



PINES AND CHINES

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

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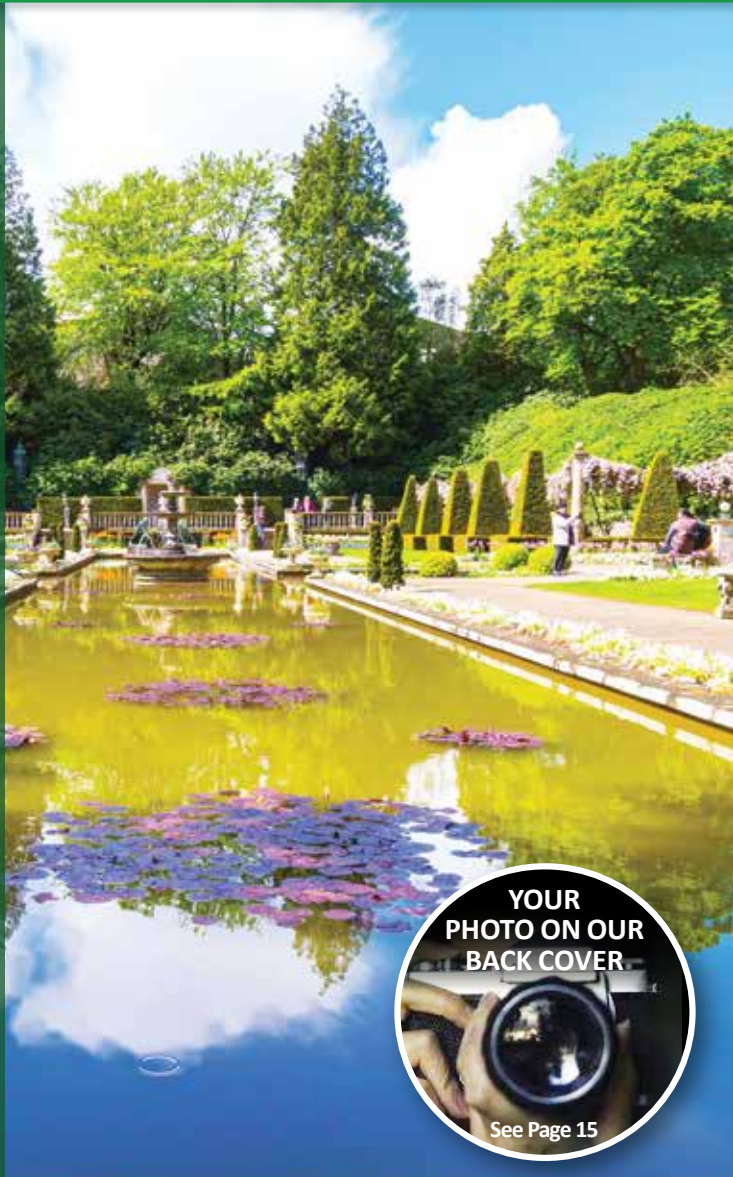
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A warm hello to you

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Pines and Chines* and what a bumper issue it is!

By the time you read this, turning the clocks back will be imminent - that annual ritual when we gain an hour's sleep but lose the evening light. Still, there's magic in this season: a golden glow in the trees, crisp mornings that make a brisk walk irresistible and cosy evenings perfect for a warm drink, comfort food and perhaps a favourite book or box set.

If you're new to the neighbourhood, a very warm welcome. We hope you'll soon agree that this is a wonderful place to live. *Pines and Chines* is just one of the ways the Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association (BPCRA) works to support our community. A core aim is to protect our residents' interests but we can only act on your behalf if you're a member. So, if you haven't yet joined, do turn to page 16 and sign up.

And please get involved! We're looking for a Street Warden & Distribution Coordinator, a volunteer who can help us keep every road covered, recruit wardens, send out warden updates and oversee magazine delivery. If you're organised, friendly and fond of a good spreadsheet, Peter Schroeder would love to hear from you at p.r.schroeder39@gmail.com.

Our regular open meetings are a great way to meet your councillors and share your views. At our most recent meeting, Ward Councillor Gavin Wright reminded us that the current round of CIL bids

(Community Infrastructure Levy) closes on 13 December - see Councillors' Corner on page 13 for more details.

We also work closely with neighbouring residents' associations to strengthen our collective voice. Congratulations to the Canford Cliffs Land Society, celebrating its centenary this year, you can read about their celebrations on page 40 and join their AGM on 25 April.

This edition is packed with fascinating local stories, from Association updates and evocative recollections of VE Day 1945 to an enchanting medieval garden and even a tale of romance. Don't miss the feature on a remarkable pair of ospreys defying the odds.

We're also inviting our keen photographers to submit images for our back cover - find out more on page 15.

Above all, *Pines and Chines* is your magazine. Please share your thoughts and tell us what you think via the QR code below or email ed.pinesandchines@icloud.com.

It's been a joy putting this issue together. While I loved the summer sunshine (and a quick escape to Mallorca - thank goodness for Bournemouth Airport!), I adore the sparkle and excitement of the festive season ahead.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and every good wish for 2026.

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Front Cover picture: Compton Acres Gardens
Back Cover picture: Branksome Chine Gardens stone steps by pond

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We hope to see you again at the BPCRA AGM next Spring, 11 April.

Annabel Stemp

Editor



Tell us what you think scan the QR code

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Chairman's Letter

What an interesting year it's been! We've enjoyed a wonderful summer, at least weather wise, but even this has not been without its own set of challenges.

Town Councils: Back to the Future? Despite widespread opposition from residents and beyond, BCP Council has voted to impose new Town Councils next year, including one for Poole. BPCRA vehemently opposes this exorbitant unwanted layer of bureaucracy, setup alone will cost £1 million, and will fight to protect residents from waste and soaring, uncapped precepts.

Follow our newsletter for more updates; sign up here www.pinesandchines.co.uk. Read more in Councillors Corner page 13.

Ongoing planning pressures: While the slowing housing market may be temporarily easing the pressures from developers, those pressures are still very much present. BCP Council may be struggling to sell the Beach Road car park and it remains on the market despite the parking chaos brought on by the sunny weekends we enjoyed earlier this year.

Parking problems: Thanks to strong pressure from our Association and others, along with support from our local MP, the Council quickly abandoned its plan to charge local residents to park in their own roads.

Instead, they persuaded the Government's Local Government department to grant them, for an experimental period, the ability to charge much higher penalty fines for illegal parking. The normal penalties made the daily fine quite an attractive proposition to a day visitor!

Other Key Issues: We continue to work closely with our neighbouring associations. Current issues include the controversial Haven Hotel and Harbour Heights proposals.

We're also battling for road safety measures. Unfortunately, we were again unsuccessful in securing any CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds for road safety measures, although some other improvement projects were funded.

As a result, we held an open BPCRA residents' meeting and invited our two Ward Councillors, John Challinor and Gavin Wright, to update us on exactly how CIL works. Better luck in the next round!

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to John and Gavin for their excellent support and to our local MP, Neil Duncon-Jordan, for his willingness to battle local issues on our behalf.

It's a little early, but I would like to wish you all the best for the coming festive season.

Peter Schroeder
Chairman

Our thanks to Vicky Moss

I'd just like to say how lucky we are to have Vicky in the Association. Her support and leadership of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) team cannot be underestimated.

And more than just monitoring speed throughout our area, Vicky has been at the forefront of lobbying the Council to make our roads safer for all.

Sadly Vicky is stepping down in her role as CSW and road safety leader. Thank you Vicky, you have made a real difference. I am very pleased you will be staying as a member of the Association's Executive and, of course, you will still be closely involved with the Pinecliff Gardens gardening team.

John Gunton
Advertising Manager



Membership Report

As our name suggests, the Association exists to protect and represent the interests of local residents. Many of you have supported us for years, while others have joined more recently after moving to the area. Together, we are your collective voice on planning matters, road safety and other important local issues.

Since becoming Membership Secretary, I've seen the many ways members connect with us, from how you pay fees to how you receive updates or sign up. Whether you're an individual member, part of a block of flats that has joined as a unit or simply receive our email updates, your support is greatly valued.

Like all Committee members, I'm a volunteer and do my best to use my time to support the BPCRA and our community. Over the coming months, I'll be making a few changes to help things run more smoothly and

ensure we stay in touch with those who actively support our work. One of my priorities will be to update our membership records. I'll be contacting those whose annual fees are overdue, as keeping the £5 subscription up to date is essential to continue the Association's activities. Where payments remain outstanding, unfortunately we may need to remove members accordingly.

With postal costs continuing to rise, it's more important than ever that we communicate mainly by email. If we don't yet have your email address, please do share it, it helps us save costs and stay connected. Please email your name, address and postcode, to pamcarvell@aol.com. You'll also receive the BPCRA newsletter every two months.

We currently have two email lists: one for people who just want to receive regular updates and another for people who sign

up to become members via the website. I'll be tightening up the website sign up process to ensure it's used by actual local residents and removing names and addresses that haven't opened an email from us for more than a year. These small updates will help us communicate more effectively and keep our association strong.

We'd be grateful if members paying by cash could switch to an annual Standing Order via www.pinesandchines.co.uk/become-a-member, or see page 16 for cheque and other payment options.

Rest assured we'll continue producing and distributing *Pines and Chines* to homes via our wonderful team of volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer to help us with deliveries in your area please email Andrea Charman, Honourable Secretary at andreacharman@equilearn.org.
Pamela Carvell
Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report

A big thank you to all of you who have made a subscription payment to BPCCRRA whether as an individual or part of a collective payment scheme.

Your subscriptions allow BPCCRRA to continue the work that we do.

The account balance was £42,276 at the end of August 2025

Stanley Peters
Treasurer

The Aim & Objectives 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 (BCP) 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.

Find out more about BPCCRRA membership on page 16.

Planning Report

Over the past six months, planning activity in our area has continued at a steady pace.

While the overall number of new applications has not been overwhelming, the nature of what's being proposed tells a bigger story. Redevelopment and intensification remain the dominant themes: more plots are being eyed for subdivision, more family homes are proposed to be replaced with apartment blocks and more large scale rebuilds are being put forward in place of perfectly serviceable houses.

What we're seeing is a gradual but noticeable shift in the character of our neighbourhoods. Some proposals show sensitivity and imagination, enhancing their settings. Others, however, prioritise maximising floorspace at the expense of design quality, neighbour amenity and sustainability.

1. Common Concerns

Several issues recur across the applications we have reviewed:

- **Scale and Overdevelopment**
Some sites are being pushed beyond what they can comfortably accommodate. A good example is 31A The Avenue, where plans to replace a single dwelling with a block of eight flats raised concerns about bulk and design quality.
- **Site Splitting**
Dividing single plots into two or more dwellings has become more common. At 2 Lagado Close, what looked like a modest extension proposal ultimately sought to create two homes from one bungalow, against earlier advice that such intensification would not be supported.
- **Design Quality**
We continue to see plans that lack contextual awareness. At The Lodge, Burton Road,

no fewer than four separate applications were lodged simultaneously, three for different houses and one for an office. None offered design clarity or a positive contribution to the Conservation Area.

- **Environment and Trees**
Applications sometimes underplay the importance of trees and biodiversity. At 15A Brudenell Avenue, the absence of trees that were previously subject to preservation orders raised serious questions about procedural compliance.

It's worth noting that not all is negative. At 29 Archway Road, for example, a modest extension scheme was described as "showcasing good design solutions".

It demonstrated how thoughtful, proportionate proposals can enhance a property without harming its surroundings. This

shows that good outcomes are very possible when care is taken.

2. Decisions and Appeals

Several contentious cases remain under review or have moved to appeal, including applications at 29 Western Road and 4 Burton Road, both involving subdivision within Conservation Areas. These appeals underline that planning battles often continue well beyond the first decision, and the Association will remain vigilant.

3. BPCCRRA's Broader Role

Beyond individual applications, the Association has engaged with national consultations via NORA (National Organisation of Residents Associations).

On topics such as the reform of planning committees and build out transparency, we have stressed the need for a fair balance between efficiency and accountability. Development should be delivered promptly, but it must also be the right kind of development, rooted in good design, sustainability, and community benefit.

4. Looking Ahead

As always, we'll continue to keep a close eye on planning matters across the Ward. Our aim is not to resist change, but to guide it in ways that respect the qualities that make Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs such special places to live. With thoughtful design and proper oversight, new development can add value, but we must ensure it does so in a way that protects our area's character for generations to come.

Reflections on the NORA (National Organisation of Residents Associations) Consultation: Autumn 2025

When the Government launches consultations on planning reform, it is always a mixed experience. On the one hand, it's positive to see long standing issues being addressed. On the other, there is often a nagging sense that changes are being proposed simply to prove that something is happening, rather than because they will genuinely improve outcomes.

The recent NORA consultation on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill illustrates this tension perfectly.

1. What's on the Table?

The proposals aim to streamline decision making, introduce new environmental plans and reform how committees and fees are managed.

On the surface, there is much to welcome: a faster and clearer system, fees ringfenced for planning services and a stronger framework for biodiversity. But the devil, as always, is in the detail.

- Local democracy feels squeezed. Fewer applications will be decided in open committee, with more delegated to officers. That may be efficient, but it risks shutting residents out of important conversations.
- Centralisation is increasing. Greater powers are proposed for the Secretary of State and mayors, potentially reducing the ability to respond flexibly to local concerns.
- Environmental safeguards are shifting. Developers may be

able to bypass on-site protections by paying into central funds. While this could speed up delivery, it risks sacrificing local biodiversity in favour of distant mitigation.

2. Progressive and Frustrating in Equal Measure

Engaging in the consultation has been both encouraging and exasperating. Encouraging, because residents' groups like ours are being asked to contribute to national debates. Frustrating, because too often the emphasis seems to be on change for change's sake.

We have consistently argued that quality must be the driver, not change itself. Faster decisions are only worthwhile if they deliver homes and places that enhance local character, respect the environment, and provide genuine community benefit. Otherwise, efficiency simply becomes a byword for cutting corners.

3. Echoes of the Planning Process

In many ways, the consultation mirrors our day to day experience with planning applications. There is progress, but it is rarely straightforward. Decisions can feel inconsistent, the rules are often in flux, and the balance between speed and quality remains elusive.

Our role, both locally and nationally, is to keep pressing for that balance to be struck. Change may be inevitable, but it must be purposeful and grounded in the values of good design, sustainability and accountability.

4. Looking Ahead

We will continue to engage constructively in these consultations, while reminding decision makers that communities are not simply hurdles to be cleared on the way to development. They are essential partners in shaping places where people want to live. As this process evolves, we will keep you updated.

For now, we take heart in the fact that our collective voice is part of the debate even if the path to better planning feels, at times, as challenging as the system it seeks to reform.

John Harkness
Planning Officer

Beach Road Car Park update

As the "for sale" sign gets slowly obscured by the encroaching undergrowth, BCP council remains very quiet on the subject of the Beach Road Car Park.

Could it be that with the serious downturn in the upmarket property sector, developers are reluctant to come up with the price our council is seeking? (though of course we don't know what that is!)



Maybe an Association member with a few million sitting idle would like to make a bid?

Maybe it could be used as a car park . . .

Peter Schroeder
Chairman

BRANKSOME PARK AND CANFORD CLIFFS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Minutes of the AGM held Saturday April 12, 2025

1. Notice of Meeting

Chair, Peter Schroeder opened the AGM at 10.30am, noting the usual housekeeping - fire escapes, roving mike and post meeting refreshments.

2. Apologies for Absence

Chair announced apologies from Neil Duncan Jordan MP, Pamela Carvell, Jackie Heap, Lee Side, Steve and Chris Trefall.

3. Guest Speakers

Chair introduced speakers noting the focus - the pros and cons of having a Town Council - plus welcomed the Chairs of Neighbour Associations

i) John Challinor, Councillor (JC)

- in post for six years, John opened his comments by asking about the whats and whys of the role. The focus is on supporting the local area,

on planning, community issues, etc. Councillors attend 10 full council meetings a year (76 council members), all starting at 7pm and running sometimes till midnight. A mix of items coming before them with 30 - 40 minutes of public statements and questions, some without a local basis (eg: Gaza, climate change, various national policies). People are welcome to attend, plus watch via YouTube livestream. Cabinet and committee meetings are attended by particular members with JC attending planning - it meets 9 - 10 times a year with site visits common - and GW attending environmental and scrutiny meetings. Most councillors are on one committee.

ii) Gavin Wright, Councillor (GW) - in post for less than one year, Gavin went on to

explain what his role entails. Parks, heaths, roads, cycle lanes, lighting, shelters etc., are at the forefront of his agenda together with CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bids. There is a Ward Surgery every month offering the opportunity for people to drop in and consult. Double council tax, parking issues, yellow lines, potholes, are frequent topics. There is a limit to what councillors can do but the council website is an excellent way to submit a concern. Damage to trees associated with planning applications has been a recent issue of concern. Gavin went on to stress that getting 2000 signatures ensures an issue is a full council agenda point.

iii) Paul Hilliard, Mayor of Christchurch (PH) - BPCRA asked PH to speak on the consultation going on around

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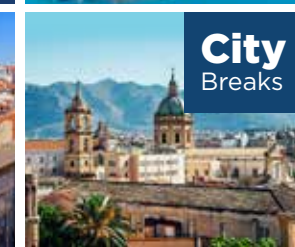
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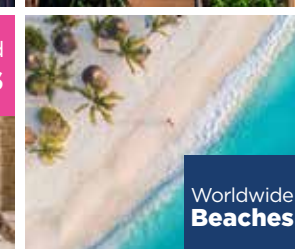
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changes in town and village councils. 2019 saw the establishment of a merged authority - BCP. At this time Christchurch Council was established. Hurn and Burton have had town councils since 1974. There is a Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council providing allotments, sports pitches, pavilions and two nature reserves. Dorset has over 160 town and parish councils. 40,000 Christchurch residents paid £25 pa per property at the outset; it is now £75 pa. The council manages the old town hall, allotments, parks, cricket pitch, skate park, guide hut, etc. Some facilities are cost neutral - allotments - without an income the town council is limited. It has monthly policy and other meetings with full council meetings every six weeks.

Itinerant, with six staff, it has no home currently so is looking for offices, but this carries costs. A precept £40 - £75 raise in contributions allowed it to take over a children's park after a resident's poll, plus employ a Community Safety Officer at £40K a year. The Council will buy Waitrose Car Park from the council and rent it back - a cost neutral endeavour. In the 2023 elections only 17 out of 19 councillor places were filled because of the lack of remuneration. A Co - Option Policy was established with eight applicants. This revealed that people did not stand at the election time as they had no knowledge of the elections at the time. The town council has seen major successes - the Christchurch Food Festival, the VE Day Event (proposed by Poole) but lack of budgets means Christchurch is working with

other organisations to platform these events. £20k is available annually to plug gaps. The tourism website was shut down in March but local businesses stepped in with the town council saving the 'Come to Christchurch' site and promoting free events. Christchurch is twinned with Christchurch, New Zealand, Saint - Lo, France and Aalen, Germany. These relationships encourage exchanges - language, dance, tradition, heritage. JC commented that in Poole several parishes have councils focusing local priorities, managing parks, events, monitoring planning, with the current Community Governance Review (overseen by BCP) exploring six new parish councils in Bournemouth & Poole. Eg: Broadstone, Boscombe, Southbourne.

The key factor is cost over which JC suggested, there is no control. He is against the current proposals and suggested people need to push back by challenging on bureaucratic grounds rather than financial as the latter will be ignored. The 'managing heritage argument' for these councils in Poole does not hold as this is assured by the Charter Trustees. Established in 2019 following local government reorganisation, the Trustees ensure the continuation of civic historic and ceremonial traditions - Mayor and Sheriff selection, the securing and maintenance of historic property etc. Regional devolution will soon occur with the result that a town council will be yet another layer with yet more costs. Chair read out a currently circulating leaflet on this, noting the consultation continues until midday on June 22 2025.

iv) Q&A topics from the floor:

1. Light pollution in Poole Harbour - light levels are excessive. GW advised to approach Poole Harbour Commissioners

2. Canford Cliffs and Branksome Chines and Beach - current state of neglect raised as a serious detriment to essential tourism. GW noted some work has been done at Branksome Chine but CIL needs to be involved together with the seafront team. Leaves and tree debris is an issue GW will progress; email the council. Chair commented on the support the association gives to community projects eg: Pinecliff Gardens

3. 'Degrading' of Poole was raised - since the establishment of BCP, Poole has lost 'status.' (Attendees engaged in this issue with notable interest). The Mayor of Poole is no longer the first person to meet dignitaries; the Civic Centre is being sold off so the Mayor has no facilities (has to change into his robes in his car); its identity is being eroded; it hosts minimal events. Suggestion from floor that a town council might bring valuable and enjoyable events back to Poole. For 12 months there has been no CIL money raising all kinds of questions. JC responded by noting that the workload of the planning team delayed CIL with the Labour Government rejecting the council's housing proposal. The number proposed needs to be doubled; CIL bids have now



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been supported by the ward. He insisted that the costs of a town council would not be just c £70 pa but more likely we will see a precept of a few hundred pounds. The council can do more and residents need to insist, exercise their voice.

4. The Beach Hut situation was raised by an attendee noting that his queries were answered by the commercial department of the council - it took 20 days and was not appropriate so is advice available on how to get speedier and correctly targeted responses?

The Chair noted that the association(s) approaches pressure collectively, exists to support the needs/wishes of the membership and does get responses - not always useful, however. We can escalate when necessary.

5. The historical longstanding perception of BCP's lack of transparency was raised. Is anything being done to challenge 'non - valid' ballot responses, for example? Are people who are putting forward opinions on various issues made aware of arguments which do or do not count? The whitewashing of the character of towns was noted with Swindon as an example with the Chair intervening by suggesting the conversation was drifting away from the core purpose of the meeting. The questioner countered by saying the conversation did indeed align with the core topic being reviewed - Town Councils. The conversation

continued around budget transparency - with SEND budgets and asylum seeker spending raised. JC noted even when councils are running deficits, certain legal requirements need to be met. The Chair suggested a freedom of information request might to the council might provide the numbers we need to know. Eg: the state of tourist numbers (up or down); planned numbers of asylum seekers in hotels, student numbers, etc.

The Q&A concluded with agreement that we need intensive focus on our local area; there was considerable support for the view that a town council might assist.

4. Minutes of the 2024 AGM and Matters Arising

Accepted with no matters arising. Chair proposed John Sprackling as **Life President, BPCRA**. Agreed by the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report & Review, including Planning Matters

The main events of the year are recorded in *Pines and Chines*. Chair thanked all retiring officers - Carol & Mike Parkin, Jackie Heap - and noted incoming officers. Andrea Charman - Secretary and Vice Chair; Annabel Stemp - Editor, *Pines and Chines*; Pamela Carvell - Membership Secretary; Stanley Peters - Treasurer, and John Gunton moving to Advertising Secretary.

He then went on to Planning, starting with Beach Road car park which Roy Pointer is monitoring - awaiting information. John Harkness' Planning report noted a 10% decrease in planning requests, about 200 in total,

20% of which received objections, with five planning breaches. Site intensification is a noted feature with concerns around density, the character of the works and the materials, together with conservation issues. Should members have questions, they are invited to email Planning planning.BPCRA@gmail.com

Lastly, all volunteers were sincerely thanked while it was noted that the association is keen to enlist more volunteers thereby ensuring an effective succession plan. This includes wardens - the Association needs to fill current gaps. The Chair will be contacting wardens individually.

6. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of the Accounts for 2024

The Treasurer (SP) noted his report can be found on page 12 in *Pines and Chines*. Stanley thanked subscribers and asked for a couple of people who had subscribed for whom he has no record, were present. This illustrates the importance of digital sign - in to accuracy in record keeping.

7. Pines and Chines Magazine:

Report from Annabel Stemp (AS) and John Gunton (JG) Annabel thanked John for his 20 years' service. She noted the feedback form that can be accessed via the QR code in the current edition.

8. Special Projects:

Review by Vicky Moss (VM) gave a short report on the Community Speed Watch project and the ongoing challenges of drivers who speed. Western Road and Branksome Park area regularly registers 50 mph.

There are 11 regular volunteers and VM is in discussion with local police. A CIL bid has been submitted for Chester Road - not a first choice VM, but the response from residents has been very positive.

Should you see speeders, do report it. VM went on to note the continuing work on Branksome Chine (thanks to the Mark Kedgley group working from Penn Hill to the beach), inaccessible at the moment; plus Pinecliff Gardens, thanking volunteers (10 - 12 in Pinecliff Gardens) together with

thanking the Association for its generous funding. There are a lot more plants as a result but there are still challenges with new volunteers welcome!

Tall men in particular for heavy jobs!

9. Election of Officers

The Secretary (AC) proposed the re - election of Peter Schroeder, the current Chair for a further year, seconded by Roy Pointer (RP). Andrea Charman, Pamela Carvell, Annabel Stemp, Stanley Peters, were re - elected to their current positions, with John

Gunton as Advertising Manager/ Secretary and John Spackling, Honorary Life President (as noted above).

10. AOB

A few points of interest were raised to include:

1. a) M&S maybe taking over Homebase site. No data on this from planning
2. b) VE Day, May 8 and



Councillors Corner

More council bureaucracy in the pipeline

Over the last few weeks I have been a member of the task and finish group for the community governance review (CGR).

This is to look at the consultation that was put out to residents to ask questions on whether they wanted a town or parish council in their area - or indeed anywhere in BCP.

Of the 70 something proposals, six were selected to go out to public consultation from Bournemouth and Poole. These were: Boscombe & Pokesdown; Bournemouth; Broadstone; Poole; Redhill; Southbourne.

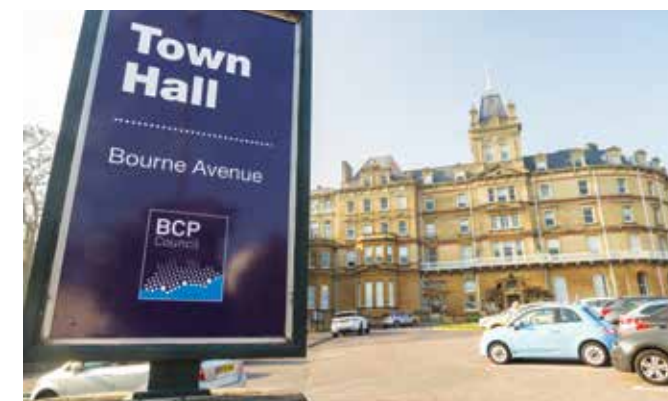
All of these areas were vehemently against establishing a town council with between 65% and 82% of respondents opposed to the extra councils and the cost and bureaucracy that these would entail.

Even though most people did not want town councils, the task and finish group committee have completely ignored the majority of opinion and voted 8 to 2 to recommend establishing town councils in Broadstone, Bournemouth and Poole.

There were some voting anomalies - for example, the

Labour member voting to not recommend the Bournemouth proposal but in favour of a Poole council being established.

And it could be seen during various meetings that the administration could push through what they wanted given that they had a majority of councillors on the committee.



The feeling that the whole process was predetermined was one that was held by many, both by those on the task and finish group as well as those observing. The working group consisted of six members from the Three Towns Alliance administration (4 Lib Dems, 1 Christchurch Independent and 1 Poole People) with three from the other groups (1 Labour, 1 Green and 2 Conservatives).

The next stage of this process is for the recommendations to go to the Overview and Scrutiny Board. After that, the report will be debated by BCP Cabinet which will, in all probability, recommend that it goes to Full Council in October.

BCP councillors will then debate and vote on the establishment of the town councils. It is hoped that at this

stage councillors from all political parties will come to their senses, listen to the residents that have taken the time to respond to the consultation, and vote against establishing town councils.

Cllr Gavin Wright



A new window of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

It's been mentioned before about how CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding can be used to benefit a specific area. These funds, from developer contributions, can support communities by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. The last round, delayed due to work on the Local Plan and with successful bids announced in June, enabled work on a wide range of projects in Canford Cliffs.

These were Sandbanks heritage lights, shoreline interpretation boards, Pinecliff Gardens shelters, Treasure island play park equipment, slipway improvements and some cycle

stands. Some of this work has already started - including the new shelters - whilst some projects will take a while to progress to completion.

The new round opens for bids on 13 October, closing on 15 December with successful grants awarded in April 2026. As Ward Councillors, Gavin and I want to encourage bids for the funds that will benefit the whole community, with support for some road safety measures in Branksome Park uppermost in our minds.

The area contributes significantly to CIL funding across BCP, with 15% of the funds generated spent across Canford Cliffs ward.

There is a simple form to complete to submit any bid, that details the project, cost, benefit

to the area and if it has ward councillor support as well as from the council, where appropriate (road safety, green spaces/ environment, heritage etc).

You may need to get a quote from a council department, so allow time for this. Full information and forms can be found on the BCP council website - there is a whole section on Neighbourhood CIL, including details of past awards.

After the closing date, a CIL panel meets to discuss and approve/reject bids - does it meet the criteria for use of CIL as detailed, is there enough money in the ward fund, have relevant officers & ward councillors supported the bid, and so on.

I'm not on the CIL panel and, if a fund is oversubscribed, it may just be down to the judgement of the panel on the day.

Let's continue to work together to use this funding wisely to further enhance this wonderful area.

Cllr John Challinor



Calling all keen photographers

Do you love capturing the splendour of Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs? We'd love to showcase your talent.

Every issue, *Pines and Chines* will feature one reader's photograph on our back cover to mark a celebration of the stunning neighbourhood we're lucky to call home. Perhaps it's the golden sunlight through the pines, a tranquil beach walk or a hidden garden corner, whatever moment inspired you, please share it with us.

How to share your picture

- Send us a picture you took recently. Try to send us the highest resolution possible. The file size limit is 5MB.

- Portrait images are preferable due to the page design
- Include where and when it was taken and tell us what made the moment special
- Don't forget your full name so we can credit you properly

Your image could be the one that brightens our next issue and delights fellow residents.

We can't wait to see Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs through your eyes!



Send your photo to ed.pinesandchines@icloud.com. Keep an eye on the BPCRA newsletter for reminders.

Annabel Stemp
Editor

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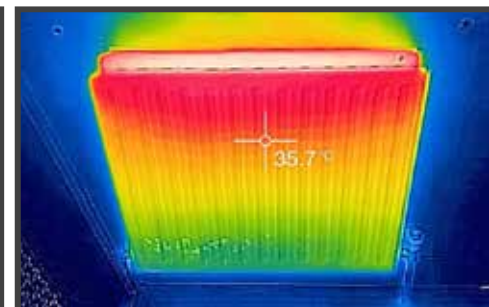
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Join the BPCCRRA today for just £5

Since 1958 BPCCRRA has represented the unique character of Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs, becoming a strong voice for local residents. The Association is run by a team of dedicated volunteers, acting as committee members and wardens who distribute *Pines and Chines* magazine in their area. We're always looking for more volunteers to join us, so please reach out to us if you'd like to get involved.



Find out more about us on the *Pines and Chines* website www.pinesandchines.co.uk

- Email your full name, address, postcode and contact telephone number to pamcarvell@aol.com to confirm membership

Need help with your application?

Contact pamcarvell@aol.com or write to:

Membership Secretary BPCCR
The Parish Office,
Branksome St Aldhelm Centre,
401 Poole Road, Poole,
BH12 1AD

BPCCRRA is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and adheres to the Data Protection Act.

Contact with members will only be made by members of the BPCCRRA Executive Committee and the Association's Wardens. All information provided in the Application process is restricted to use within the Residents Association and is not shared with anyone or any organisation outside of the Association, except for the agency that we appoint to conduct email distribution on our behalf.

How to join

Membership is open to anyone who lives in Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs and its immediate neighbourhood, and who is interested in keeping our beautiful leafy seaside suburbs protected and preserved (see current list of roads in our defined area on page 58).

A strong membership base enables the Association to be more effective in gathering residents' views about local matters and in campaigning to make those views known.

We welcome new members to join and get involved. Membership is just £5.00 per year per household and it's easy to join online at www.pinesandchines.co.uk/become-a-member/

Alternatively you can set up a Standing Order using the details below:

- **Account Name:** Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
- **Sort Code:** 20-11-39
- **Account Number:** 00201804
- **Amount:** £5 annually
- Use your surname and postcode as the reference eg Smith BH13 6JQ

Benefits of Membership

- Be part of BPCCRRA's activities to support all that's important locally for individuals, families and business in our community
- Attend meetings every two months to hear the latest news, share your views, meet other residents and chat to local councillors
- Stay informed on planning applications and road safety
- Help protect local trees, wildlife, and the beauty of our area
- Receive regular updates from our Chairman and the *Pines and Chines* magazine delivered twice a year
- Benefit from a dedicated team of local volunteers working closely with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and speaking up on issues concerning the area
- Just £5.00 a year per household



New to health insurance?

Here's what you need to know about Moratorium underwriting.

When you start looking at health insurance, you'll need to make a few choices. From cover levels and excesses to hospital lists and consultant access, it can be a bit of a minefield. Of all those choices, one is perhaps the most important, the type of underwriting you would like used.

What is underwriting?

Underwriting is the process of an insurer assessing the risk involved in offering you cover. All types of insurance have underwriting, be that car, house, life, boat and jet, if you're lucky enough to own one. If you're taking a policy out for the first time, 95% of clients choose a new moratorium.

How moratorium underwriting works

With moratorium underwriting, you won't have to answer any medical questions when you get your policy. Instead, your insurer will simply exclude any pre-existing conditions you've suffered from or sought treatment for in the past five years. However, if you don't have treatment, medication or advice for an excluded pre-existing condition, or need treatment for two years, then it'll be covered in years three and beyond.

Advantages of moratorium underwriting

- ✓ **Very quick to get a policy**, sometimes even the same day.
- ✓ **Pre-existing conditions could be covered** after 2 years.

Disadvantages of moratorium underwriting

- ✗ **No visibility of exclusions** until you claim.

How to choose the right type of underwriting

The key is researching and speaking to a knowledgeable broker about your circumstances. Your choice of underwriting today can have a huge impact on what's covered and what's not by your medical insurance in years to come, so getting it right in the first place is key.

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Keeping our roads safe and the case for keeping speed camera fines local

As a long serving Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteer, I'm sadly stepping down after our third unsuccessful CIL bid for traffic calming measures in Branksome Park.

Volunteers have spent hours roadside helping Dorset Police reduce casualties by over 40% since CSW began but despite our efforts in Branksome Park, the council has repeatedly rejected CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) bids for local traffic calming despite it being one of the worst areas in Dorset for speeding.

Repeated requests for safer crossings, clearer signage and traffic calming have been rejected, even as areas like Leven Avenue and Benellen Avenue in Talbot Woods - where speeding is less severe - receive significant investment.

BCP Council has indicated that Branksome Park has not recorded a sufficient number of deaths or serious injuries to meet funding criteria. But I'm not aware of more incidents in Talbot Woods than here.

Just last week, we recorded a driver speeding at 48 mph past All Saints Nursery on Western Road, right as children arrived for the new school year. At that speed, a collision could easily be fatal, especially involving a child or elderly pedestrian. Yet we're told to wait until tragedy strikes.

Meanwhile, Bournemouth made national headlines in the Sunday Times on 21 September: *"Why everyone's getting speeding fines, especially in Bournemouth."* On Ringwood Road alone, 11,594 fines were issued in 2024 after the speed limit dropped from 40 to 30mph, up from just 32 fines two years earlier. That's roughly £1.6 million taken from local drivers in one year, from one camera.

Where has that money gone? Not into Branksome Park's crossings or junctions. Most of it disappears into the Treasury's consolidated fund in London. The result? Frustration, distrust, vandalism, and verbal abuse directed at CSW volunteers.

Some drivers wrongly believe CSW and Dorset Police are out to entrap them. Speed cameras are seen as revenue tools, not safety measures. Many motorists seem unaware of the risks they pose to cyclists and pedestrians.

Despite millions raised from speed cameras in the BCP area, too little is reinvested locally. Police forces retain a portion from speed awareness courses, about £45 per driver, but this is ring fenced for admin costs.



It doesn't fund zebra crossings, better road design or safer school routes.

I believe the lack of safe walking and cycling infrastructure is harming public health. People are less likely to choose active travel when traffic speeds feel dangerous. This contributes to sedentary lifestyles and rising NHS costs.

Community Speed Watch works. Serious injuries and deaths on Dorset's roads have dropped significantly. When drivers see us in our hi-vis jackets, they slow down.

If you care about road safety and want to make a difference, please consider volunteering. Contact Dorset Police at csw@dorset.pnn.police.uk
Vicky Moss
Special Projects BPCRA



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Proposed changes to making of wills

Andrew Carswell is a solicitor specialising in civil litigation. He provides a brief guide on the proposed changes to the making of Wills, which are in the early stages of reform.

The law relating to Wills is very old. The principal legislation is the Wills Act 1837. Some of the authorities on matters such as the assessment of capacity are even older. A review of this has been thought to be long overdue for some time and now the Law Commission has published recommendations in its report *'Modernising Wills Law'*.

One change that is recommended is the ability to make an electronic Will. This is in contrast to the traditional approach where Wills have to be signed and witnessed.

Another important change is the proposed abolition of the law that marriage or civil partnership automatically revokes a person's Will. This is being proposed partly because of predatory marriages, which I have mentioned in a

previous article. It will also help the difficulties arising from the application of the law of Intestacy, which arises immediately after marriages in most cases.

It is also proposed that the minimum age at which a person can make a Will is reduced from 18 to 16. This is an interesting development, because of course people of that age are not generally going to have a lot of assets to leave by Will, although it is possible.

The Law Commission also seeks to clarify the requirement for mental capacity. At the present time there is no statutory test, although the Mental Capacity Act 2005 defines capacity for lifetime transactions. The caselaw that the courts and lawyers have to work with dates back to the 19th century, albeit with suitable revisions more recently. Whilst this may seem unusual, those authorities have stood the test of time and more recently it has been said that there is not in fact a great deal of difference between the common law and statutory test. This would clearly be tested if Parliament decides to pass new law.

Undue influence in relation to the making of Wills can be a difficult, and at times, toxic



subject. The Law Commission is concerned with the difficulty of challenging Wills based on undue influence, leaving testators vulnerable and families at risk. It recommends that the courts should be able to more easily infer that a Will was brought about by undue influence. It would be very interesting to see what rules Parliament can provide to help this if accepted.

The impact of the proposed changes by the Law Commission will be awaited with interest. How much change is made remains to be seen. This is a clear example of how legislation evolves. There is no guarantee that this will become law and it may take some time. At the present time, there is a report at 494 pages (available online) and a draft bill. Watch this space!

Andrew Carswell
Partner

Aldridge Brownlee LLP
Bournemouth

Ed. Andrew acts as honorary Solicitor to the BPCRA

Long Close

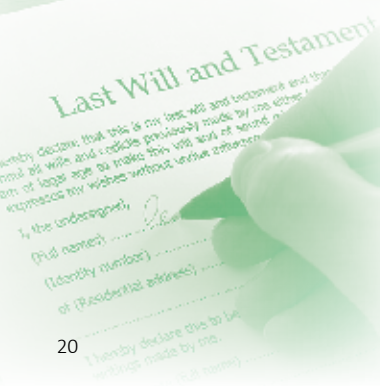
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Do your trees overhang the pavement or road?

In May, a quiet afternoon on Western Road was disrupted when a large lorry collided with an overhanging tree when the driver had to swerve to avoid an oncoming vehicle and became entangled in low branches.

The road was blocked for hours, phone lines were cut and the peace of the neighbourhood was shattered. Thankfully, no one was hurt but the disruption was significant.

This incident is a reminder of our responsibilities as homeowners. Under the Highways Act, it's our duty to ensure trees, hedges and shrubs on our property don't obstruct public roads, pavements or bridleways. BCP Council used to send annual reminders, but that stopped years ago. Now, it's up to us to stay vigilant.

Some residents still wait for council notices before trimming back vegetation, unaware that the responsibility lies with them. With sat navs directing large vehicles down our narrow, tree lined streets, it's more important than ever to keep public pathways clear.

What Counts as Overhanging?

BCP Council defines unacceptable overhang as:



Lorry entangled in overhanging branches on Western Road

- **Pavements & Footpaths:** Less than 2.3 metres (7 ft 6 in) clearance
- **Roads:** Less than 5.3 metres (17 ft) clearance
- **Bridleways:** Less than 3.6 metres clearance

Overhanging vegetation can be especially hazardous for pedestrians with disabilities, parents with pushchairs and cyclists.

If you're concerned about trees or hedges causing obstruction,

report it to BCP Council. To report overhanging trees or shrubs call **01202 123 123** or via the website www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/parks-nature-and-green-spaces/trees/report-overhanging-trees-or-shrubs. Or Google search 'BCP report overhanging trees or shrubs'.

Let's work together to keep our streets safe, accessible, and peaceful for everyone.

Vicky Moss
Special Projects BPCRA

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Gardening Matters

The Pinecliff Gardens continue to thrive thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the support of BPCRA members. We'd like to share a few updates and extend our appreciation to everyone who helps keep Pinecliff Gardens looking so beautiful.

A big thank you to our volunteers

We are grateful, as always, to both our regular helpers and the new faces who have joined in recent months. Their hard work, often carried out quietly and without recognition, makes all the difference. Special thanks go to local builder Steve

Bonner and his son for their excellent work on the hedges, and to those who take the time to pick up litter after parties in the gardens, particularly during the heatwaves when celebrations were plentiful!

Weathering the drought

This summer's drought was tough on the gardens and unfortunately many of the wildflowers planted in the spring struggled to take hold. Thankfully, we have plenty of seeds left for next year and with the Association's support we'll also be extending planting to the library garden.

The extreme heat prevented us from introducing any new plants but with the return of rain it's

encouraging to see signs of recovery. In the sunken gardens, Japanese Anemones and Tibouchina are now budding, and recent additions, Verbena, Photinia 'Pink Crispy', and Cordylines, are thriving.

While the Rockery has suffered, the resilient Sedums and Alchemilla Mollis are bouncing back and the striking blue Ceratostigma shrubs are adding much needed colour.

Nitrous oxide canisters

A reminder to all residents: if you come across nitrous oxide canisters, please do not place them inside the bins. They are hazardous and can explode when compacted.

Instead, leave them beside the black bins and report them to BCP Council on 01202 123 123 or hand them in to the police station. This small step helps protect our refuse collectors and keeps the gardens safe.



A gardeners' outing

At time this went to print, our volunteers are looking forward to visiting Knoll Gardens in Ferndown.

The team at Knoll have generously offered a free guided tour of their renowned ornamental grasses and autumn flowering perennials, which promises to be at their very best this season.



It's a wonderful opportunity for inspiration and we look forward to bringing back fresh ideas for Pinecliff Gardens.

Want to get involved?

Pinecliff Gardens thrives because of community spirit.

If you'd like to lend a hand - whether occasionally or regularly - we'd love to have you onboard. Contact Vickymoss.BPCRA@gmail.com to find out more.

Let's keep making Pinecliff Gardens a place for everyone to enjoy.

Vicky Moss
Special Projects BPCRA



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More tea Vicar?

I'm Luke and I'm the vicar at All Saints' Church Branksome Park. I've been at All Saints' for almost two years now and I've really enjoyed getting to know the local area and people. If we haven't met yet, I'd love to get to know you. Feel free to message me at luke.steven@allsaintsbranksome.org if you'd like to meet up.



At All Saints' we hope to be a church of *Saints Alive, old and young, sharing God's love with everyone*. The phrase "Saints Alive" simply points to our belief that every day, for everyone, is special - even holy.

God cares about my daily life and yours, and each day is an opportunity to love God more and unwrap the gift of life we've been given.

So, as well as meeting on Sunday mornings, we organise a variety of midweek activities that are for everyone, of all faiths and none, to come together and live life. You're invited to join in.

Every blessing
Luke Steven

What's going on at All Saints' Church

- Teddies Baby and Toddler Group - every Monday 2 - 3.30pm in the Church Hall
- All Saints' Tea Party - 2nd Wednesday every month 2.30 - 4pm in the Church Hall
- Faith and Fellowship - coffee, cake, and spiritual chit chat, last Wednesday every month, 10.30am, 12 Western Avenue
- Bereavement Support Group - first Wednesday every month 2.30 - 4pm in the Church Hall
- Knit and Natter - every Friday 2.30 - 4.30pm in the Church Hall
- Walking Groups - for long and short walks, see our website for upcoming walks
- Contemplative Prayer - third Wednesday every month 10 - 11am in the Church
- Sunday Church - 8am Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (second and fourth Sundays); 9.30am Church for All Ages; 11am Traditional Sunday Worship

More details about everything can be found on our website,
www.allsaintsbranksome.org



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How well do you know your local area?

Can you identify these local sights or sites?

A few are within the BPCRA area and the rest are definitely not! Good luck!



1



2



3

For answers
please see
page 58



4



5



6



7

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A short history of Branksome Park

Branksome Park is a suburb of Poole, which adjoins Branksome. The area covers approximately 360 acres, mostly occupied by housing and includes Branksome Chine.



of the Branksome Estate changed instantly. What is now Branksome Park was bought by Charles Packe MP in 1851; suburbs such as Branksome and Westbourne grew up elsewhere on the Estate. He commissioned the Scots Romantic, Robert Burn, to design him a house, the result of which was Branksome Tower, a plain stone Tudor style mansion built by the sea. The 750 acre estate was surrounded by a huge wall and massive gates were built at the end of the drive, now The Avenue. Packe died in 1867 and was laid to rest alongside his wife in a

mausoleum, which still stands at the entrance to Branksome Dene Chine.

The estate was then acquired by Henry Bury, a visionary Northerner, who kept 250 acres for his own personal use and developed the rest, taking care to preserve the natural environment. Branksome house eventually became the Branksome Tower Hotel (advertised as being in Bournemouth but actually in Poole - just!) in the early 1890s and operated through to 1973 when it was demolished to



Then, almost overnight, Bournemouth appeared - "a fairy place suddenly created by the stroke of a wand" as Thomas Hardy put it - and the fortunes



The Avenue"- originally the 'drive' to Branksome House but now the tree lined gateway to Branksome Park, Canford Cliffs & Sandbanks

be replaced by a small estate of residential houses and apartment blocks - aptly named Branksome Towers.

The derivation of many of the local road names commemorate the title and famous people who stayed, either as tenants or guests at Branksome Tower when it became a hotel; these included the Duke of Westminster (*Westminster*, *Chester*, *Eaton*, *Belgrave*) and the Duke of Buccleuch (*Buccleuch*, *Ettrick*, *Dalkeith*). *Mornish* stems from an agent of that name and *Balcombe* after a property owned by a family who moved in from Surrey.

Modern Branksome Park is largely Bury's creation. He built All Saint's Church, Western Road and kept the beautiful Branksome Chine gardens as an open space. When he died in 1876, the area north and west of Western Road had already been laid out. Mains sewage and street lighting arrived in the 1890s, and by 1900 the area around Branksome Tower itself was being laid out in streets.



In 1932 the Council proudly opened England's first solarium at the mouth of the Branksome Chine, which quickly became the admirable seaside cafe that it was until very recently.

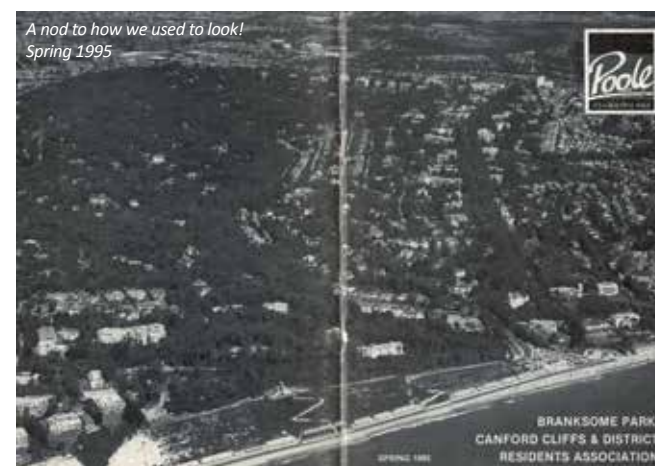
Today Branksome Park is one of Poole's most affluent and attractive areas sharing the postcode of BH13 with Canford Cliffs & Sandbanks, and is also a conservation area.

Reproduced from a longer article in the BPCCRA magazine Spring 1995, written by LC Jenkins.

Thanks to John Sprackling for supplying the original article and image of front and back covers. **Annabel Stemp**
Editor



Below: In the spirit of nostalgia I thought you would like to see this fabulous ad also from the Spring 1995 magazine.Ed.



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ATLANTIC ISLES SUNSHINE	Nov 12th 8 nights from \$636
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Did you know? Our thanks to the South Wales miners 100 years ago

I'm sure you would be interested to read a fascinating excerpt from *Pines and Chines* magazine dating back to the Spring of 1995.

When the Bury estate of Branksome Park was finally sold in the 1920s the Bury family signed over to the Poole Corporation all the amenities of the Park including the steam from North Lodge to the sea, the Bury Woods and almost the entire stretch of the cliff and foreshore which represents most of the southern seaward boundary of the Parish.

Poole Corporation more than lived up to its obligations and towards the end of the 1920s during the great economic depression a force of unemployed labour was brought in from Wales to landscape the area. The whole of the stream was channelled with stone banks and a firm base, which resulted in



Plaque commemorating opening of Branksome Chine Gardens

the marshy area drying out and the disappearance of the lakes.

Many paths were constructed with features such as grottos and flights of stone steps down to the wooded banks of the lower reaches of the chine. The promenade and two cafes were built and gardens and zig zag paths cut into the cliffs. The work was mainly complete by

1930 and the new amenities were officially opened by Miss Margaret Bondfield MP, the Minister of Labour, on 16 September that year. A bronze plaque commemorating the event was set into the wall immediately opposite the Branksome Park café. This can still be seen today.

Annabel Stemp
Editor

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Remembering John Alexander Cruickshank VC

Keeping with the highest traditions of the RAF

1920-2025, aged 105 yrs

On 9 August this year, Poole Flying Boats Celebration's great friend John Alexander Cruickshank "JAC" passed away peacefully at the remarkable age of 105.

In later life, JAC moved into a care home but remained in close contact with our former Vice President, Group Captain Douglas Cook, through their shared RAF service and camaraderie. PFBC also benefitted from JAC's recollections of his time flying with 210 Catalina Squadron at RAF Hamworthy, Poole Harbour.

A proud Aberdonian, Cruickshank attended Aberdeen Grammar School before joining the Commercial Bank of Scotland in 1938. With the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the 129th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, gaining valuable ordnance experience before transferring to the RAF in 1941.

Training in Canada and the United States, he earned his "pilot's wings" and completed advanced Catalina training at Pensacola, Florida, before posting to RAF Invergordon and eventually 210 Squadron.

Formed in the first World War, 210 Squadron's service was maintained from 1931 with the Supermarine Flying Boats



initially at Felixstowe and then RAF Pembroke Dock; Sunderlands and next Catalinas in the second World War. Cruickshank recalled frequent transfers between RAF Hamworthy and the new Salterns RAF Station, often involving soaking rides aboard RAF launches, followed by a climb up Evening Hill on his "boneshaker" bicycle to his billet at Harbour Court. Nearby, the Harbour

Heights Hotel provided much needed respite for young airmen after arduous patrols, while the arrival of the WAAFs at Brudenell House and Bransdene offered brief reminders of normal life amid wartime.

By spring 1943, flying boat squadrons moved frequently between bases, with Poole's RAF Hamworthy becoming

operational on 22 April. On 21 June, JAC flew Catalina FP277 (B/210) on a Biscay patrol to Gibraltar, encountering his first U-boat weeks later off western Portugal.

JAC's defining action came on 17 July 1943, during his 48th sortie from the Shetlands. Flying in low cloud, he pressed home an attack on a surfaced U-boat despite heavy fire that severely damaged his aircraft and left him badly wounded.

Refusing to break off, he released depth charges that straddled the submarine, likely aided by his earlier artillery training. His aim was good but his plane was in trouble.

With his Catalina filling with smoke and fuel running low, ditching seemed inevitable. Yet Cruickshank, despite drifting in and out of consciousness from 72 shrapnel wounds, insisted on flying the aircraft home.

Displaying remarkable skill and determination, he successfully beached the Catalina, saving his crew. JAC was removed with considerable care and little hope for survival. His injuries ended his operational flying career, but his courage earned him the Victoria Cross.

Of the 181 Victoria Cross recipients, Cruickshank was the oldest living holder and the only one to reach his centenary birthday and more beyond. His life embodied determination, fortitude, and devotion to duty qualities that truly upheld the highest traditions of the RAF.

**Harry Alexander MA MIEx
Commodore**

www.pooleflyingboats.com



Scaplen's Court

Poole's hidden gem reopens year round after major refurbishment

Tucked away in Poole's atmospheric Old Town, Scaplen's Court and Garden has always felt like stepping through a secret doorway into history. Now, after a three year transformation, this much loved medieval gem is back and better than ever.

The 15th century courtyard house reopened in July as part of Poole Museum's wider redevelopment, but this isn't just a preview: for the first time in its long life, Scaplen's Court is open **all year round**. Gone are the days of fleeting summer access - residents and visitors can now linger over coffee in the new ground floor café, soak up the sunshine in the walled garden or lose themselves in Poole's past, whatever the season.

Poole Museum and Scaplen's Court together will be a major new cultural offer for Poole - combining museum, art gallery, cultural venue, shop, café and garden.

The restoration has been meticulous. Conservation teams and craftspeople have lovingly repaired ancient stonework, uncovered original details and woven in modern touches like a discreet platform lift, making the building fully accessible for the first time. The changes have unlocked Scaplen's as a vibrant community hub: capacity has jumped from 60 to over 250 people, opening the



All photos ©MatthewAndrews



door for concerts, workshops, private celebrations and family events.

Alison Gudgeon, BCP Council's Project Manager for the refurbishment, commented:

"Scaplen's Court has always been a jewel in Poole's heritage crown, but many people only saw it once a year. Now it's a place to return to again and again, to meet friends, be inspired, and feel proud of our history."

It's interesting to reflect that the largest proportion of the investment has been on extensive, yet less visible, repairs and upgrades, including drainage, structural repairs and new mechanical and electrical installations. These technically challenging retro fits are vital to preserve the historic buildings for future generations."

The reopening isn't just about bricks and mortar. Expect a lively calendar of tours, pop-up performances and creative sessions designed for all ages. Whether you're a history buff eager to explore the mediaeval rooms or a parent looking for an inspiring weekend activity, there's something here for everyone. You can follow Poole Museum's social channels for the latest updates.

The new café, complete with outdoor seating in the sunlit courtyard, has already become a hit with locals. Its relaxed vibe makes Scaplen's an ideal spot to pause during a stroll around the Old Town or to introduce out of town visitors to Poole's heritage, over a cappuccino, of course.

The restoration is part of a wider £10 million investment across Poole Museum's historic buildings, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, BCP Council and other partners. But for now, Scaplen's Court is stealing the spotlight. Its reopening invites us to reconnect with a treasured piece of local history, one that feels freshly alive, inclusive, and distinctly Poole.

The significant investment has allowed for the simultaneous redevelopment of all three

buildings of Poole Museum- Scaplen's, the Town Cellars and Oakley's Mill- enhancing their use and doubling the public space available.

The funding for this transformational project has come from 18 different grant-giving bodies including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, Historic England and the UK Government.

Local supporters include Talbot Village Trust, The Valentine Charitable Trust, The Arts Society Poole, Poole Museum Society, Poole Museum Foundation and the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Trust.

Entry remains free, making this beautifully revived space a perfect weekend wander or weekday coffee stop.

So whether you've lived in and around Branksome Park all your life or you're new to the Chines and Canford Cliffs, step through Scaplen's ancient doorway, breathe in the scent of the walled garden, and rediscover a piece of Poole's story that's now here for every season.

Annabel Stemp
Editor



Commemorating & celebrating VE Day 80 Years

To honour our veterans and mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, street parties, school festivals and celebrations took place back in May across Branksome Park, Canford Cliffs and surrounding areas. More recently we also celebrated VJ Day.

We're privileged to be able to share with you first hand accounts from residents who remember VE Day, 8 May 1945, and what it meant to them.

Stuart's story

For our family, VE Day celebrations on Tuesday 8 May 1945 were on hold. Mum was about to give birth at our home in Boscombe to her tenth and last child. Me. We had no telephone, so imagine the difficulty in finding a midwife on duty. Eldest siblings vividly recalled the day, one of many snippets from fascinating and much cherished childhood memoirs produced in 1998. Richard, the eldest at 17, was designated 'duty runner,' tasked with collecting various items for my imminent arrival. Trevor, 10 years old and unaware this was a public holiday, set off for school as usual. The gates were locked.

Martin was 14. "The day began with an exhortation to make ourselves scarce until tea time. We knew the drill." It was a nightmare for Rosemary, aged 11. "I thought Mum was dying. I was really frightened and hid under the bookstall of Sidney Wright until it closed" Rosemary was referring to the bookseller at the Palmerstone Road end of Boscombe Arcade. Alarm and panic were understandable as my birth was somewhat touch and go.

A day or two later the family gathered in the lounge to decide on my first names. The majority verdict of siblings was Victor, abbreviated to Vic. Having lost both parents by the age of 16, I was unaware this was my second name until obtaining a copy of my birth certificate when I married Di in 1967. My first name is Stuart - the name I prefer.

National celebrations to commemorate significant VE Day years, such as 50, meant a special birthday for me too. This year, to mark my 80th, family and friends were invited to Branksome Dene where we hired the event chalet, booked well in advance. A glorious sunny day was in prospect. So was an amazing occasion. We wisely opted for self-catering, thanks to my daughter Claire who came over from New Zealand with husband Logan, his dad Brian and friend Megan, plus great help from Prathana my Thai daughter in law. The catering service and organisation was first-rate. Just as well we did not opt for M&S party food as their cyber-attack put paid to advance orders.



Stuart's elegant 80th birthday cake adorned with bunting and VE Day insignia

A large elegant birthday cake was decorated for me with bunting and VE Day insignia. This was gluten-free as I have Coeliac Disease. The cake was a double celebration as my brother-in-law Geoff was 90 on 14 May. A hefty chunk remained but not for long as residents of Chalgrove Nursing & Care Home made short work of it. A copy of an 8 May 1945 newspaper enabled residents to chat and reminisce.

So where were we on that momentous day in 1945?

An extremely pleasant VE Day 2025 birthday celebration was rounded off with an excellent evening meal at Nusara, the Thai restaurant in Westbourne.

A day for us all to remember - though most of all in thinking of those who lost their lives and others suffering serious injuries in the quest for lasting peace.

Stuart Sherring

Peter & Helen's story

We didn't do anything special this year on VE day but both my wife, Helen and myself do have memories of the actual day in 1945!

I was living in Norwich during the war and Helen was living in Bristol, both cities were very heavily bombed during the war.

My memories

Some background. My father was a senior air raid warden and my mother's younger sister who lived with us, manned the air raid control post at the end of our road. Towards the end of

the war its function was helping to combat V1s (Buzz bombs)

My glamorous aunt also had a number of American GI boyfriends! They also participated in the VE celebrations and were an endless source of "candy".

I think they actually took the family in a Jeep to the massive celebrations in front of the City Hall, but I may have misremembered this bit.

Anyhow, zipped up in my red siren suit and high up on my father's shoulders we mixed with hundreds of dancing and singing citizens late into the night. The next evening there was a large bonfire in a field near our house where an effigy of Hitler was burnt and more candy consumed.

Helen's memories

I was not quite four years old but I do have very clear memories of the celebrations, although no idea what they were about!

Siren suits (a sort of knitted onesie) seem to have been de rigueur for tots - mine was a rusty orange colour and I loved it.

Oh the thrill of being allowed to stay up past my very strict 6.30 bedtime! We gathered in the Square round a magnificent bonfire, in a large circle, and my most abiding memory is dancing the Hokey-Cokey.

It was all tremendously exciting and so grown up, and the barrage balloons were still there, flying in the skies above Avonmouth.

Peter & Helen Schroeder

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Celebrating 100 years of the Canford Cliffs Land Society

This year marks a very special milestone for one of our fellow associations - the Canford Cliffs Land Society has reached its centenary.

Over the decades, their work has touched every corner of Canford Cliffs, from Christmas lights that brighten winter evenings, to the colourful flower displays that welcome summer.

The Society has supported the village hall, helped create the Cliff Drive play park, restored the much loved zig zag path to the promenade and regularly contributed to local charities.

To commemorate this fabulous anniversary, several hundred residents and visitors gathered in August for the Canford Cliffs Pirate Festival. It was a day to remember, filled with laughter, music and community spirit.

Families enjoyed free entertainment from fairground rides and face painting to balloon artistry and even an appearance by Jack Sparrow himself.

A lively stilt walker wandered through the crowds, while the Coco Loco music truck set the rhythm for an afternoon of celebration.

The Festival showed in true style how community spirit flourishes when we come together - a fitting tribute to a century of dedication by this amazing Society.

Looking ahead, the fun continues - the Christmas Lights switch on event returns on Friday 28 November in the Village Hall, promising even more festive excitement than last year.

Here's to the next 100 years of the Canford Cliffs Land Society!

Ed. Date for your diaries!
The CCLS AGM is 11am 25 April 2026, Canford Cliffs Village Hall.



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Signs of the Times: Pride in the identity of our area?

Our welcome to Poole tiled signs

The former Borough of Poole, now part of BCP, still boasts three surviving tiled welcome signs - two restored and one preserved.

One restored sign greets traffic arriving at Sandbanks via the chain ferry. Positioned proudly on the green triangle at Panorama Road and Banks Road, it nearly faced demolition after its backplate cracked and its concrete legs deteriorated. Maintenance crews deemed it unsafe, but intervention by South Poole Chairs and the Open Spaces Society saved it. Urgent repairs restored the sign to its rightful place, continuing its welcome to Poole.

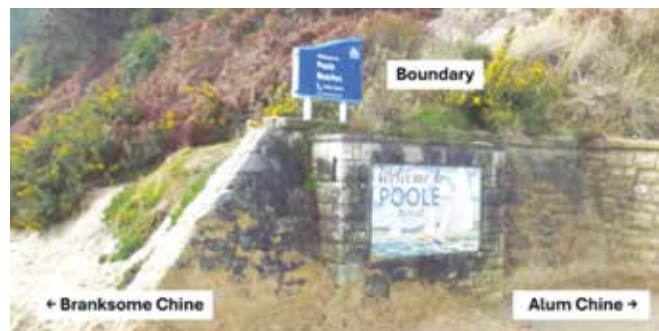
The second tiled sign is part of Poole Museum's Local Heritage collection. Like the others, it was produced by Carters Tiles Ltd (later Poole Pottery) with designs created by Arthur Nickols. A third remains in



place at Branksome Dene Chine, marking the beachfront boundary between Poole and

Bournemouth. After a cliff fall damaged the wall and local beach huts, contractors again prepared to remove the sign but South Poole Chairs and Open Spaces stepped in to preserve it.

Back in the 1950s, seven such tiled signs were installed. Two more survived for years - one by Creekmoor near the old Fleetsbridge tide mill, another along Blandford Road approaching Hamworthy but these are now lost.



Alongside the tiled signs, there are Borough of Poole distinctive metal signs marking "villages" like Canford Cliffs and areas such as Ashley Road and Boscombe. There are also traffic signs (black lettering on a white background) which incorporate a name in bold for example Lilliput.

BCP Council confirmed the current "Welcome to Lilliput" sign, incorporating "please drive carefully," was funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from developers. Locals welcomed it as a point of pride.

Canford Cliffs: Old and New Village Signs

In Canford Cliffs however new "welcome to" signs replacing older village markers have divided opinion. Attributed originally to the Canford Cliffs Land Society, the earlier signs were considered attractive and distinctive. One local politician told the *Bournemouth Echo* the replacements lack charm, lamenting that "there was a time when signs would be designed to look good because they're welcoming people."

A Poole resident echoed the sentiment: "It feels like we've lost something." For many, such signs embody area pride and identity.

Signage also ties into a broader debate about how our area looks. Since BCP Council introduced a rewinding policy, verges have been left uncut, saving £450,000 annually in grounds maintenance.

While promoted as environmental, residents see another side. Campaigner Bob Lister criticised the approach: "It's not No Mow May, it's not rewinding, it's neglect. The road signs are being blocked off."



Former councillor Phil Broadhead added that grass cutting and verge upkeep are "so important to give pride to our towns," warning that standards have slipped.

BCP Council has however moved to prevent confusion in future road naming. New names will be unique to our area, avoiding duplication like the two Ashley Roads in Parkstone and Boscombe. This step at least reinforces the idea of distinct local identity, echoing the spirit behind our welcome signs.

Harry and Aimée Alexander
Local representatives of the Open Spaces Society 2025

Reintroducing the Cordite Way: A new public right of way

The Cordite Way is a newly designated Public Right of Way linking Holton Heath Trading Estate to the site of the former Rockley Jetty, opposite Rockley Sands at the entrance to Lytchett Bay.



Its name recalls the Royal Naval Cordite Factory (RNCf) and the Admiralty railway line that once carried cordite down to Rockley Jetty for transport by sea to Gosport. Cordite, a propellant for naval shells, was made here from 1916 until 1956.

As the Second World War loomed, the risk of enemy attack on shipping meant the traffic was switched to the mainline railway in 1938.

The Admiralty line was then used for disposing of ash from the factory boilers until the late 1950s, before falling into disuse.

Cordite was dangerous to make, so production was spread over hundreds of acres. Water had to be piped 15 miles from the River Stour to the Black Hill reservoir.

During the Second World War, Arne and Brownsea Island were even lit up at night as decoys, to lure Luftwaffe bombers away from the factory and Hamworthy's military sites.

The factory was modernised during the war and remained in use until 1957, after which it became a Royal Navy underwater research establishment for another 40 years. Much of the site

was eventually demolished and carefully cleared before Admiralty Park was created in 2003, now home to a thriving business community. About a third of a square mile was fenced off as a protected nature reserve with no public access.

The New Route

On 29 March 2025, the Cordite Way officially opened as a new public right of way. It combines existing footpaths from Sandford, via Holton Heath station and trading estate, with a new path leading towards the former Rockley Jetty. The walk winds through woodland and opens onto two viewpoints



Left: The Official Photograph of the 'Poole Harbour Trails' with Ms Vikki Slade MP opening the new PRoW... Vikki said: "It is a significant contribution to providing access to green spaces for wellbeing and health."

Below Left: Within the RNCf Holton Heath site there were a maximum of five miles of the standard gauge RNCf railway with Peckett type Locomotives - and 14 miles of its narrow gauge trackways.



across Lytchett Bay, with fine views of Gull Islands, Arne peninsula and Purbeck.

The route follows the old Admiralty railway line where possible. Time has not been kind to it: much of the trackbed was overgrown, while the first section had been left swampy by a blocked ditch. Volunteers worked tirelessly to clear the path, revealing stretches of the old cinder track and concrete sleepers.

One obstacle remains: the bridge over the mainline railway, which once connected the track to Rockley Jetty, was demolished in 2023. The right of way is therefore split into two half mile sections, rising on either side of the missing

span. It is hoped that in future a new pedestrian and cycle bridge will reunite the route and restore the historic link down to Rockley Point, where barges once carried cordite out to Portsmouth Harbour.

Walking the Way

Starting near Holton Heath Station, the path runs parallel to the railway where the RNCf's sidings once stood. At its height the site had five miles of standard gauge track and 14 miles of narrow gauge lines, most now lost beneath the undergrowth.

As you climb gently, a series of storyboards explain the site's history. The incline once carried heavy trains up to

the bridge, and from here you can still imagine the line continuing across to the jetty. The woodland path bends past oaks, foxgloves and bluebells, with views over the fields of Holton Lee and its old farm buildings.

Although the way stops short where the bridge once stood, the sense of history lingers.

This walk offers not only peace and beauty, but also a glimpse into one of Dorset's most fascinating wartime landscapes.

Why not take a stroll along the Cordite Way and step back into the past?

With thanks to Harry Alexander, Open Spaces Society. This is an excerpt from a wider article that can be found on the Open Spaces Society website www.oss.org.uk

Ed: Tell us about your walk along the Cordite Way and we'll feature it in the next edition of Pines and Chines

A Tale of Two Gardens

'It was the worst of times, it was the best of times...' (what the Dickens is he on about?) Usually my gardening stories centre on my own Branksome Park back yard. This time, it's two other gardens wherein I volunteer, St Aldhelms Church and Coy Pond.

St Aldhelms church frontage is right on the road and on either side and to the rear are trees and shrubs. The total ecclesiastical plot is approaching one acre, which I have tended and tidied, planting up perennials from my own plot. I probably spend more time writing it up in the parish magazine (*now Pottery Junction*) under the nom de shovel of 'MacAdam the Gardener'.

Victoria School almost opposite once had a little garden centre which sadly closed because of the Pandemic and there were lots of plants needing to be re-homed. So Carey, who was working at Victoria School, undertook planting them in the church gardens assisted by other willing helpers and a mini digger for landscaping the garden at one end of the field behind the vicarage.

The intensively planted beds that were created gave a positive Chelsea feel, with a ceremonial opening marking



the Queen's Jubilee. By the following year the plants had grown overcrowded and bracken and other weeds appeared. Carey moved on, leaving one surviving volunteer.

Cue 'MacAdam' to offer his services and another volunteer found through the community action network. She asks 'Is it OK to bring a friend?' ('FOGOF' technically!). So MacAdam's "gang of four" maintained the Jubilee Garden continuing to win Gold from 'Chelsea in Bloom' and celebrated with a garden party raising £400 for church funds.

In 2017 half a dozen volunteers moved on to help the Friends of Coy Pond, the 550ft rockery across the road from the pond. Back then it was entirely covered by low growing shrubs for most of its length. So on February 14 2017 we began the 'St Valentine's Massacre of Shrubs'.

As we cleared and the rocks reappeared, I planted tray upon tray of suitable plants from my own rock garden.

The pond itself covers more than half an acre, surrounded by trees and shrubs. The first feature there was 'The Stumpery', using tree roots dug from the rockery as a background for the ferns.

I have created more than half a dozen gardens where the trees and shrubs around the pond allow sufficient space for us to plant. Here you'll find a Tropical Garden, Flowery Dell and Spring Garden.

I say created, but much of the hard work is done by other volunteers, now more than tripled since the original cohort.

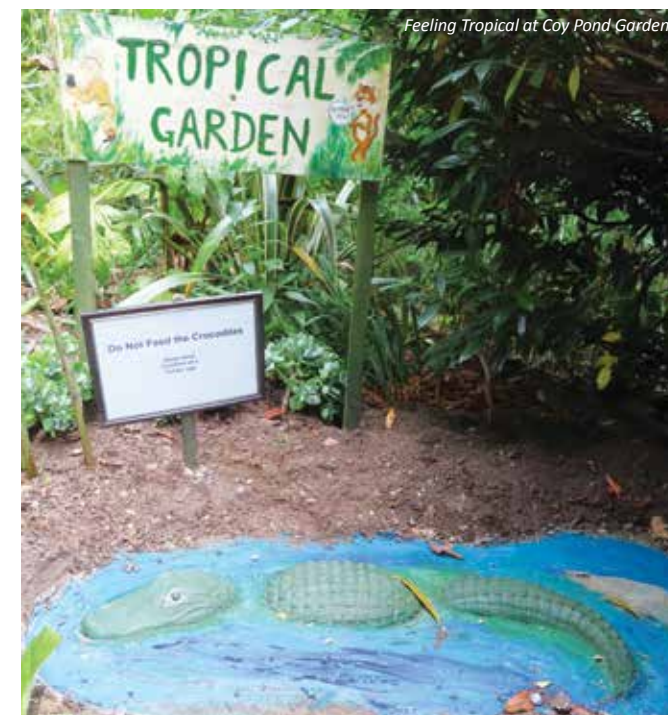
The original 'Bug Hotel' by the pond was a big success and there are now another

three strung out along the rockery (alright, two and a 'Bug Pub').

The Friends of Coy Pond have two noticeboards. Notices soon become wallpaper and get ignored so I post a "Plant of the Week" notice which is also appears on our recently created Facebook page www.facebook.com/friendsofcoypond and website www.friendsofcoypond.com/history.htm.

Volunteer gardeners form the Friends of Coy Pond committee with my grandiose title being Publicity Officer. The Royal Horticultural Society has awarded us 'outstanding' for many years and on competing for 'Poole in Bloom' in 2024 we won Gold.

David Reeves



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Female Osprey chick "5H3" and male adult "022" ©Birds of Poole Harbour

Poole Harbour Osprey update

Two years ago, I wrote (with Brittany Maxted) about Birds of Poole Harbour (BoPH), the charity leading osprey reintroduction to Poole Harbour. 2025 has been a remarkable year for our local pair - female "CJ7" and male "022" - so here's the latest.

This year, as last, the pair raised and saw off on migration four healthy chicks. Laying four eggs happens in only 1% of UK osprey nests, and it's rarer for all to hatch and fledge. It's proof of "CJ7" and "022's" excellent parenting and Poole Harbour's suitability as an osprey home.

These four bring the pair's total fledged chicks to 13 since 2022. Each chick was leg-ringed and weighed at about five weeks old, to identify them later and estimate their sex (females are slightly heavier). This brood is thought to be one female and three males. Males are

especially valuable, they're the ones most likely to return to breed, just as "022" did after being translocated here in 2019. "CJ7", by contrast, was wild born at Rutland Water. Female ospreys returning for the first time often travel widely, scouting for mates. All four juveniles have now departed on their first migration.

They'll mature in West Africa before, hopefully, returning to the UK in two years to begin breeding.

Excitement soared in April when a **second** pair nested locally and laid their first egg. The female, "1H1", was wild born

at Rutland Water in 2022 and is the granddaughter of one of the first males translocated there in 1997. Her mate, "374", was moved to Poole Harbour in 2021. A few days after their first egg, they laid a second.



Male White Tailed Eagle G465 ©Conor Macleod

Both hatched in June, were ringed at five weeks, fledged soon after and have now migrated. Their nest, on a private estate, is being kept secret to protect it but monitored by trail cameras.

The well known first nest remains at Carey Secret Garden, where BoPH hosts viewing sessions during the season. Two live webcams stream nest activity on the BoPH website: www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk.

August brought even more thrilling news - "CJ7" and "022" became grandparents! Their first chick, "5H1" (born 2022 and the first osprey hatched in Southern England for over 180 years), successfully bred in the

East Midlands. Two BoPH staff, including Brittany, attended the ringing of "5H1's" two chicks, an emotional milestone.

Elsewhere, three female ospreys released at Poole Harbour are living in Wales near established nests, and three have bred there since 2020. Overall, the combined efforts of BoPH and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation have resulted in **41 wild-born osprey chicks** across England and Wales; ospreys are once again a summer fixture in the south, not just migrants passing through.

Adding to the success, Poole Harbour's resident white-tailed

eagles raised their first chick this year. These birds come from a Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England translocation project on the Isle of Wight. Other eagles from that project have been spotted locally, hinting at more breeding to come.

As of mid September, migrating ospreys still drop into Poole Harbour to rest and feed before crossing to West Africa. BoPH continues to run boat trips and events showcasing ospreys, eagles, and other spectacular wildlife, right on our doorstep.

Visit the website for details www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk
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Keeping you on your toes

Navigating the Changing Rental Landscape: BH13 and BH14 in 2025

Our postcodes of BH13 and BH14 remain among the most desirable rental destinations on the South Coast.

With their blend of coastal living, excellent schools and strong transport links, demand for homes here consistently outpaces many other parts of the country. Yet, like much of the UK, our local rental market is entering a period of transition, shaped by shifting supply and demand, new legislation and the growing presence of “accidental landlords.”

Current Market Conditions

Nationally, rental growth has slowed sharply. Rents in July 2025 were just 2.4% higher than a year earlier, the slowest pace of growth in four years. This reflects a cooling in demand and a rise in supply across many regions.

However premium areas like BH13 and BH14 often buck the trend, continuing to attract renters, which helps support

rental values. What’s different in our neighbourhood though, is that the majority of our landlords are what is termed as “accidental”.

These are owners who never planned to rent out property but do so due to circumstances, from job relocations to inheritance or difficulties selling in an uncertain market. Unlike seasoned investors, they may have limited knowledge of property management, compliance or tenancy law. This can bring fresh opportunities but also challenges for the wider community.

The Renters Rights Bill - what’s changing?

The government’s Renters’ Rights Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, is set to reshape private renting nationwide. Its core measures include:

- **Stronger security for tenants:**

The abolition of Section 21 “no fault” evictions will mean tenants cannot be asked to leave without reason, giving more confidence to raise concerns about poor housing conditions

- **New rules for landlords:**

Landlords will need to give four months’ notice and use reformed grounds for possession, making tenancy management more structured and transparent

- **End of fixed terms:**

All existing assured shorthold tenancies will automatically become periodic once the Bill takes effect, changing the way rental agreements are structured

The Accidental Landlord Challenge

For BH13 and BH14, where accidental landlords are common, the Bill raises important issues.

Many such landlords:

- have limited awareness of their legal responsibilities
- may underestimate property maintenance obligations
- can struggle with tenant vetting and ongoing management
- often rely heavily on local letting agents for advice

This shift could benefit professional property managers and compliant landlords, but it also risks creating difficulties if accidental landlords fall short of the new requirements.

Looking Ahead

While the Bill sets out sweeping reforms, much of the detail will be delivered through secondary legislation over the coming months and years. This transition period gives landlords time to prepare and tenants time to understand their new rights.

In BH13 and BH14, the likely outcome is a market that rewards professionalism and compliance, while some accidental landlords may choose to exit altogether.



That, in turn, could affect both supply and pricing in our highly desirable coastal community.

As these changes unfold, it’s more important than ever for residents whether renting, letting or considering either to stay informed. Our neighbourhood

thrives when housing is well managed, fair and accessible.

By engaging with local housing forums and keeping abreast of reforms, we can ensure our community adapts smoothly to this new chapter in the rental market.

Emma Bevan



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For a quote, call Tremain on **07879 482 530**, or check out Tremain’s projects on Facebook and Next Door by searching Handy Chap Services

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Art and Gardening: Part II

I left my avid fans in the last edition with a cliffhanger, and an exhortation to 'Watch this space'. The Lighthouse was sponsoring The Beacon garden at the Gardeners World Spring Fair at Beaulieu.

To demonstrate their standing as Patron of the Arts, they had hand-picked half a dozen artists, from Poole Leisure Painters, a group which had met at the Lighthouse for decades. Now read on...

In addition to the handpicked artists, there was me as well. Three of us on the Saturday. Judy, an experienced artist working in oils, Christine, who decided her role was chauffeuse, taking us all to Beaulieu, opting out of the painting, and me.

I was reverting to what was left of my acrylics, rather than water soluble oils.



The Award Winning Jubilee Garden

We found 'our' garden, which, like all the others, was raised up on several railway sleepers. Assuming I would be stationed in the garden as 'Exhibit A', I

scrambled up with sketch pad in hand, to find a suitable aspect. 'You're not allowed up here!' I took it to be some minor officious official, and started haughtily explaining my position as commissioned artist. Only to find I was addressing Matt Evans, the creator of that Gold winning garden! Apparently forbidden, due to Elf and Safety. So I jumped off, ignoring the dinky little steps provided, and slunk off to the indicated vantage point.

A hot sunny day and a 20 x 16 inch cheapo canvas to cover. Limited range of acrylics, drying quickly in the sun (good workman never blames his tools, David). We attracted some interest, and I regarded my presence as the cabaret, with cries of 'What do you think of it so far?', often with the expected response.



David painting at Beaulieu

We had arrived about eleven, left early, and I took a long lunch hour to admire the other garden exhibits. So, only three hours actually painting en plein air, as we professionals say. (Bloomin hot air too). I had protective headgear of course, predating the Oasis bucket hat by several decades; more of a 'washing up bowl' hat, really.

The good and great of Gardeners World were circulating of course, and Carol Klein was being interviewed in 'our' garden. The TV programme is one of the very few I watch, and Carol's enthusiasm enlivens her appearances. Someone else took the photo; I assumed she would not welcome the interruption of her TV piece by a paint-spattered fan, wearing a washing up bowl.

The day's painting was not the end. Some of the more artists finished their painting in 'the studio' (our room at the Lighthouse) They had given us a couple of huge canvases (4ft square?).

One of our artists did the garden on the bottom third, and painted Beaulieu House (from a downloaded image) on the top two thirds. We were asked to exhibit on the mezzanine floor (posh name for 'the landing') Given labels to complete (TITLE/MEDIUM/PRICE). Mine was: 'embarrassing daub', the price: 'No reasonable offer refused'

I never even got an unreasonable offer.

David Reeves

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Gardening Expert Carol Klein

The same three models - 50 years later

A tale of V8s and romance

Rick, Ann-Kathrin and the original '61 Corvette back in 1974



Rick, Ann-Kathrin and the '61 Corvette in 2024

Branksome Park residents Rick Goodale and Ann-Kathrin Durge stand beside a gleaming 1961 Corvette, the years softened by laughter and shared memories.

They've just recreated a photograph first taken half a century ago, a black and white snapshot of youth, love and chrome, once captured on a quiet Amsterdam street.

Rick remembers that first photograph from 1974 as vividly as if it were parked just around the corner. Back then, he was a young commercial artist living in Hampstead, North London. The city was humming with change, the world's first Hard Rock Café had just opened in Piccadilly and Rick had been creating graphics for the launch. "I remember they wanted American cars and

hot rods parked nearby for the opening night", he recalls.

It was at Rick's local, the Old Bull & Bush in Hampstead that fate intervened. There, among friends and talk of V8 engines, he met his future wife Ann-Kathrin, visiting from Sweden.

It was also here that an American named John offered Rick a swap: his Austin Healey 3000 for one of three Corvettes waiting in a Wimbledon garage. Rick didn't hesitate and chose the '61. Amsterdam called next. Rick had rented a flat on the

Brouwersgracht canal, and Ann-Kathrin, by then much more than a chance encounter, joined him. The Corvette followed, its sleek lines turning heads as it perched beside cobblestone canals. They drove it across countries and seas, taking ferries from Harwich to Gothenburg, tracing new maps together. "Those road trips," Rick says wistfully, "felt like the whole world was ours."

The original black and white photograph from 1974 was in fact one from a series that the couple had shot for Ann-Kathrin's modelling career. The

photo has travelled everywhere with them over the decades from Sweden to Branksome Park. People say it's iconic of the 70s.

Time, of course, has its way. The Corvette's suspension never forgave Amsterdam's cobbles. Rick eventually sold it, sending the car on a fabled journey from Paris to Milan, a goodbye he still tells with a reflective smile. After that the V8s went silent, but the love remained.

Last year on the 50th anniversary of that iconic shot, Rick contacted the British Corvette Club. Could anyone lend them a '61 for a single photograph? A lady in Rye answered, and thanks to her



Old Bull & Bush pub Hampstead

generosity, history was rewritten. Standing once again beside the classic curves of that car, Rick and Ann-Kathrin smiled for the camera. The photograph clicked, not a copy of the past, but proof

that some stories, like good engines and great romances, never truly stop running. **Adapted from a story in the British Corvette Club magazine with thanks to Rick Goodale.**

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Gardening in a changing climate



In my 35 years as a landscape gardener, I cannot recall a period that has created so many challenges from a gardening perspective.

From the seemingly constant wet conditions of 2024, to one of the hottest and driest summers in the South this year, I have witnessed first hand the impact climate change is having on our gardens. With increased confidence in global climate models, we know that extreme weather events, such as periods of drought and flash flooding, are the most likely conditions we will experience over the coming years in the UK.

With new homes being built every day and the subsequent loss of wild spaces, our gardens will have to take on new and vital roles to provide the services previously delivered by the

natural environment - flood alleviation, carbon sequestration and to support and encourage biodiversity.

There are many ways in which we can help provide these services in our own gardens but principally we should be trying to replicate nature, albeit on a smaller scale.

Plants only thrive and reach maturity if they are suited to the soil conditions and aspects i.e. sun/shade, where they are planted. With a warming planet, our choice of trees, shrubs and hedging becomes more important. We have to select species that will cope better with extremes and therefore have

a greater chance of reaching maturity. The unpredictability of our seasons calls for a wide variety of plants to be used. Some will flourish whereas others may not do so well, ensuring that the garden remains attractive to wildlife (and us!).

Trees and shrubs play a vital role in mitigating climate change and its potential impact by:

- Sequestering huge quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store this carbon in their biomass.
- Reduce flooding by increasing water infiltration.
- Providing shade and a cooling effect by means of the release of water vapour.

However, the fact that plants generally have a very slow rate of adaptation means that many of our native trees and shrubs are extremely vulnerable in a warming climate. Indeed the 'Planting for the Future' report published by Kew Gardens [2024] suggests that if global warming continues its current trajectory, then at least 50% of the trees in Kew's collection could be at risk by the turn of the century.

With 2025 confirmed as the UK's hottest summer on record, and also being the driest summer for some regions such as Dorset, it was interesting for me to observe which plants coped well.

If we want our gardens to flourish in these uncertain times, we may have to incorporate plants from regions such as Southern Europe and regions of central and South America, where plants have

adapted to cope with periods of extreme weather. One of my all-time favourite plant groups is the Salvia genus, which are long flowering, insect friendly and more crucially resistant to climate extremes.

Here is a glimpse at some of my favourite Salvias that I have propagated and successfully used in the gardens of my customers
Paul Scriven

Smile a while

I can't remember how to write 1, 1000, 51, 6 and 600 in Roman numerals I M LIVID

I love jokes about the eyes. The cornea the better.

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?
Because if they flew over the bay they'd be bagels.

I've been hiding from exercise. I'm on the Fitness Protection Programme

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.

I went to the zoo yesterday. There was a baguette in a cage. The keeper told me it was bread in captivity.

I threw a ball for my dog . . . it's a bit extravagant I know, but it was his birthday and he looks great in a dinner jacket.

Humans eat more bananas than monkeys. Stands to reason as I have never seen a person eat a monkey.



The world's fastest seagull....



Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candle light, soft music, and dancing. She goes Tuesdays. I go Fridays.

A guy is about to undergo surgery.

Just as the anaesthesia is about to be administered, he hears the surgeon speaking,

"Don't worry Bill. This is just a routine operation. There's absolutely nothing to worry about."

The guy looks over and says, "thanks, but my name isn't Bill"

The surgeon says, "I know. I'm Bill."

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Answers for: How well do you know your local area? (Page 28)

- 1 The former Westbourne Methodist Church now a Tesco store
- 2 Fireworks on Poole Quay
- 3 Lych gate at the Church of The Transfiguration, Chaddesley Glen
- 4 Building date above Costcutter, Haven Road, Canford Cliffs
- 5 The former Grand Cinema/bingo hall, Westbourne
- 6 Kingston Lacy house
- 7 Brickwork detail on the new building at St Ann's Hospital Canford Cliffs

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