerges is a sense of purpose, greater life opportunities and desire for a fairer Britain. The build up in the Victorian & Edwardian eras, and events post World War 1, shows how each decade informed the next. Overlaying all this was innovation, social mores, sense of liberation and hopes as Britain was propelled into the modern agevibrant, exciting and dynamic, yet tinged with uncertainty.

This is a hardback limited edition book of about 400 pages, complete

with a dust jacket. Priced £21.99, my intention is to cover printing costs and for net proceeds to go to specified cancer care charities: Macmillan Caring Locally (MCL), Lewis Manning Hospice Care (LMHC) and Weldmar Hospicecare Trust (WHT).

Email me to reserve a copy, or phone if no email. Please state which charity you wish to support. The last date for advance orders is the end of May as this will influence the print run. Payment is due by 15th June, shortly before book printing. A buffer stock will be held on book release. Once gone- that's it! I have a pdf book flyer if you want to send to friends and contacts. My first book, The Forgotten

Kingdom of Barotseland (2016), was well received by the Bodleian, British Library, Zambia and many others interested in our colonial past.



"A masterpiece and rarity. The book has comprehensive scholarship, is beautifully written and is a joy to read." Michael Howell, CMG, OBE, British High Commissioner Rtd.

Stuart Sherring

Email: stuart@ideascafe.co.uk Tel: 01202 759333

Editor - Please find below an interesting extract about Thomas Lipton from Stuart's book. We wish Stuart all the best with the publication and nice to see that the sales will be supporting those two very worthwhile charities. A few days before Christmas, immaculate in a fine white suit, Lipton cut the cheese into neatly wrapped slices. In two hours it had all been sold. His marketing acumen was phenomenal.

Lipton controlled the supply chain. He purchased a meat packing plant in America. expanded into coffee and cocoa, bought fruit farms in Kent and meat stores, bakeries, curing stations and wine stores. In the early 1890s he acquired five tea plantations. Lipton's slogan said it all- "direct from the tea garden to the tea pot." His by now 300 shops couldn't satisfy demand for tea in packets at 1/7d a pound. Within a year he was selling it in pound, half pound and guarter pound packets. Customised blends were made "for the perfect tea to suit the water of vour town."

"Lipton's" was a household name.



His shops made him a millionaire, and tea a multi-millionaire. In 1898 he floated the company and retired. A philanthropist, he never forgot his Glasgow roots. Lipton was not only a highly successful businessman but a good sport. A dream was winning the America's Cup. He tried five times but it was not to be. Actor Will Rogers campaigned for a cup, presented to Thomas Lipton in a fitting tribute by the Mayor of New York- as the "world's most cheerful loser."



The Genius of Thomas Lipton

Behind the brand, flair and flamboyance, is the story of a ragsto-riches tycoon, self-publicist and philanthropist. In the 1840s, the family left Fermanagh hoping for a better life in Glasgow.

Thomas was born here in 1850. His father opened a small shop selling provisions and the young Thomas collected foodstuffs in a wheelbarrow from ships on arrival from Belfast.

Working as a cabin boy, he mixed with sailors who regaled him with tales of exotic places. America stood out: vibrant, exciting and a hive of business activity. At 17, he left New York to work on a Virginia tobacco farm and then as a book-keeper in South Carolina. Back in New York he discovered a métier- and mentor, Alexander Turney Stewart, also of Irish/Scots descent. The marblefronted emporium of A.T. Stewart & Co sold dry goods. Its trademark success was low mark up, high volume, quality- and pride in appearance. The young recruit was a quick learner.

On his 21st birthday Lipton opened a delicatessen in Glasgow- elegantly displaying rows of cheeses and hams in a brightly lit store where all sales assistants wore white aprons. A pied piper, he drew vast crowds, a fanfare announcing arrival on opening each new store: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Paisley and Leeds. He purchased high quality products direct from Fermanagh farmers before market, agreeing a fixed price and guaranteed prompt payment. This cut out the middle man at a stroke and was far better for farmers too. His mentor would have been proud.

In December 1881, a steamer docked in Glasgow. It carried the world's largest cheese, 2 feet thick and 14 feet round. It went on display in the window of his Jamaica Street store. Buried inside the cheese were 'gold sovereigns.'

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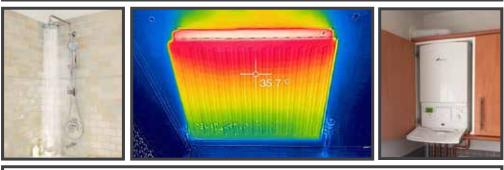
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What have I learnt?

I am delighted and honoured to be asked to write for this issue of Pines and Chines, coinciding with (we all hope) a warm spring and the lifting of pandemic restrictions. I last contributed an article to introduce myself on arrival in autumn 2017. So, what have I learned since then and especially from the past twelve months?

I have learned a bit of local history! In 2019 we celebrated the 125th anniversary of our church's opening, originally an offshoot of All Saints' with which we continue to have an excellent rapport, only becoming a fully independent parish in 1930. I think from the outset ours was intended to be more available for the working classes who were then employed in the potteries, gas works and railway (or indeed domestic service in the bigger houses of Branksome Park.) The demography hereabouts these davs is less clear-cut but still. I feel. St Aldhelm's retains an element of that tradition: politically and theologically we are a little more diverse than the average Church of England church.

Canon Stephen Lake, vicar here in the '90s and now Dean of Gloucester Cathedral, advised me on arrival that at St Aldhelm's 'they like to say their prayers and they like a good party.' The social life was taking quite a musical turn before Covid, with a varied calendar of concerts and lunchtime music recitals (the latter we hope to recommence from Tuesday 29th June, by the way.)

The centrality of prayer has been made clear to me during the past year. When at the start of lockdown the Archbishops of Canterbury and York admonished all clergy to avoid entering church buildings (something for which Justin Welby has been big enough to apologise recently) their instruction ran



counter to my own convinced view that in such a crisis. more than ever, the church should be seen and heard to be at praver for the community and the country. So after consulting my church wardens and the Bishop I (respectfully) declined the order and entered church each day to celebrate Mass and to ring the Angelus as symbols of hope and encouragement sounding across the silent and anxious streets and flats of the parish. As soon as permitted we opened each day again for private prayer (and now find the number of people accessing it is greatly increased) and for public worship - also of course 'live streamed.' It is hard to measure 'prayer' but I and others sense that the atmosphere now is changed and deepened. After such a year, that would make sense. would it not?

Perhaps most of all I have learned to love God and to love people here more. It's the least I can do, considering how much he loves me (and you) – and bearing in mind how lovely people here have been to me! Of course there are those who have a more negative view, but such are good for my soul so I try to listen, apologise where necessary, smile and look for the positive...

A recent artistic addition to the building has been a depiction of an 'Angel Ladder', inspired by 'Jacob's Dream' in Genesis and made by the artist Ruth Oaks. It conveys both fragility and yet a kind of spiritual strength. Whether or not you practise a faith I hope you will call by and look around St Aldhelm's sometime. It is an awesome place, and however you explain it there is an atmosphere of depth and peace and hope – and don't we all need some more of those right now?

May God bless each one of us following such a difficult and demanding year.

Pip Martin Emai: Frphilipmartin@gmail.com

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Topical legal issues arising during the Coronavirus pandemic

Andrew Carswell is a partner specialising in Civil Litigation at Trethowans. With a little hesitation, I thought I would in this edition, provide a bit of a round up of some legal issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, in the hope that residents can still bear more information or discussion about the subject.

Initially the rules prevented

of property, halted ongoing

proceedings and suspended

pending evictions. Landlords were

changed in August and September

2020. The moratorium on court

proceedings was generally lifted,

notices were generally increased.

In particular, the notice required

On a different note, the making

of Wills over the past 12 months

has of course presented a serious

challenge. It is early days in terms

of establishing whether home

made Wills have increased, but I

suspect this will have happened. It

remains to be seen whether there

has been compliance with due

execution. or the circumstances

six months.

to terminate an assured shorthold

tenancy was extended from two to

but periods for service of pre-action

able to serve notices, but these

were extended. The law then

proceedings for recovery

the commencement of court

In the context of property, the Coronavirus Act 2020 gave, from last Spring protection to tenants of commercial and residential property, which broadly speaking prevented landlords from exercising their rights to evict tenants for nonpayment of rent and other similar breaches.

Landlords of commercial property could not bring court proceedings or re-enter premises by changing the locks, or send a bailiff to remove goods to cover rent. That still continues, although is set to change at the end of March 2021. Landlords of commercial property who have unpaid rent will be looking forward to being in a position to enforce their rights. Tenants in arrears with payment of their rent will now have to make satisfactory proposals to avoid serious difficulties.

Landlords of residential property have faired slightly differently.

"On a different note, the making of Wills over the past 12 months has of course presented a serious challenge. It is early days in terms of establishing whether home made Wills have increased, but I suspect this will have happened. It remains to be seen whether there has been compliance with due execution, or the circumstances give rise to disgruntled beneficiaries".



give rise to disgruntled beneficiaries.

The Government has now stepped in and has amended the Will Act 1837, which allows remote execution of Wills. Traditionally, a testator/testratrix needed to sign or acknowledge his/her Will in the presence of two witnesses. That can now be achieved by video conference or other visual transmission. The Law Society has provided guidance on how this should be undertaken, which as you can imagine presents some interesting challenges for all concerned. It should be noted. however, that the Government advises that the use of video technology should remain a last resort and the physical witnessing of Wills should continue where possible. I think that has to be right and of course using a solicitor rather than preparing a home made Will must always be best practice.

Hopefully with vaccination and lifting of all types of restrictions, some of these problems will disappear over time, but we are still subject to them for a while yet.

Here's to a better and more prosperous 2021!

How dull life would be without a smile.



I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure."

"Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back."

"I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem."

"Worrying works! More than 90 percent of the things I worry about never happen."

"The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing somebody's cast."

"You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice."

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

"At every party there are two kinds of people: those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other." Never trust atoms. They make up everything. Local man killed by falling piano. It will be a low key funeral.

I was wondering, why does a frisbee appear larger the closer it gets? Then it hit me.

"Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."

What do you call sad coffee? Despresso.

Anton, do you think I'm a bad mother? My name is Paul.

A bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey and ... cola." "Why the big pause?" asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure: I was born with them." A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in.

"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.

"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims.

Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie.

"I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

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