

SUMMER 2023



PINES AND CHINES

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

**AGM
MEETING
22nd APRIL**

10.30am CANFORD
CLIFFS VILLAGE HALL



Visit the Association's website www.pinesandchines.co.uk



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Editorial

Yes, summer is nearly here and hopefully many of you will feel brave enough to go for a swim in the sea.

A bit of cold-water therapy never hurt anyone...although it might not feel like it at the time.

I recently listened to a podcast featuring the Dutch extreme athlete Wim Hof.

He has climbed up Mount Kilimanjaro in shorts and run a half marathon above the Arctic Circle barefoot. Evidently the cold is good for you.

Talking about 'Ice Man' I am pleased to include a short piece on our local 'Iceman' Anthony Irvine who does live performances featuring a melting ice block. The mind boggles.

Also included are our regular articles from our President John Sprackling and Dugald, who as well as being Chairman also covers planning issues. And if you

like numbers then the Treasurer's report is for you. Many thanks, Jackie.

One item I do want to bring your attention to is the urgent need for volunteers. Both John Sprackling and Carol Parkin have indicated their wish to stand down at the next AGM after years of service and Dugald may be moving so will also not continue. Financially the Association is strong and provides a valuable and much valued service to local residents.

However, if we do not get volunteers for the soon to be vacant roles then the Association will not continue. And that would be a great pity. If you think you could help then please contact one of the committee members.

Thank you.

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Have a great summer and remember, not too long in the sea! And also, enjoy the Coronation of King Charles on May 8th. Go on, arrange a street party. They are great fun.

John Gunton



01202 555785 enquiries@schofieldsonline.co.uk

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Association's magazine.

I stepped down as Chairman, after 13 years, in April 2016 and took over as President, following Terry Stewart's move to Surrey in 2018. After 5 years in this role, I think that time has come for me to stand down as President. I plan to relinquish the role at the Association's forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2023.

Dugald Eadie has carried out the dual roll of Acting Chairman and Planning Officer for the past three years but he is likely to be moving away from Poole in the not too distant future. Dugald has done an amazing job in carrying out these two roles and will be irreplaceable.

Carol Parkin, our Honorary Secretary, has indicated that she wishes to stand down at the AGM. Having served in her role since 2010

I am therefore appealing for nominations to fill these posts in time for the AGM

In the meantime, I remain grateful to the other members of our Executive Committee,

- Jackie Heap, Treasurer
- Mike Parkin- Membership Secretary
- Vicky Moss, Special Projects Co-ordinator, who has been active in seeking a contribution from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy for contributions to benefit areas within the Branksome Park area and promote Road Safety issues
- John Gunton, Magazine Editor, who has been serving in this role since 2010 but has been a Road Warden since 1998



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 Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole 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.

USE OF LEAF BLOWERS

At a recent monthly meeting of the Association, a member raised a concern about the use of leaf blowers in the Branksome Park area, which blow leaves from the pavements into the gutters.

This causes blockages at the manhole covers and may contribute to the flooding of some roads in the area, which has been the subject of residents' recent complaints.

Will those residents who employ professional gardeners, please pass on this message.

BEACH ROAD CAR PARK

CLlr May Haines met with James Croker, Corporate Engagement Director of Future Places, on 16 February 2023 to discuss the Outline Business Case for the



Beach Road car park. The proposed block of flats will be 8 storeys tall and the loss of car parking will be addressed by building another tier of spaces in the lower (Northern) section of the site. In answer to my Public Question at the Council meeting on 21 March 2023, I was informed by the Leader of the Council that the proposed Future Places project timeline envisages the council advertising its intention to appropriate the residential site in autumn 2023 and the responses received to the advert will inform a second Cabinet report which will seek approval to appropriate the south side for planning purposes prior to a disposal for development.

BRANKSOME CHINE RESTAURANT

Work is continuing at pace for the

changes to the restaurant and this is due to be completed in time for the Summer.

The Planning Application to erect temporary and removable timber decking area on the beach to the south-east of the Branksome Chine Cafe/Restaurant and Shack was granted consent for three years on 28 February 2023

'The Aims and Objects of the Association are shown at the head of this page. 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 BCP Council for attention.

John Sprackling



At the end of 2022 our financial position continues to be in good order and I can report a surplus for the year of £1,607. Income from members subscriptions has fallen by £240 however the advertising revenue has once again made a significant contribution towards the cost of printing and distributing the magazines. Our reserves at the 31st December were £42,823.

During the year we were able to resume our monthly meetings and hold the 2022 AGM which has led to an increase in costs over the prior year. Our main areas of expenditure are the magazine, net cost £1,436 and the maintenance and improvement of the website, £1,792. We continue to support local initiatives including the Pinecliff Gardens, £495 and the Canford Cliffs Village Christmas Lights, £750.

I would remind all members that household subscriptions are due annually and you can now pay directly to the associations' bank account or by PayPal through our website, all of the details can be found on the website. Alternatively, cheques made payable to BPCCR can be posted to us at the Parish Office, The Branksome St Aldhelms Centre, 401 Poole Road, Poole, BH12 1AD.

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 and his staff for their continued support.

Jacqueline Heap FCCA
Honorary Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions received during the year		7,522		7,762
Donations		-		1000
Deposit interest		22		2
		<u>7,544</u>		<u>8,764</u>
Expenditure				
Magazine and circular expenses	5,486		5,048	
Less advertising revenue	(4,050)		(3,950)	
Net expenditure		1,436		1,098
Committee and secretarial expenses	12		120	
Committee and Association meetings	186		99	
Annual General Meeting	459		-	
Subscriptions	61		-	
Planning consultation	500		-	
Legal and insurance	215		189	
Website	1,792		1,341	
Gardens	495		765	
Sundries	31		261	
		<u>3,751</u>		<u>2,775</u>
Donations and subscriptions				
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights		750		750
		<u>5,937</u>		<u>4,623</u>
Excess of income over expenditure		<u>1,607</u>		<u>4,141</u>
Balance sheet at 31 December 2022				
Accumulated fund				
At 1 January 2022		41,216		37,075
Excess of income over expenditure		1,607		4,141
		<u>42,823</u>		<u>41,216</u>
At 31 December 2022				
Represented by:				
Cash at bank:				
Barclays Premium Account	23,006		22,983	
Barclays Current Account	10,544		9,557	
Santander business account	<u>9,315</u>	42,865	<u>8,834</u>	41,374
Add: Accrued income		50		-
Less accrued expenses		(92)		(158)
		<u>42,823</u>		<u>41,216</u>

Approved by J. Sprackling (President) & J. Heap (Hon Treasurer)
26th February 2023

Planning Report

Over the last six months, there has been more evidence that the Conservation Areas in our district are being taken seriously.

However, some of the developers (and their "expert" Planning Consultants) seem to be determined to keep trying to get permission for projects that would breach the rules. This can be quite frustrating for our residents who are in the key areas, and also for me!

The situation in Burton Road continues to be confusing. There is a constant flow of amended proposals for site-splitting, and so far the only one to have been approved is at 2/2A, the corner site next to the controversial Balcombe Road development. It is very difficult to predict what will happen next, and it has been causing stress for residents nearby, particularly in Dover Road.

The Rockwater project has now moved on to the next stage, as work has started on the Branksome Beach Restaurant. The main problem is not the changes to the building, but how it is used in practice. Their remains significant concern about noise, anti-social behaviour, and car parking. It seems particularly stupid for the BCP Council to plan to develop flats on the Beach Road Car Park, as the extra spaces might be needed if there are more visitors to the restaurant.

My reports, including those for our monthly meetings, concentrate on controversial issues. It is important to note that there are plenty of "normal" developments in our area, including improvements to individual family houses and blocks of flats. If applications are reasonable, they tend to

get approval much sooner. We have to recognise that this flow of activity is essential to preserve the status of our neighbourhood.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS ordered by date.

11 Lindsay Road.
APP/21/01603/P
GRANTED
14 October 2022

Another application to demolish the existing bungalow and replace it with a block of 16 apartments. As this is an outline application, there are many details which still have to be agreed before the project can start. Apparently work will be done to preserve the tree cover, including new planting.

6 Burton Road.
APP/22/01351/F **REFUSED**
1 December 2022

This application was an amended version of the scheme to build a second house on this site. It was validated on 10 October 22, and was fairly quickly refused, for obvious reasons. An Appeal has been made, but is not yet started.

Branksome Beach Restaurant.
APP/22/00159/F
GRANTED
15 December 2022

This was the original Rockwater proposal, made in February 22. After a considerable amount of dispute and debate, the plan was finally approved by the BCP Council. Work has now started on the changes to the building, but the real issue will be how Rockwater use the facilities in the future.



28 Bury Road.
APP/20/00900/F
APPEAL DISMISSED
19 December 2022

This is a proposal to replace a tennis court with a detached house, which would be particularly damaging for the house on Canford Cliffs Road which backs on to it. The Planning Inspector was quite clear that the narrow plot would result in an "incongruous" appearance, and would be inconsistent with the Conservation Area requirements.

15 Mornish Road.
APP/22/01280/F
REFUSED
24 December 2022

This application was validated on 13 October 22, and was dealt with very quickly. The "site-splitting" proposal to replace the existing property with two new homes was not acceptable in the Conservation Area, and one of the houses would have been too close to 29 Western Road.

5 Oratory Gardens.
APP/22/01415/F
REFUSED
20 January 2023

This application was validated on 21 October 22, and again was dealt with quickly. It

was another surprising “site-splitting” proposal, for three new homes replacing the existing one. One of these would have access from Western Road.

Although this is on the edge of the Conservation Area, the Case Officer still decided it was inappropriate for the character of the area. The Case Officer explained that pre-application advice had suggested that a proposed plan for two new homes might be acceptable.

**23 Over Links Drive.
APP/22/00891/F
GRANTED**

24 January 2023
This property is at the end of a cul-de-sac, and at first sight the proposal to replace the existing house did not seem controversial.

However, it turns out that it overlooks the Parkstone Golf Club House, and there is potential damage due to the steep slope. Although permission has been granted, there is a condition that the risk of land slippage should be formally examined.

**9 Brudenell Road.
APP/22/01052/F
GRANTED**

14 February 2023
A previous proposal for a large block of flats was refused in July 21, and is currently under appeal. However, this new proposal, from a different developer, has now been accepted. It is slightly less imposing, and may not be as damaging for the immediate neighbours.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES STILL
OUTSTANDING
ordered by date.**

**13 – 15 Lindsay Road.
APP/22/00371/P
17 March 2022**

After a previous refusal, this revised application is for two blocks of apartments to replace the two existing bungalows. There would be 20 apartments, and it is claimed that enough trees would be left to maintain the sylvan appearance.

**Branksome Beach Cafe.
APP/22/00538/F
21 April 2022**

A project was started to erect decking on the beach next to the promenade. Unfortunately, Rockwater did not realise that they needed planning permission, so this application was lodged. Meanwhile, all the materials that were laid out for the decking have been removed. There have been a large number of objections, with many objecting in principle to changing the character of the beach. As with the main application, there will also be concern about how the decking is used in practice.

**7A Spencer Road.
APP/22/00577/F
28 April 2022**

This is a shocking proposal to demolish the existing house and replace it with a very large block of 7 flats. This is completely inappropriate in this well balanced road, which is in the Canford Cliffs Conservation Area. All the properties in this road are detached, in various designs, apart from one which was split into 3 flats before the creation of the Conservation Area.

There is a strong local campaign to prevent this development. An Appeal has now been lodged, due to the long delay

in obtaining a decision. Much emphasis is placed on the suitability of the proposed Arts and Crafts design, but there is no recognition of the negative impact of a block of 7 flats.

**4 Burton Road.
APP/21/01459/F
Appeal
Started 24 June 2022
APP/22/00094/F
Appeal
Started 22 August 2022**

These two applications appear to be the same, and the appeals are with the same Case Officer. There is no obvious reason for this complication. The plan is to build two detached houses in the back garden of this plot, which is quite clearly against the rules of the Conservation Area. The applicant’s consultant is trying to use 2/2A Burton Road as a “precedent”, but the planning department has argued that the sites are quite different, particularly with regard to access. As usual, we just have to hope that the Planning Inspector applies common sense.

**6 Lindsay Road.
APP/22/00986/P
3 August 2022**

Yet another plan to replace a house with a block of 10 flats. This is consistent with the other applications in this road, but there is not yet enough information to assess the impact on the area. There are trees at the front of the site, but the block of flats may be too high to be properly hidden, as it is a sloping site.

**14 Dover Road.
APP/22/01429/F
14 October 2022**

This is a plot next to the gravel track at the southern end of Dover Road. The proposal is to replace the existing house with two houses, one of which would use an existing back gate

to Withingham Road. As this is in the Conservation Area, this site-splitting should not be allowed.

**31 – 37 Haven Road. APP/01470/F
24 October 2022**

This is one of a series of applications by TESCO, which confirms the rumour that they are once more planning to create a new TESCO EXPRESS in Canford Cliffs Village. Permission to convert the four existing shops was already granted in 2017, but the process has to be repeated due to the delay. It will be good news if the empty shops are replaced, but there are some concerns about the car parking at the rear.

**4 Canford Crescent. APP/22/01690/F
8 December 2022**

This latest application is for a large detached house to replace the existing building. It is quite close to the borders on both sides. Over the last 3 years, there have been attempts to get permission for a block of 5 apartments, and also for 2 detached houses.

**6 Canford Crescent.
APP/22/01763/F
22 December 2022**

This is a site-splitting proposal to replace one house with two 3-storey houses. This would have a particularly bad impact on the houses to the rear of the site, on Nairn Road.

**18 Nairn Road. APP/22/01768/P
10 January 2023
APP/22/01485/F
1 December 2022**

The latest application is to demolish the existing building and replace it with a block of 6 flats, with the earlier one being for two detached houses. The plot is on the corner of Nairn Road and Dornie Road, and there is a lot of concern about the impact on neighbours.

**6 Burton Road.
APP/22/01769/F
11 January 2023**

This is another application for two linked houses on this site. As it is in the Conservation Area, site-splitting should not be allowed.

**6 Burton Road.
APP/22/01767/F
18 January 2023**

Yet another application for this site, this time for a large single house. However, the site plan appears to show the back garden separated from the plot, which would not be acceptable.

Dugald Eadie

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Ward Update and News

In my last news update, I was beginning to work on dealing with the leaf fall season as autumn was fast approaching.

I am pleased to say that there has been some success in this regard. While out and about streets that I noted had build up of uncleared leaf fall were report and they were duly cleared.

Some examples are Buccleuch Road, Chaddesley Glen, Canford Crescent, Wilderton Road and Burton Road. I continue to report any other streets that need sweeping. Please let me know if your road needs sweeping. In November, I was made aware of a fly tipping incident on Withingham Road.

It was one of the worst I had seen (see picture). This was reported to the council for investigation by the WISE (who are contracted by the council to tackle fly tipping). Unfortunately, there was not



sufficient evidence found to lead to enforcement action.

Should you see fly tipping occur this can be reported to via the council's website. The link is provided below: www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/Bins-waste-and-recycling/Flytipping.aspx

In other news, the extension to Canford Cliffs Library is progressing well. This project is funded from CIL and I have supported a further bid to secure the remaining funds needed to complete this project. It is hoped that it will be completed and opened in the Spring. It will provide better space and more options for usage such as a community meeting space. My thanks to the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library as well as the Library Staff for their unfailing support to see this project through.

Councillor May Haines
May.haines@bpcouncil.gov.uk

Canford Cliffs village

Several decades ago Canford Cliffs was a one street village, there is no better word for it.

It had a character and was totally different from other streets in the area.

There were banks and building societies, but there were shops of every known description from an ironmongers to a major international store Cullens.

A dear uncle of mine from Leicester used to leave the Canford Cliffs public house stating he was going for a newspaper.

Several years later he admitted that there was a bookie at the back of the greengrocers' shops, where he placed a few bets.

Who would have thought that of Canford Cliffs, but there you have it, it was almost unique.

You used to meet and greet people who you did not know personally but the frequency of seeing them made them almost into friends and one would say have you seen the gent with two Labradors recently.

Just before the last bank closed there was a large sign displayed in the bank stating that most of its services would be provided by the Post Office along the road. It does not seem right that a bank can decide to close and advise its customers that they have passed their obligations to a totally different organisation.

Well now the post office has closed, not strictly true but it has moved to a two-foot counter in another shop.

I do so hope that locals will support the little independent shops in Canford Cliffs before it is a ghost street dominated by large retailers.

John Porter



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Canford Cliffs Library Community Room Expansion – an FCCL update early March 2023

Perhaps it seemed it would never happen – yet as the first photo of the expanded conservatory community room at the library shows it in advanced status while fully keeping to the design of the original smaller conservatory room. It is absolutely beautiful besides its purpose for the community.



Max Creed, Principal Construction Manager, Construction part of Building Maintenance and Housing for BCP Council and his team are doing a superb job forging ahead despite the difficulties in getting materials delivered on time, the project being led by Gillian Glutz, Client Project Manager Housing for BCP Council on behalf of the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library (FCCL). The design by architect Neil Bichard faithfully follows expanding the existing design, with Cube Design having finalised the detailed schedule of works, while the FCCL's Tony Kay acted as consultant to getting the project off the ground.

Of course there are also a number of other people in BCP Council behind the scenes who have helped this project to the current status including Building Control the Library Service. It is much more complex nowadays to meet both building and environmental regulations while also meeting Health and Safety Regulations protecting those skilled craftsmen undertaking the work than nearly a century ago!

The project follows a sustained effort and fund raising by the

“The architectural design of the conservatory first built in 1933 onto the existing library is faithfully followed by Architect Neil Bichard’s design, with matched windows and stonework incorporated from the existing building”.

Friends of Canford Cliffs Library during the last seven years which garnered significant support from our local councillors Councillor May Haines and Councillor Monhan Iyengar, the community, the BPCCRA, Canford Cliffs Land Society and Poole Maritime Society. The award of Community Infrastructure Levy funds by BCP Council to add to the FCCL start-up funds enabled the project – much delayed by covid – to proceed.

The architectural design of the conservatory first built in 1933 onto the existing library is faithfully followed by Architect Neil Bichard’s design, with matched windows and stonework incorporated from the existing building.

The expanded community conservatory room will also be

much more accessible for the less able with a new ramp and doorway into the room entering from the garden walkway outside the library. The greater size resulting will enable both the FCCL and other community groups to have the room to meet, while also providing the library with an enhanced source of revenue at last able to let out the room with sufficient size for meetings and gatherings not possible before.

The Edwardian designed garden with its lovely sunken pond is closed until the completion of the project, and with a fair wind we look forward to celebrating completion which may well be in April.

Richard Phillips
Chairman

Friends of Canford Cliffs Library
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Not such a beautiful noise!

Far from Neil Diamond's tuneful song, for four years now one of our members has been plagued with hearing an almost incessant background noise.

Although many people cannot hear it and some that do can put it to the back of their minds, for others it makes life a misery. Described as a high pitched hum with a repeating slightly pulsating pattern, it has so far defied any explanation as to its source.

It started suddenly in March 2019, and initially it was thought to be linked to extensive building works on a property next door, however, then as now, no clear source for the noise could be identified. At about that time a second telecommunication mast was erected on a nearby highpoint. This was next to an existing mobile phone mast.

All the essential services (electricity, gas and water) have checked their equipment locally and reported nothing that might cause the noise. It doesn't show up on the noise detection equipment of the local council, nor a so called 'noise expert' who spent most of the day trying to determine the cause. They said it was more likely to be a type of radio wave than a 'noise'. The sound is not directional and does not increase or decrease by moving towards or away from the source. It can vary with the time of day, often quiet in the afternoons starting again in the evening, being particularly noticeable at weekends, especially on Friday nights. The 'gut' feeling of the member is that it might be due to some interaction between the signals from the two masts creating a harmonic effect- they have been assured that individually the masts are working correctly. To date it has not proved possible to check this view.

There have been other reports of similar noises both locally (Alexandra Park) and nationally, but it hasn't been possible to clearly determine the culprit in most of these cases and the noises continue to blot the lives of many people in areas across the country. The member lives in Canford Cliffs Avenue, and apart from their own house, it can also be heard it in several neighbours' houses. It has driven them to using a white noise app at night to drown out the background noise and get some sleep. Sleep soundly? - she wishes she could!

Many thanks for this article. Has anyone else heard this noise? Do let me know.

John Gunton - Editor



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Part Two: "Significant Challenges for RAAF 461 Squadron at Poole"

There were three supreme challenges for RAAF 461 Squadron in operating from Poole Harbour 1942-43:

The homebase- with the deficit of hangar facilities at RAF Hamworthy to effectively maintain the aircraft.

The weather- especially encountered in the south-west approaches down to & around the Bay of Biscay.

The enemy- with threats from long-range aircraft mostly Junkers-88s... and upgraded U-Boat armaments.

Each of these challenges significantly impacted upon the 12 Aircrews and their 9 Sunderland Flying Boats... Tiredness affected health; stress & strain were offset only by camaraderie and overriding sense of purpose!

The dispersal of RAF facilities around the 4 miles shoreline of the eastern flanks of the Harbour did not help; from RAF



Hamworthy's Lake Base to the Officers' Mess at the Harbour Heights Hotel near to Canford Cliffs, via Station HQ- Parkstone Rd (later Salterns), Sergeants Mess & Communications at Poole's Dolphin Hotel, the RAF's Marinecraft Unit at Parkstone Yacht Club, and numerous billets in Parkstone, Whitecliff & Lilliput (inc. stores, workshops + guardhouse in Lake Estate, Longfleet NAAFI, and WRAF Hostels- Ashley Cross etc.). The Sick Bay at Folly Cottage, Lilliput, and several garages for Motor Transport were shared with BOAC Poole.

On arrival of 461 (the Anzac Sqdn.) in September 1942, when RAF Hamworthy was deemed to be operational there was improvisation in the use of a Field Kitchen as there was no canteen facility- just eating 'al fresco'... Canvas tents, wooden tables and benches were set up in the pines abutting Ham Common near to Lake Base close to the tanks of a fuel depot serving the RAF in Dorset, that had already been a target of the Luftwaffe! WAAF members had the use of Dorset shepherds' & roadmenders' wheeled huts (sought-after items today).

With the weather inevitably deteriorating in October, Major Kilminster, Chief Engineer of Coastal Command negotiated with the Dorset Yacht Co. (adjacent to Lake Base) use of the shipyard's dinghy shed as a canteen, where a Tyrley-Williams mobile cooker was eventually installed by the start of the cold month of November. A large marquee was assembled on Lake's hardstanding, to give cover for the ground staff & the mechanics. A blast-wall was

completed to protect the Lake Estate from a Garage which acted as a store for ammunition. Also, a further clutch of 17 sites were appropriated by the War Dept. to support RAF Hamworthy as a Station as the focus would switch from the HQ in units along Parkstone Rd. to Salterns, Lilliput, and its Harbour Club.

Key to the programme of works was a Victorian Wooden Pier at Salterns (1867), leading from a promontory of reclaimed land that had been infilled by discarded pottery & brick shards, and adjacent to Salterns Marsh. This industrial configuration (with a hey-day in WW1) had formed the site of the Harbour Club built in 1934. Salterns' Pier reached out to the Parkstone Channel, which was the main shipping route to the Port of Poole and the chief Flying Boat Runway for the RAF, and Imperial Airways/ BOAC civil-air Flying Boats during WW2. After the start of WW2 it was requisitioned by the Army, and had avoided demolition as this was deployed in serving the Refugee Camp for Low Countries Boat People, which had been constructed upon Brownsea Is.

Principal tasks were to replace/ reinforce vintage waterline timbers, create a lookout post on the pierhead and fit a set of steps with handrails to access the landing pontoon, that was formed by MEXE, Christchurch. After storm damage on 31st. Jan. (damaging the pontoon and 2 flak barges) all was ready by early February. With the transfer of RAF Hamworthy's HQ from several buildings along Parkstone Rd. (opposite Poole Park) to flats in Salterns Court as the Station's Offices and other departments to the Harbour Club site at Salterns, the opportunity was provided for members of 461 & the Station to come together as a more cohesive unit... There was also a better social scene (with BOAC's

staff), using the requisitioned Blue Lagoon Club and Café.

The timing of this was rather providential as January 1943 was a low ebb for RAF Coastal Command, Poole: There was a formidable struggle to keep the 9 Sunderland Flying Boats of RAAF 461 Squadron operational! At RAF Hamworthy, some maintenance was carried out on a windswept hardstanding or choppy moorings, whilst significant tasks required a flight to and lengthy stay at RAF Stranraer, Wig Bay & Pembroke Dock etc. With the start of 1943, and the prospect that many longstanding issues about Poole were being addressed, the Squadron had been dealt a devastating blow through the loss of T9085 (UT-A) with all of the 11 Aircrew. It was on 'Fateful Friday' of 21st. Jan. that UT-A and UT-C (*see HT No.57) were airborne from RAF Hamworthy; with UT-A paired by another Sunderland of RAAF 10 on a special equipment op (a. s. flood) to deter U-Boats. Indeed, 4 Sunderlands from RAAF 10 and 461 were out-west in deteriorating weather & approaching storm! Whist a signal was sent for an immediate return to RAF Pembroke Dock since Hamworthy and Mount Batten were engulfed by difficult conditions, a trio responded, whereas UT-A had already

sent an SOS- then silence. The Sunderland Flying Boat's carrier pigeon on board, never made it to land to bring a final message for HQ.

A dramatic search for UT-A was triggered by RAF Coastal Command that involved aircraft in awful conditions. This included 2 Hudsons that were forced to ditch where their Aircrews were rescued- but no sign of UT-A !

The captain- Flight Lieut. Bruce Buls had been giving a largely new crew (inc. 9 Australians) more experience on his 22nd. such mission from his time at both Mount Batten & Hamworthy, and was sadly missed by RAFFC. [Alongside 461, BOAC Poole had also lost a popular, experienced captain- John Lock on G-AFCK Golden Horn on the 9th. Jan. destroyed by fire over R. Tagus, Lisbon with only 1 crew (out of 6) and 1 pax (9) as survivors.]

When endeavouring to deter the menace of the U-Boats the Aircrew of UT-A had paid the ultimate sacrifice, yet cumulative events were inexorably having an impact on the effectiveness of the Kriegsmarine campaign.

Aimée Alexander the PFBC Trustee i/c Projects
Dedicated to UT-A Aircrew



Development at St Ann's Hospital

St Ann's Hospital is a psychiatric hospital for adult mental health services located off Haven Road and is managed by Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. It contains a Grade II listed building and the original hospital was designed by Robert Weir Schultz and built between 1909 and 1912.



In 2013 there was a major expansion involving the construction of a new ward block providing 30 extra beds. The hospital is now applying for permission to further improve the health facilities and has submitted four application plans to the Council covering:

- additional inpatient beds (the plans show a net gain of 3 beds – however the overall project work will mean a net gain of 11 beds, we just do not need to apply for the other 8 in terms of planning permission)
- replacement and refurbishment of inadequate inpatient accommodation
- male and female adult psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) beds – just to be clear this is not new, we already have a PICU on site, the accommodation is being modernised to be more fit-

for-purpose and improve patient care. Similar to the point above.

- Crescent parking – this area will be changed to formalise the parking situation on site
- a Section 136 suite ('place of safety') for detention under the 1983 Mental Health Act – we currently have one of these, it will just be moved to the ground floor and improved

The applications for changes at St Ann's Hospital are live on the council's [planning portal](#), simply search "st anns" or use the individual reference numbers below:

- Chine Ward: APP/23/00163/F
- Crescent: APP/23/00166/F
- New Build 2: APP/23/00167/F
- Haven Ward: APP/23/00165/F

The project, using government funding, is aimed at updating current facilities and creating

extra beds meaning:

- local people can get treated sooner
- care takes place in a modern, purpose-built and safe environment close to home.

The overall plans for Dorset HealthCare, which includes our Almhurst Road site, cover:

- adult Mental Health (AMH) provision
- additional inpatient beds
- replacement and refurbishment of inadequate inpatient accommodation
- male and female adult psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) beds
- a Section 136 suite ('place of safety') for detention under the 1983 Mental Health Act
- a child and adolescent mental health services psychiatric intensive care unit (CAMHS PICU).

We do hope residents will feel able to support us as we look to build a centre of excellence in the treatment of mental health. I am more than happy for residents to email me with any questions or concerns they may have.

Chira Tochia
(Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust)
chira.tochia@nhs.net



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Tobias Britton, Director

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Membership Application

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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
3. It is particularly important to provide your name and Postcode for the payment reference.
4. Email your name, address, telephone number to the Association's Membership Secretary <parkinmt@yahoo.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 Mike Parkin 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 membership secretary for further information.

Standing Order Mandate

To:	Bank	
	Branch address	
	(insert your bank details)	

Pay to:

Bank Barclays
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	
Reference: insert membership no. if known	

Name	
Address	

Signature	
Date	

Setting Boundaries

‘Who is my neighbour?’ My non-ecclesiastical answer was once, ‘The lady behind the high laurel hedge, whom I see once a week at at Aldhelm’s’.

The couple had lived there for perhaps half the life of the 1950s bungalow. She passed on her gardening knowledge, and numerous slips of plants which now thrive in mine, notably cranesbill. On his death the empty bungalow sold by his nephew to a nice couple with a dog. It could not last; within six months, planning application for eight flats.

Most of my side of the boundary is protected by mature evergreens; rhododendrons, and the said laurel hedge. Behind that, a magnolia whose magnificent pink-tinged whiteness seemed to fill the spring sky. The developer’s TPO report was that it was ‘poor quality’. Poor, in the sense of ‘unfortunate’. It was in the way of allotted car parking paces. ‘They paved paradise and put up a parking lot’ (Joni Mitchell).

It is not until the edge of the woodland that the screening greenery was on my neighbours’ side. A large, spreading conifer and other greenery separated us. This had formed a backdrop to ‘Mischief’ a David Goode goblin, sitting on a stone circle at the end of a crazy paving downward-sloping path. He sat in the surrounding dense shrubbery, on one side a Portuguese laurel, the other rhododendron. I kept both



trimmed sufficiently to let in light. Beyond the circle, a ‘moat’, then the ground rose to a low bank on the boundary.

It was something of a shock that, walking downwards on one of the woodland paths, I saw all my neighbours greenery gone, conifer, root and all. Giving me an uninterrupted view of an abandoned bungalow, and a desecrated, once much loved garden. I set about re-defining the boundary from my side.

The existing bank was reinforced by around 25 barrow loads of assorted topsoil, leaf mould, compost and path scrapings. Then planted with laurel slips, and aucuba (both green and ‘speckled laurel’ varieties). The existing plants, particularly laurel, will grow forward to the newly discovered light, of course. Shrubs lower down, edging the crazy paving and seeking the light in the other direction, now staked to grow upright and make another visual barrier.

The ‘moat’ round the stone circle now has a far steeper slope to the reinforced bank. So a natural retainer wall created by a semi-circle of two foot stakes driven into the slope, planted with variegated ivy at the top to bind. Along the crazy paving path, the other side of the Portuguese laurel, the tip of a rock or two barely showing. Rocks sink in the sand, and the steep slope washed down topsoil to cover. So, horticultural archaeology to get at the rocks, far too big to lift. They had to be rolled into position, (‘It’s only rock and roll, but I like it’) to form a retainer wall. Behind, the levelled out area, mostly shaded by the Portuguese laurel, planted with ground cover; woodruff, wood spurge, and a pretty white veined saxifrage.

Above this area, a line of conifer, if not the dreaded leylandii, kin to them, had been planted as hedging when the bungalow was new. Lower branches had been sprawling over some 12 feet

of my garden so were removed as far as I could reach up. It meant gaps, but as these gave an uninterrupted view of natural woodland, something of an asset. However, I made that part of the boundary a dumping ground of regular woodland path sweeping. Consequently, a built up boundary bund some three feet higher than my neighbour’s land. Mostly pine needles, of course, but anything organic rots eventually.

Unsure of what future development might be made in the neighbouring woodland, I have interplanted some annuals/ biennials between conifer trunks. A pocket of soil and/or compost. And the ‘thugs’, indestructible survivors, scragged out from where they shouldn’t be: notably alkanet, but also the copious self-seeders, teasels, evening



primrose, and even honesty. All told to colonise the ‘wild frontier’.

As predicted ‘And so farewell, Branksome Park Conservation Area’ (‘Pines and Chines’ Winter

2018) it is now ‘YIMBE’ (yes, in my back yard). But the impetus for a radical re-landscaping of a small area of my own garden. Hopefully, like Gloria Gaynor, ‘I will survive’.
David Reeves

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A change of topic for the picture quiz this time!

Can you identify these birds all of which are seen regularly in this area?



1



2



3



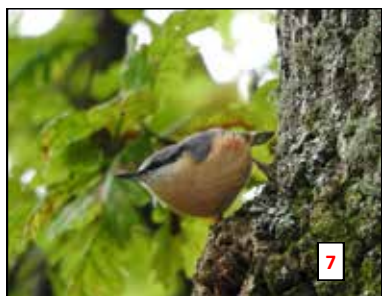
4



5



6



7



8



9



10

For answers
please see
page 26

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Go on, smile

Yesterday I saw a guy spill all his Scrabble letters on the road.
I asked him, "What's the word on the street?"

How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?
Once. The next time you would be subtracting 10 from 90.

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?
He just needed a little space.

Where are average things manufactured?
The satisfactory.

What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?
The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.

What did the Tin Man say when he got run over by a steamroller?
"Curses! Foil again!"

What did the pirate say when he turned 80?
Aye matey.

Why did the yogurt go to the art exhibition?
Because it was cultured.

I took the shell off of my racing snail, thinking it would make him faster.
But if anything, it made him more sluggish.

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle?
Attire.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?
It's okay. He woke up.

"Your mother has been with us for 20 years," said John. "Isn't it time she got a place of her own?"
"My mother?" replied Helen. "I thought she was your mother."

According to unofficial sources, a new simplified income-tax form contains only four lines:

1. What was your income for the year?
2. What were your expenses?
3. How much have you left?
4. Send it in.

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?
Same middle name.

Bird identification quiz

The answers

- 1 Great tit
- 2 Oystercatcher
- 3 Great spotted woodpecker
- 4 Spoonbill
- 5 Bullfinch
- 6 Starling
- 7 Nuthatch
- 8 Goldfinch
- 9 Lapwing
- 10 Long-tailed tit

How did you get on? If you want to brush up on your bird identification skills courses are run by –

1. Birds of Poole Harbour, a small local charity.

Go to www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk and follow the link to "Events" where details can be found, and tickets booked, for bird identification courses and other events, for example birdwatching cruises around Poole Harbour with very helpful experts on board.

2. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The RSPB is a well-known national charity with several nature reserves in Dorset, the best known of which is at Arne. There is a café and shop. They also run bird identification and other events. For more information on events and to book tickets, visit events.rspb.org.uk/arne

Note – five of the photographs were taken in a garden near Alum Chine, the remainder at Keyhaven, Stanpit Marsh, Studland Bay, Brownsea Island and Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth but all have been seen in and around Poole Harbour.



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Arrival of new Divorce Laws

Andrew Carswell is a solicitor specialising in civil and family litigation. He provides an overview of the new divorce laws that have come into force in the last twelve months.

In a break from some of the topics I have discussed in previous articles, focusing on Wills and Estates, I thought I would provide a few details about the new divorce laws that have finally come into force after many years, which may be of interest to some readers of Pine and Chines.

For almost 50 years anyone wishing to divorce, following the sad and unfortunate breakdown of marriage, required them to establish certain grounds. Strictly, the only ground was and still is "irretrievable breakdown of marriage", but that required establishing the existence of one of five facts, some based on a period of separation, and others on the presence of unreasonable behaviour or adultery of the other party. This is no longer the case following long awaited reforms brought in last year.

Following the passing of the Divorce, Dissolution and

Separation Act 2020 which came in to force on 6th April 2022, we now have what can be more properly described as 'no fault divorce', allowing couples to end their marriage without the need to attribute blame to any one party, or establish a period of separation.

The main ground for dissolving a marriage remains irretrievable breakdown, but neither party has to establish any specific grounds or facts. A statement by the Applicant is accepted as conclusive.

The Applicant's decision cannot be contested by the other party. Procedurally, there follows a period of reflection of 20 weeks before a Conditional Order for divorce is made. A further period of 6 weeks and one day must then pass before the Applicant can apply for a Final Order. At that point, the marriage is dissolved.

Joint applications can be made as well, if that suits the parties. An



Applicant can withdraw too, in the event they change their mind, which is rare, but not unknown.

The law governing finances and related issues such as children remains unchanged.

Opinions will vary on whether the new law is a good or bad thing, but these changes have been a long time coming and I think it is fair to say that more people will be in favour than not. Certainly, it is a welcome introduction from most solicitors practicing in this area, who know all too well that the divorce process, though not procedurally difficult, did seem antiquated, possibly unfair and very often created more problems than it solved.

Time will tell how this works over the next few years, but from the early signs, feedback seems to be positive.

Andrew Carswell
Partner
Aldridge Brownlee LLP
Bournemouth



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Searching for a sign

St Aldhelm's Church is situated on, I suppose one could say, the borders of Pines and Chines country, on the north side of Lindsay Road, and our parish is mainly on the 'other side of the tracks' extending across the railway line as far as Sainsbury's on the way to Wallisdown.

Indeed, part of our 'origin story' (or myth) is that when we were established as a daughter church of All Saints' there was the deliberate intention of catering to the 'poorer classes' then employed on the railway, at the Bourne Valley gasworks, the Redhill potteries – or in domestic service to the bigger houses of Branksome Park.

That was all a long time ago, at the end of the nineteenth century, and things have changed

a lot since. Nonetheless, something of that social breadth perhaps remains. The Church of England recently got into a tangle over whether clergy should bless same-sex couples, but at St Aldhelm's the prevailing thought would be, 'why ever not?'

Another aspect of our location is the number of passers-by. We are between Tesco's and Lidl, and close to the station and the bus stops. So when we placed a sign outside saying simply 'Open For

Prayer' the effect was gradual, but immediate and growing. They come in to sit awhile and rest, perhaps to make a cuppa and get out of the cold. Very rarely a 'no-goodun' enters in pursuit of petty crime, despite the notice on the donations box that politely explains 'Dear visitor, thank you for your gift... Dear thief, this box is emptied daily...' But most of all they come in to pray. The number of candles lit and heartfelt requests for prayer are testimony. A group of us shares in confidence all such requests and we remember each of them daily for a month. A few of us gather each morning at 7.45am to begin each day with Morning Prayer followed by the Angelus (a short form of prayer celebrating the Incarnation, God's coming into the world through Jesus) with its distinctive tolling of the bell.

So when one overnight before Christmas our 'Open For Prayer' sign disappeared we were flummoxed. Who'd want to steal it? I botched a temporary job and put out the call to please 'search for a sign...' Then, after several weeks, a kind and vigilant person came to my door with information: it had been spotted outside a Gospel-Hall in Churchill Road, off Ashley Road opposite Waitrose. I felt sure that its Elders could not be responsible for the theft and it was also clear that no matter how fervently they pray on Sundays the premises were firmly closed mid-week and so we reclaimed our sign. It is back in place to invite all who pass by – and you, the dear readers of Pines and Chines – to step aside and through our open doors whenever you feel the need for a moment of peace and prayer.

Fr Pip Martin
Vicar of St Aldhelm's,
Branksome

"A few of us gather each morning at 7.45am to begin each day with Morning Prayer followed by the Angelus (a short form of prayer celebrating the Incarnation, God's coming into the world through Jesus) with its distinctive tolling of the bell".

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What is your home made of and is it good for you?

We are lucky to be located on the beautiful Dorset coastline, with access to nature and all it has to offer. Nevertheless, most of us will spend almost 90% of our adult lives indoors.

With that in mind, it is important for the buildings we spend our time in to be good for our minds, bodies and souls; they should nurture our health and enhance our happiness. They need to be well designed, constructed using suitable materials, and provide salubrious environments that are beneficial to our enjoyment and wellbeing. In addition to the health benefits associated with their material construction, financial benefits are also possible with a better-performing building. Against a backdrop of the climate emergency and continued increases in energy and fuel prices, it is a prudent time to assess your current situation and think about the future of your home. Construction professionals, including architects, energy consultants and builders, should

be at the forefront of this push, with support from both local and national governments. Here at supernatural studio, we aim to make a difference, providing local solutions to global problems.

There are two main ways to improve your home; build natural and build low energy.

Encouragingly, there has been a recent shift towards a more sustainable architecture that is good for you and the planet. A more sustainable building promotes the health and happiness of its occupants while having the least possible negative impact on the environment. This means improved energy efficiency, avoiding environmental toxins, and responsibly using materials

and resources, while having a positive physical and psychological impact on its inhabitants. Using natural construction materials often promotes the use of local materials and traditional techniques, which are tried and tested solutions that can enhance an architectural design beyond the ordinary. Taking inspiration from both local vernacular and traditional construction the following design considerations are essential for a healthy building; good levels of daylight, better levels of indoor air quality, and an improved connection to the natural world outside (views, access, and the integration of flexible inside/outside areas such as balconies, terraces and patios).

Alongside the natural approach, improving the performance of a building is beneficial for your health and for your wealth. Based on building physics and with a fabric-first approach, Passivhaus and EnerPHit are setting new standards in residential construction. By optimising orientation, providing generous levels of insulation, high-performance glazing, and mechanical heat recovery, operational energy consumption is reduced through design rather than relying on renewables to offset carbon. If you are embarking upon a construction project, be it a new build or refurbishment, you should consider prioritising a fabric-first approach, using natural materials, and reducing your reliance on fossil fuels, all of which will help create a healthy environment, resilient to the changing climate.

John from supernatural studio
www.supernaturalstudio.com



super natural studio

architecture + sustainability

we are a multi-disciplinary architecture practice with a focus on natural materials and sustainable design

we provide creative, responsive solutions, that promote health and wellbeing, whilst treading lightly on the planet

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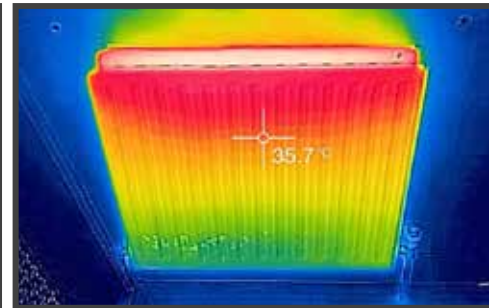
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The Iceman Cometh

I always thought we had budding or (even mature) talent around and one of them is the Iceman. He even has an entry in Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Iceman_\(performer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Iceman_(performer))

The Iceman has an unusual comedy act. He melts large blocks of ice. He does this while punning his way through ice-based monologues. A plastic duck lingers in a trough beneath an overflow pipe, interminably waiting to be lifted by meltwater.

Alone with his props and a persistent vision, the Iceman (real name Anthony Irvine) has played the most important venues in alternative comedy through the 1980s and '90s. He appeared on television, in a feature film, and on the radio, all with the singular mission of melting ice that, as some have pointed out, would have melted anyway.

56 numbered Polaroids—all that remains of the Iceman's blocks—are available on-line in, as he puts it, 'thrilling instamatic colour, an attempt at unlikely immortality'.

You can find out what the Iceman was thinking. Hear where he came from and what happened when he vanished. What are 'ghost blocks' and who is 'the Blockless One'? These questions and more are finally answered on his website.

The Iceman, who paints under the name of AIM, does live performances in the area, most recently in Chaplins in Boscombe. To say his act is unusual is an understatement. His act, and humour, are unique

In his spare time Anthony teaches drama and is obviously making good use of his English degree from Oxford University. He is a one-off and should be treasured and supported,

John Gunton
Editor



You can get a copy of the Iceman's book 'Melt It! The Book of The Iceman' from Go Faster Stripe

He paints under the name of AIM (Anthony Ice Man) and his paintings have been describe as 'art brut'.

www.iceblocked.co.uk.

Art Exhibition: 7th July 2023 till 5th August 2023. At Guggleton Farm Arts, CIC, Station Road, Stalbridge, Dorset, DT10 2RQ



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Letter Writing

Totally obsolete technology' I hear you cry. 'Nowadays, it's all texting, with vowel-less words, and initials to confuse the uninitiated!'. The example of the middle aged Tory P.M. (several prime ministers ago) who thought 'L.O.L. meant 'lots of love' (which caused lots of laughs) springs readily to mind.

Then there's the emojis to convey meaning. Pictograms were last used by the ancient Egyptians, pre Rosseta stone. For more formal communication, there is the electronic letter, or 'email' as the Americans have taught us to say. Normally brief, but fulfilling the place once occupied by the letter. Going back two or three generations, in town certainly, one could send via Royal Mail an invitation to dine that evening, and expect a reply by the second post. 'Those were the days, my friend'.

I started handwriting letters young, the chore of the 'thank you letter' for Christmas and birthday gifts. I was jealous of Richard, the little boy next door, who was allowed to give his thanks via the cutting edge technology of the black Bakelite telephone in their hall. He later went to boarding school, so we continued our friendship via letters. And when he joined the Hong Kong police, we kept that friendship going with periodic accounts of our lives. His, dealing with riots and drug smuggling, mine of a commuting civil servant, whose most exciting prospect was Waterloo sunset.

The 'business letter' has a different register, which most people will have experienced in their working life. As a taxman, writing mostly to accountants and

other professionals, a common language, the appropriate 'jargon' for that context. But, writing a letter to the individual, I would strive to make clear and understandable the complexities of the system. My letter writing skills were commended. So when I moved on to Head office, and drafting letters for the Minister to explain the tax system in terms so simple even Members of Parliament could understand, I was confident of success. My first attempt came back, amended in language so plain, that I knew some technicality had been missed. It had not. The drafting skills of the career civil servant was something I soon acquired.

Retiring, a quarter of a century as volunteer with CAB, letters in a different register. I soon learned to curb my initial indignation about the client's story, and write dispassionately the initial fact-finding on the lines of, 'my client tells me that...'

The computer inveigled its way into my office towards the end of my career, and subsequently into CAB record keeping and letter writing. With no keyboard skills, I was a reluctant convert. But, once I had a 'P.C.', I soon moved from putting letters in the post, to writing emails to those with whom I corresponded regularly. My entirely arbitrary definition is that, exceeding 500 words, it's

a 'letter'. Otherwise it's merely an email. The computer kindly counts the words, and over a year I write the equivalent of a novel.

I did indeed write a novel, encouraged by my writing group. Subsequently, Graham Smith who had directed Poole Museums from next to nothing to an award-winning museum, asked if I would write his biography, which I was honoured to do. Checking with a fellow-student the facts of his early life as an M.A. student at the Royal College of Art, I struck up a correspondence which has now lasted some ten years. After that, 'my life in gardens, a 'hortobiography'. Regular readers will know to their cost I go on (and on) about gardening. Finally, a tribute to Fay, my late wife, a Life in Pictures, published online.

Just before lockdown, I had an email from an unknown source. As I read on, I realised it was from my long-lost granddaughter, Jessica. A bitter divorce had meant Fay and I had been banned from contacting either grandchild. Reinforced when we emailed her younger brother when he came of age, giving him the chance of resuming contact with us. An angry reply from the ex-wife: her bitterness had not lessened over the years.

Jessica had got hold of my tribute to Fay, which had prompted her, rather tentatively, to write to me. I told her I was overjoyed. She has been a regular correspondent ever since.

So, 'letter writing' for me continues to draw together friends and family.

David Reeves



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Bury Road	Forest Road	Pinewood Road
Canford Cliffs Ave	Frankland Cres	Ravine Road
Canford Cliffs Road (Even Nos)	Haig Avenue	Sandbourne Road
Canford Cliffs Road (Odd Nos. 3-67)	Haven Road	Spencer Road
Canford Cliffs Road (Odd Nos. 69-99)	Haydon Road	Spur Hill Ave
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Councillors

Canford Cliffs Ward (which includes Branksome Park).

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Mohan Iyengar	c/o BCP Council Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth BH2 6DY Tel: 07887 684 174 Email: mohan.iyengar@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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