

WINTER 2024



# PINES AND CHINES

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



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# Editorial

First point is to welcome you to the Winter Edition of our Association's magazine and hope you enjoy the read.

We have articles ranging from the Association's business through Lord Ventry's house in Lindsay Road to David Reeve's much appreciated articles on all things horticultural. We also have an article from Luke Steven, the recently appointed Vicar at All Saints. Welcome Luke and hope you and your family are enjoying life in our community.

I am penning (or should I say typing) this article waiting for the arrival of our grandson after which I shall be gainfully employed making sure he doesn't wreck the house. He is 18 months old. I have actually been up for some time having taken our (or more accurately, our son's) dog Bongo for a walk. I have rediscovered the joys of having a dog. Bongo gets me up in the morning and rain or shine, today was a bit of both, we either walk up Stromboli Hill or walk through the woods down by the library to the stretch of beach where dogs are allowed at this time of the year. Another advantage of having a dog is that there is always someone in the house who appreciates you.

Peter Schroeder continues to do sterling job as our Chairman and thanks are due for the many hours Peter puts in on the Association's business. John Harkness our

planning officer acts as our first stop re planning matters and his monthly reports are keenly read. We are also really pleased to welcome three new members to our Exec, Stanley Peters (Treasurer) Andrea Charman (Secretary) and Pamela Carvell (Membership Secretary). Thanks to all three of you for stepping up as without people willing to volunteer, we would not have an association. And can I take this opportunity to thank two retiring members of the Exec, Jackie Heap and Mike Parkin after many years service. Thank you.

In respect of the Association, I would like to note the contribution Graham Jones made to the Sunken Garden that the Association maintains along from the library. The garden is very impressive and commented on by many people who walk through it or 'rest-a-while' in it. Sadly Graham died earlier this year and please do read his obituary which is included in this edition.

I sense the grandson is about to descend upon us so I had better wrap up this piece.

Oh, and have a lovely Christmas and all the best for 2025. Doesn't time fly.

**John Gunton**  
Editor

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## A very warm welcome to Andrea & Pamela

We are very grateful to Andrea, Pamela and Stanley for volunteering to take on the roles of Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Without people taking on the various officer's roles the Association would not exist, so once again, 'Thank You'.

I asked Andrea and Pamela to provide a short summary of who they are and why did they decide to volunteer their services.

### Andrea Charman

I volunteered to support the Association in the role of Secretary as I felt my familiarity with the area and the region in general gives me a useful breadth of perspective in grasping today's critical issues faced by residents. I am keen to protect as much as possible of the area's natural beauty and exceptional amenities.

I grew up in Christchurch and Southbourne, went to school in Bournemouth and was a Brownsea Island Queens Girl Guide. I learnt to drive on what is now Bournemouth Airport runway and sailed regularly from Mudeford. My mother's family are buried in Christchurch Priory.

After 50 years absence my husband and I returned to Branksome Park 2 years ago to find familiarity alongside enormous change and a vibrant residents' association.

### Pamela Carvell

My relationship with this area goes back over 30 years, as after setting up my own marketing consultancy, one of my first clients was FJB Hotels owner of the Haven and Sandbanks Hotels. While I currently don't live permanently in Canford Cliffs, I bought a flat there in 2020 (as soon as Boris said you could view properties!) for my sole personal use and I am down there every few weeks from my home in Warwickshire. I joined the BPCRA not long after that.

Peter's appeals for someone to take over as Membership Secretary, in the regular emailings finally got to me, as I have the necessary skills and so volunteered my services, so long as it was OK for a non-permanent resident to take up the role! Peter reassured me that it is!

I am often seen walking my Scottish Terrier along the promenade and beach.

## The aim and object of the association

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

The Association endeavours at all times to maintain good relationships with the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council and to bring to their

notice all matters which adversely affect the amenities of the whole of the District.

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

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

The minimum Annual Subscription is £5.00 per member (or couple).

There is a special bulk subscription rate of £3 per flat for apartment blocks.

# Chairman's Letter

As the political world around us changes; new government, new local MP and new leader of BCP Council, the tasks and objectives of the Association remain essentially the same. We continue to work to protect all that is attractive and positive in our area, as well as seeking improvements in such matters as road safety, planning procedures, and Poole's share of the very limited amount of "improvement money" our Council has available.

We continue to have strong support from our local ward councillors and following a first meeting with our new MP, he has clearly stated that he wants to champion Poole's concerns, and is already challenging some Government departments, BCP Council and Wessex Water on a number of issues. He has pledged to keep us informed on the government's proposals on housing and will work to ensure that there

are no unexpected consequences on the legal protection of Conservation Areas such as Branksome Park.

The Beach Road Carpark sell off appears to be still going ahead; sadly, the legal opinion we commissioned from a specialist barrister gave us little hope of stopping this totally misguided proposal. However, we are not giving up and are concentrating on ensuring that the Council keeps to its promise to renovate the remaining part of the carpark. Although planning matters and the long running carpark saga continue to take a lot of time, there are other concerns:

Led by an indomitable Vicky Moss, the battle continues for better road safety provisions in our area. Let us just hope that we don't have to wait until someone is killed before any real action is taken.

Sadly, the Chines and public areas of the town are looking ever more neglected and yet attractive well-kept gardens and paths are part of what attracts visitors to Poole.

Our excellent volunteer garden group is keeping the Pinecliff garden looking beautiful, but so far, the Council has failed to repair the refuge at the top of the cliff path (although our ward councillors are working on the problem!).

Last but not least, it is my pleasure to welcome our new secretary, Andrea Charman, and our new membership secretary Pamela Cavell. There is more about both of them opposite.

We have a strong and hardworking team that keeps the Association flourishing. My thanks to all of them.

**Peter Schroeder**  
**Chairman**

## Graham Jones remembered

*(Graham, a long-term member of the Pinecliff Gardens volunteer group, died earlier this year. I am very happy to include in the magazine this tribute to Graham from two members of that group, John and Majeed.)*

It is with great sadness that Pinecliff Gardens volunteer group reports the death of our friend and volunteer Graham Jones.

Graham had been a stalwart of the volunteer group for many years after he and his wife retired to Canford Cliffs. Like many volunteers he was

a keen gardener, but he had moved into a flat here near the beach.

So, he became a regular volunteer gardener at Pinecliff where his great knowledge of plants was invaluable. Graham could name the variety of most of the plants in the garden and when was the right time to prune them or not. He took photos of and catalogued many of the plants using the IT skills he had developed in his working career.

Graham worked as an IT specialist for a large national brewery for many years. He and his wife then became

successful publicans and took on the well-known Angel on the Bridge public house in Henley on Thames. Anyone who has driven over the bridge into Henley will have seen the Angel in a prime position, with its terrace, on the riverside.

In Henley he continued his keen interest in gardening by becoming an allotment holder. He won allotment of the year prize in Henley several times and so the committee decided to make him a judge of the competition because he was winning so often.

Whenever any volunteers sweep the steps down into the gardens in

future, as Graham did most weeks, the spirit of Graham T Jones will thank them.

Graham will be sadly missed but not forgotten by Pinecliffs Volunteers gardeners.

He was very knowledgeable on

Botanical History and mathematics. Apart for the Pinecliff Gardens he also spent lots of time on matters related to the Beach Road car park.

Many memorable Saturdays were spent with Graham in the Canford Pub, over a 'few' pints of ale.  
**John and Majeed.**

*(Editor: **Wanted.** Following on from Graham and the teams marvellous work on the Sunken Garden, they tell me they urgently need new members to help with the work. If you could help in any way you will be made very welcome. Please contact Vicky Moss or simply meet the team in the garden on a Thursday morning)*

while others have delivered surprising decisions. Some of these cases are summarised below:

#### **Moorlands, 50 Haven Road (APP/23/00548/F)**

- **Proposal:** This is the full version of the application to demolish the existing period building and replace it with a block of 12 flats with underground parking. This is one of a line of buildings opposite The Anchorage and is within the Canford Cliffs Conservation Area.
- **Objection:** The appeal for the proposed demolition of existing dwellings and the erection of 12 apartments at 1-3 Moorlands, 50 Haven Road, Poole, was dismissed due to several issues. The primary concerns were the negative impact on the living conditions of neighbouring properties, particularly No. 4 De Mauley Road, due to increased overlooking and loss of privacy. Additionally, the proposed building would fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Canford Cliffs Village Conservation Area, including the loss of Moorlands, a non-designated heritage asset. The proposed development's design was deemed incongruous with the area's architectural context. Although the appellant cited the housing shortfall as a public benefit, it was not sufficient to outweigh

the harm caused to the Conservation Area.

- **Appeal:** Dismissed

#### **20 Chester Road (APP/23/00488/F)**

- **Proposal:** Site-splitting in a triangular garden at the junction of Chester Road and Belgrave Road to construct a new building.
- **Objection:** The site-splitting proposal lies within the Chester Road Conservation Area. The primary concern was the harm the new development would cause to the character and appearance of the Chester Road Conservation Area, due to its incongruous design and cramped positioning on the plot. The inspector noted that the contemporary design did not relate well to the distinctive local character, particularly regarding the established pattern of development, scale, and vegetation in the area. While some reasons for refusal, related to habitat impact, were resolved, the proposal was ultimately dismissed due to its adverse effects on the conservation area and conflict with relevant local planning policies. The public benefits of providing an additional dwelling did not outweigh the identified harm.
- **Appeal:** Dismissed

#### **4 Burton Road (APP/23/01228/F)**

- **Proposal:** Partial demolition of a garage, severing land, and constructing two detached houses in the rear garden.
- **Objection:** The appeal for the development at 4 Burton Road, Poole, was dismissed due to the adverse impact on the character and appearance of the Branksome Park Conservation Area. The

proposed subdivision of the plot and construction of additional dwellings would significantly reduce the site's spacious, green, and sylvan character, which is a defining feature of the conservation area. The smaller plot sizes, increased density, and removal of trees would result in a development that appears cramped and out of place in the area. While the proposal aimed to provide additional housing, the public benefits were deemed insufficient to outweigh the harm caused to the heritage asset and its surroundings.

- **Appeal:** Dismissed

#### **4 Tower Road West (APP/23/01348/F)**

- **Proposal:** Erection of boundary fencing, pillars and sliding metal gate (retrospective and revised scheme)
- **Objection:** Located between two Conservation Areas, the built boundary fence differed from the consented application and subsequent applications were refused.
- **Appeal:** Allowed

#### **Heatherlands, St Aldhelms Close (APP/23/01034/F) & (APP/24/00213/F)**

- **Proposal:** Two applications, both proposing to demolish the existing dwelling and to erect two replacement detached houses with associated access arrangements.
- **Objection:** The site-splitting proposal in the Branksome Park and Chine Gardens Conservation Area faces objections due to its height, overlooking issues, and dominant design(s). The development would disrupt the street scene by reducing the spacing between properties

and creating constrained amenity spaces, uncharacteristic of the area. As a result, it would harm the setting of the conservation area without providing significant public benefits, failing to meet Poole Local Plan Policies PP27, PP28, PP30, and the NPPF 2023, which require developments to respect local character and distinctiveness.

- **Appeal:** Ongoing

#### **Planning for the Future**

As we look ahead, changes in national planning policy, including potential amendments to Permitted Development Rights, may influence local decisions.

Nonetheless, community engagement will remain vital to ensuring that development is managed responsibly, striking a balance between growth and the preservation of our unique local heritage. The evolving nature of planning policy also presents opportunities for sustainable development that can address the climate crisis. With the integration of green infrastructure, low-energy housing, and a focus on future-proofed design, we can guide development in ways that enhance both the environment and our community's long-term resilience.

We encourage all residents to stay informed on planning matters by regularly reviewing the BCP planning portal and participating in public consultations. Together, we can help shape a future for Canford Cliffs that continues to respect and celebrate the character, history, and beauty of our area while embracing opportunities for thoughtful, sustainable development.

**John Harkness-BPCCRA  
Planning Officer**

# Planning Report

The planning process is at the heart of how our community evolves, ensuring that new developments are thoughtfully integrated while safeguarding the architectural and environmental heritage that defines the Canford Cliffs area. As residents, we have a shared responsibility to engage with this process, ensuring that developments are appropriate, sustainable, and in keeping with the character of the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) area.

Planning is not merely a regulatory exercise but a critical framework for shaping the future of our neighbourhoods. Decisions made today will influence the quality of life, architectural identity, and environmental sustainability of our community for generations to come. Whether it's maintaining the integrity of our Conservation Areas or accommodating the demands of modern living, each planning decision is an opportunity to enhance our community without placing undue strain on existing infrastructure.

Recent months have seen a diverse range of planning applications and appeals across the BCP area, each with potential implications for our local environment and way of life.

This article will highlight several recent appeals, offering insight into the ongoing challenges and opportunities in balancing development with preservation.

#### **Noteworthy Appeals**

Planning appeals are often a pivotal point in the development process, representing cases where applicants seek to overturn a refusal or modify previously rejected proposals. These appeals can significantly impact the character of our local environment, particularly in sensitive areas such as our Conservation Areas. By following these cases closely, residents and local associations like BPCCRA ensure that the community's voice is heard, particularly when developments threaten to disrupt the character, scale, or sustainability of our neighbourhoods.

Appeals often arise from concerns about overdevelopment, site-splitting, or a lack of adherence to conservation regulations. These objections generally reflect the community's broader desire for thoughtful, context-sensitive development rather than unchecked expansion or ill-considered architectural alterations. Recently, there have been several appeals, with some resulting in expected outcomes,

# Treasurer's Report

The detailed accounts for 2023 were approved at our AGM and questions from members answered.

At the end of September 2024 our financial position remains strong

with our reserves standing at £43,924.

BPCRA is contributing to a challenge for a planning application in Spencer Road in order to preserve the integrity of the area.

We continue to encourage members to pay by Standing Order and to transfer any Standing Orders currently paid to our Santander Account to our Barclays Account. Our aim is to close the Santander Account as it makes no sense to have accounts with two different banks.

**Stanley Peters**

# Introducing...

## Councillors Corner



This being the first time I've written anything for Pines and Chines, I would like to start by saying thank you to everybody that voted for me. I will do my utmost to represent all the residents of Canford Cliffs ward fairly and equally.

I was going to write this piece on the Beach Road car park though, as so much has been said already about this weighty and controversial topic, I have decided to go for something lighter.

If, like me, you like a good moan about the things that BCP council are getting wrong then this might be an antidote to that. One thing that the council seems to be getting right these days is the REPORT function on their website. I'm sure some of you already know about this and have maybe used it.

From potholes to overhanging trees, from anti-social behaviour to the build-up of leaves on our roads, our council officers can't do something about an issue if they don't know about it. I have found that by using the REPORT function on the BCP website, issues get resolved fairly quickly.

For example, a pothole I reported was filled within a week and an overhanging tree at the end of the Avenue was trimmed back within four weeks.

Considering how slowly the wheels of local government turn I think that's not bad going.

This should be especially relevant as autumn is upon us and our roads will soon be choked with leaves and needles.

The highways department tell me that a road should be swept within two to three weeks after its reported (though this will depend on the level of need as this doesn't always happen as quickly as they suggest).

It also seems that the more people that report an issue then the faster it is resolved. So when you come across an issue that you would like looked at, get your

friends and neighbours to report it too.

This function can be found on the main page of the BCP website. If you scroll down to the bottom, you will find a section called quick links. Below this you will find the word REPORT.

Click on this and you'll find 76 different categories that you can choose between. Including missed bin collection, stray dogs, bonfires, litter, overgrown grass, parking issues and many more. You then fill out a short questionnaire asking for location etc. and you're done. Quick and simple.

But don't worry if you haven't got Internet access you can call the BCP main switchboard on 01202 123330. They can put you through to the relevant department, however, you will have far more success using the website.

So next time you're chatting to someone about an issue you've seen or heard or smelt think to yourself, could I go on the website and report this. Maybe our officers don't know about it. Maybe I can get this issue resolved not just for myself but for our whole community.

**Clr Gavin Wright**

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## BRANKSOME PARK AND CANFORD CLIFFS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Minutes of the AGM held Saturday April 27, 2024

### **1 Notice of Meeting.**

The chairman, Peter Schroeder welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded everyone that as the forthcoming local elections were within the next 3 weeks, political issues needed to be avoided.

The local 'Councillor, John Challinor, would be invited to speak but only in general terms about his work relating to the ward.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

#### **By**

Coun. May Haines, who is standing down.

Mike and Carol Parkin  
Peter & Sue Arnold  
John and Kay Morrison

The Chairman welcomed the fact that our relationship with neighbouring Residents Associations was growing and important. He welcomed three speakers - Coun. Challinor, Martin Baker, BCP Council Road Safety Team Leader, and Pat Holliday, who will speak about Neighbourhood Watch.

### **3 . Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

The minutes, which had been circulated via Pines and Chines, were accepted unanimously. Proposed by John Gunton, seconded John Sprackley. There were no matters arising.

### **4 Chairman's Report and Review including Planning matters**

The Chairman thanked all his committee individually for their hard work and support in his first year. These were:

**Secretary Carol Parkin** has resigned and the Association is actively seeking a replacement. The Chairman suggested the role might be split with a separate Minutes Secretary if that would help.

**Planning Officer John Harkness** has very successfully taken on the planning role

**Treasurer Jackie Heap** is standing down but will remain in position until all the banking changes have been signed off. Her successor will be Stanley Peters.

**John Gunton**, who edits and produces the excellent Pines and Chines.

**Vicki Moss**, Special Projects  
**Andrew Barnett**, who has now stood down, supporting the membership secretary  
**Andrew Carswell**; the Associations honorary solicitor  
Membership Secretary **Mike Parkin**  
**Roy Pointer** has been co-opted to support the campaign to save Beach Road Car Park

### **Planning Matters**

On behalf of the Planning Officer, the Chairman gave a brief update

There is a new Head of Service at BCP, Wendy Lane, who met with the four local Residents Associations. We were represented by John Harkness, our Planning officer, and Vicki Moss, whose note of the meeting will be attached to the next newsletter.

The draft Local Plan has been published and is out for consultation. As far as our ward is concerned, the main impact will be on housing numbers. See below. Beach Road CP.

The chairman had met with Clive Moys, a barrister at Radcliffe Chambers for advice on how we might proceed. He will give an opinion within twelve days on

- a: Whether a legal challenge is possible regarding what the Council is proposing.
- b: Whether it is possible to challenge how they are going about it.

### **5 Treasurer's Report**

Referring to the circulated accounts, the overall financial situation is healthy, although despite slightly increased membership, we had this year finished with a slight deficit (£29) in income over expenditure. This had been due to increasing costs all round, noticeably in Pines and Chines production and meeting costs. This was offset by the increased bank interest The Santander business account will be closed, leaving Barclays as our sole bankers. Although their interest rates are relatively modest this is offset by no bank charges.

The accounts were proposed and seconded and accepted unanimously. Jackie thanked Schofields for once again auditing the accounts free of charge.

### **6 Pines and Chines Magazine.**

John Gunton said he hoped the balance of articles, association business and advertising was about right, and would welcome feedback. He would welcome any volunteer who would like to learn the ropes and assist with the magazine's production and advertising.

### **7 Special Projects**

Referring to the Branksome car park proposal, Vicky said that more than 1000 signatures had been collected, but to no avail.

She thanked the volunteer gardeners at Pinecliff- but didn't mention that as well as liaising on their behalf she has joined them! She mentioned the sad passing of Graham Jones and the plant and plaque which had been installed in his memory.

Re the shelter on the clifftop, special project funding is being applied for, but there is only one wood repainer employed by the Council.

She explained that the proposed student project failed to get off the ground for various reasons, mainly the weather.

Road Safety. Death and injury numbers had fallen, reflecting community speed watch efforts. Branksome Park had had ten volunteers.

### **8 Election of Officers**

**Chairman:** Peter Schroeder. Proposed, seconded and approved unanimously

**Secretary** - vacancy

**Treasurer:** Jackie Heap. Proposed seconded and approved unanimously. Stanley Peters, who will be taking over shortly from Jackie as the Treasurer was appointed Assistant Treasurer

All other officers were re-elected en bloc, and Roy Pointer was re-elected to the committee to help on planning matters.

Roy updated us on the Draft Local

Plan, as affecting our ward. Housing requirements.-

775 homes would be required. 327 of which are under way, leaving 320 to be created.

Plot- splitting is a big issue and Roy suggested we should always, as a matter of course, oppose any plot-spitting in the Conservation Areas. A point was made from the floor that such a blanket approach could only put more pressure on the roads just outside these areas.

The AGM was closed at 11.26 am.

The chairman introduced the speakers, Ward Councillor John Challinor, BPC's Road Safety Officer Martin Baker, and Pat Holliday, Neighbourhood Watch.

### **John Challinor**

The planning Committee is going to be split between East and West and he will hope for a seat on the Western Committee.

Local Plan- the housing numbers had been slightly reduced.

Neighbourhood policing- mainly anti-social behaviour, usually worst on beaches in summer.

Regular surgery at the library. It is proposed that the Blue Flag scheme will from 2025 be funded by the room tax. For this year it will be funded by local businesses. He will make a bid for funds to repair the Pinecliff shelter in July He mentioned the opposition to the traffic closure in Poole Park. Questions from the floor related to the Haven Hotel proposals, potholes, Rockwater, and the small amount of developers' money allocated to this ward.

### **Martin Baker**

The computer link failed and so Martin had to give his presentation without the benefit of PowerPoint slides. These will be attached to our next newsletter.

There are 10 officers in the team, which has responsibility for Child Safety, working within the law this is the responsibility of each local authority. They interpret data, e.g. to identify accident hotspots, and plan safer routes to schools.

They have installed electronic Slow Down signs and "Think " signs (e.g. seat belts, ) and try to reach young male drivers, who are the greatest risk.

The Dorset Road Safety Partnership installs speed cameras and provides Webinars for speeding offenders £150 k is available for 20mph schemes to be decided.

### **Pat Halliday on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch**

Pat invited everyone to drop in to the village hall on May 11th, 10.30-12.30, for 'The Big Community Revival' There would be coffee and stalls and information about local community groups and charities. She stressed Neighbourhood Watch are not encouraging "curtain twitchers" but suspicious behaviour should be reported. New signage and stickers are available.

They also host a once-a-month session Fridays at the library. Cyberwatch- they can provide speakers to groups about on-line safety, and they support Speed Watch. After thanking the Speakers, members were invited to continue individual discussions with them over refreshments, kindly organized again by Vicky.

Community Speed Watch  
Coordinator plays “Crosby Road”:

# A Real-Life Game of Chicken

Have you ever played the popular video game Crosby Road? It’s based on the old computer game ‘Frogger’. Crosby Road, the video game is based on the old jokes, “why did the chicken cross the road?”, it made \$10m in the first 3 months of release in 2014 and was downloaded 50million times.

‘What’s this got to do with Community Speed Watch?’, I hear you ask. As a resident of Branksome Park, I’ve found myself playing real life Crosby Road on my morning walks every day for the last twenty years. Tower Road West, Western Road, Wilderton Road are all a bit dicey but oh my goodness crossing The Avenue is ‘Crosby Road’ to a T— pedestrians (sometimes with zimmer frames) trying to cross to get to the shops in Westbourne with an astonishing 1000 cars per hour, with no pelican crossing. My morning walks are like a high-stakes game of chicken, played on repeat-fortunately I’ve always got to the other side. But seriously, that is why I do Community Speed Watch.

In August we met our new Labour MP Neil Duncan Jordan and I presented him with all the issues mentioned here. If you’d like to learn more about the specific highway issues in Branksome Park, please take a look at the map that was presented to him. It highlights the historic and current highways issues residents have raised in Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs that have escaped funding for so long...decades and decades in fact.

In July, the Community Speed Watch Coordinators across Dorset were invited to meet Superintendent Rob Chalkley,

Head of Special Operations, to explore ways to better protect us after several serious concerns about the safety of Community Speed Watch teams were exposed. We will have closer ties with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams going forward. I raised a concern that the Dorset Strategic Road Safety Partnership (BCP Council/Dorset Police/Dorset Council) did not grasp the situation in communities regarding road safety. In the past Police and Council have had a tendency to “pass the buck” when it comes to speeding. The Council don’t get any of the revenues from speeding and they say they don’t have funds for more pedestrian crossings and target resources to accident hot spots rather than prevention of accidents.

For four years now, Community Speed Watch has been active in our area. All the data we’ve collected on speeding proves that Branksome Park and Lilliput has some of the worst urban speeding in Dorset (on 8th August The mobile speed camera caught 50 speeders in 45 mins on Pinecliff Road, that’s a lot of fines!). Dorset’s roads are helping to top



up the Treasury’s Coffers, but do we ever see any of the money? Why do we have to wait until someone is killed or seriously injured before pedestrian crossings are installed?!

Our dedicated Community Speed Watch team of 10 volunteers has been out helping to keep the local roads safe over the summer, which are statistically the worst months for the speeding. A switch seems to flick in drivers when the weather warms up and the right foot tends to hit the floor a lot more.

We will never know if our Community Speed Watch team has saved any lives, except that the statistics for killed and seriously Injured on Dorset’s roads in 2023 were the lowest on record... Dorset Police Force is upheld nationally and in Europe for its success in reducing deaths and serious injuries and CSW has

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been acknowledged as playing an important contribution in keeping track of dangerous drivers to target enforcement and education.

Sometimes I do ask myself “is doing Community Speed Watch really worth it for the abuse we get?” and then when I see some daring pedestrians of all ages and levels of mobility trying to cross our roads, and the answer is a great big YES!

Our team has been subjected to countless drivers giving us abusive gestures and language, but we soldier on. In May there was an incident where the verbal abuse from one driver was very severe. It’s concerning that someone holding such anger was behind the wheel (a new BMW by the way) so having more Police presence with CSW is good. Be careful with your language and hand gestures folks, we are asked to record those abusive incidents too and action might be taken.

Whether you like it or not, there’s no doubt that speeding points and fines are the most effective means of tackling speeding in our area; but the fact remains, I still have to play ‘Crossy Road’ on my dog walk every day because there are no safe pedestrian crossing points and the volume of traffic is so high.

“Just ask the Council for a Pedestrian Crossing!” I hear you say...The irony of being repeatedly told by the BCP Road Safety Department that there “aren’t enough deaths and serious injuries to merit having pedestrian crossings in Branksome Park” is never lost on me. It makes me wonder if Policy makers grew up playing too much ‘Frogger’ on their Commodore 64s in the 1980s? Or was it some top civil servant with questionable ethics who started this accident statistic lead Road

Safety policy ? Probably both....

There are some simple solutions that won’t cost the earth...like the pedestrian phases around the Bournemouth Town Hall serving as crossing points for people and gentle traffic calming for vehicles which cost £15-25,000 compared to £100,000 for a pelican crossing and can bring the traffic to a standstill for several minutes. But still, resources will be targeted where people have been killed or injured...

Yet another irony, is that the somewhat perverse ‘Darwinian’ UK wide Road Safety Policy is rolled whilst Doctors are prescribing walking and cycling as a way for seriously ill patients with chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease to improve their health and reduce the burden on the NHS. Well, all I can say is best of luck to patients walking across these roads and Doctors and Politicians, don’t be surprised if the Patients don’t take up walking.

In August the new labour Government renewed their commitment to investing in unprecedented numbers of cycling and walking schemes as part of plans to help people incorporate more physical activity into their lives... The Transport Secretary Louise Haigh said “We want to make sure the funding is delivered where it’s needed, rather than where they’ve got best bid writers and have been good at hoovering up resources”.

Oh ... there’s the little matter of the £100 million that BCP Council received in 2019 for active travel initiatives, spent on cycle lanes that are rarely used... perhaps because the main routes into and out of our town centres are so steep, even a Tour de France cyclist would struggle to conquer them...

For those of you who can’t cycle up these hills to/from Branksome Beach and want parking spaces near the beach on a lovely sunny day, (good luck with that too because Beach Road Car Park is being sold off for ‘much needed’ homes even though we have the highest proportion of second homes in BCP).

If you want a more leisurely stroll from your car to Branksome Beach avoiding the busy roads, you might consider taking the scenic route through the beautiful wooded valley of Branksome Chine. This stunning, leafy area is a popular spot for walkers, but after a heavy rainfall, it’s more like a mud bath.

A casual stroll can quickly turn into a muddy adventure, leaving you knee-deep in muck and looking like you’ve just applied a face mask.

It’s a great way to get a natural spa treatment, but perhaps not the most relaxing experience and you won’t look great turning up at Rockwater.

Putting aside my light hearted reference to ‘Crossy Road’, please spare a thought for the several pedestrians and cyclists who have been hit by cars in Branksome Park in the last few years and by some miracle weren’t physically seriously injured and survived.

However, the “simple’ activity of going for a walk and crossing the road or cycling will never be the same for them and we really don’t want anyone else to get unnecessarily hurt.

Isn’t it time pedestrians are better protected and why not spend those lucrative speeding fines on improving pedestrian infrastructure, eh Prime Minister?  
**Vicky Moss**

## 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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# Planned rewilding or general neglect?

The State of our Chines, Beach Promenade and Public Spaces in General

Poole is known to residents and visitors alike for its stunning beaches, framed by an attractive and well-kept Esplanade with rows of brightly painted Beach Chalets; all reached via our unique collection of Chines.

Sadly however, more and more residents and visitors are commenting on the increasing "scruffiness" and lack of maintenance of many of these attractive features.

Is some of this a deliberate policy by BCP Council, under the general heading of "Rewilding", and how much is due to the massive reduction in maintenance staff we have had over the last many years?

The BPCRA funded group of volunteers who look after the Pinecliff gardens have shown what can be done, though the Council is struggling to find the money to repair the attractive refuge at the top of the steps.

With tourism high on the agenda for Poole's future prosperity neglect of our most attractive features is very short sighted.

### What can be done?

- Encourage more volunteer groups and support them with modest funds and any necessary expertise. The provision of 3rd party insurance to properly constituted groups could be considered.



- Establish a proper rewilding strategy for the Chines and public areas that recognises the necessary balance between nature and the local and visiting public activities.
- Ensure that sufficient of the massive Beach Chalet rental

income the Council receives is used to keep the Chalets and the Esplanade in Tip-Top condition.

Thoughts and ideas to the Association and our hard-working Ward Councillors please!  
**Peter Schroeder**

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## More tea vicar?

Yes please! My name is Luke and I'm the new vicar at All Saints' Church Branksome Park and I'd love to get to know you. So let's get a date in the diary for a cup of tea. You can reach me at **luke.steven@allsaintsbranksome.org**.

At All Saints' Church we believe that God loves every person, and we want to be a family of old and young sharing God's love with everyone.

So whoever you are and whatever you believe, you are welcome to this church.

Come and feel the love! We're a real mix of people and that mix is reflected on Sundays, with church services of different styles at 8am (Book of Common Prayer), 9.30am (all-age informal), and 11am (traditional).

For more details and to see what we're up to through the week in the local community, you can head to our website: **www.allsaintsbranksome.org**.

Finally, if you'd like prayer for anything at all just say. Contact me or the office (01202 701 822, office@allsaintsbranksome.org) and our church family will pray for you.

And of course, you can always come and pray in the church building (open 9.15am-1.15pm on weekdays) or in the secluded beauty of our churchyard and memorial garden.

With every blessing for you and those you love and look after.  
**Revd Dr Luke Steven**




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# Friends of Canford Cliffs library

Monday Coffee Morning numbers keep growing while supporting Canford Cliffs Library

As you may know libraries in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole are now closed for additional periods each week because of BCP Council's difficult financial position. Accordingly, Canford Cliffs Library is closed all day on Monday and Thursday, open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am – 1pm / 2pm-5pm and Saturday 10.00am – 12pm.

The BCP library service has kindly agreed that the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library can continue our discussion coffee mornings in the recently enlarged community conservatory room, while the library itself remains closed on Monday morning. Therefore, there are no lights on in the main library, the front door stays closed, and the FCCL coffee morning sign is positioned besides the gates to the garden to go through on the garden side of the library to reach the conservatory.

The entrance into the conservatory is gained through pressing the large button unit on the wall where the slope also allows wheelchair and wheeler entry. The door opens outwards automatically, and self-closes after an entry. Pressing the button from inside automatically opens the door when leaving which self-closes after a departure.

The FCCL has been growing fast over the past few months since re-starting after covid December last year now with over 50 members – a number also BPCCRA members – almost as large as before closing for nearly four years during the



covid and conservatory building programme periods. The warm welcome gives an opportunity to make new friends. One Monday in July we welcomed the new Minister from All Saints Church the Rev Dr. Luke Stephen to introduce himself. The library is very much a central part of the local community.

The Council has completed the restoration of the windows and sills with repainting, and the building is in the best condition it has been for many years.

Since re-opening the FCCL has donated just over £900 to the library in the form of new tables for the community conservatory room, a new bench and heavy concrete planters for the garden, and has changed the earth and planted new plants in the five planters at the front entrance to the library with volunteer help. The garden maintenance significantly improved and rubbish cleared for which we thank those involved. A superb job has been done both on the hedges by parks

department, and clearing the shrubbery where needed. The fencing at the car park side of the library has been completed and a new set of gates replaces those rotted and broken thanks to BCP Council.

A high number of residents are using the library service, as well as those beyond the immediate area, while the larger conservatory community room which can be hired for private use is in demand.

Canford Cliffs Library remains a vibrant well used local asset, and every effort is being made by the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library for the facilities to improve for the time when the library – as others in Dorset – will once again be open for longer periods.

Monday Coffee Mornings from 10am-12pm. Unlimited tea, coffee, hot chocolate and premium biscuits are £3, membership £5 annually.

**Richard Phillips**  
Chairman - FCCL

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# Membership Application

BRANKSOME PARK & CANFORD CLIFFS RESIDENTS' Association

## The Aims and Objectives of the Association

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

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

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

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

1. Make your Standing Order payment to Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
2. Barclays: Sort Code: 20-11-39: Account Number: 00201804
3. It is particularly important to provide your name and Postcode for the payment reference.
4. Email your name, address, telephone number to the Association's Membership Secretary <pamcarvell@aol.com>



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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Post Code ..... Tel No: .....

Email .....

*By providing us with your email address, you are happy to receive our twice-yearly emailings. You may unsubscribe at any time. We may also email you regarding any urgent planning matters.*

We look forward to receiving your application.

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

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

\*Contact the membership secretary for further information.

## Standing Order Mandate

To: Bank

Branch address

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Pay to:

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**Account Name** Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association  
**Account number** 00201804  
**Sort code** 20-11-39

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

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**With the following amount and on the same date EACH YEAR until further notice: (£5 per household)**

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<b>Reference: insert membership no. if known</b>	

Name	
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Signature	
Date	



News from Poole Maritime Trust

# Wreckers or rescuers?

It is over 40 years ago that work started on exploring the Studland Bay Wreck. Accidentally discovered by local fisherman Gerry Randle in late 1983, when the trawl net he was towing across Studland Bay, caught on a submerged obstruction on the seaward side of the Hook Sands on the eastern side of the Swash Channel. Gerry left a marker on the net and came back to the Fishermen's dock to phone a friend who was a diver.

Barry Walsh, a member of Hamworthy Sub-Aqua Club went out with Gerry and released the net and took the offending timber to Poole Museum and was told it was probably part of an old pier. Barry invited other divers, Victor Unt, and Peter Hayton amongst them, to come and see what he had found. They all agreed that it was an old wreck and not part of a pier. They were to form part of a close-knit team for the next few summers.

The exciting find. Lying on the seabed in 45 feet of water were parts of an old vessel. The divers picked up various items and took them to show Poole Museum. It was soon clear that this was an old and interesting vessel. It was discussed in the club and decided that the wreck should be investigated further and that the

finds should be catalogued, and the Poole Museum should be more involved. It was at this time that the Poole Maritime Trust also became involved with the project and the Studland Bay Wreck Project was formed with the Hamworthy Sub-Aqua Club dive team. Victor Unt became the project leader, and the serious investigation started.

The team used their inflatable dive boats for further exploration at weekends for some time until they managed to obtain the loan of a 75ft vessel with the capability of being a stable platform at sea for the dive team, but the owner of the vessel had to sell her and donated £1000 towards the purchase of another vessel. Victor, Barry and the Hamworthy Sub-Aqua Club team then approached Alisdair Ferguson, who was one of the founders of the Poole



Maritime Trust and involved with the pilotage service in Poole at the time.

It was clear that the dive team needed a substantial diving tender from which to dive safely. Alisdair was formidable man and very direct. He called a meeting of the Trustees of the Poole Maritime Trust at his office over-looking Poole Quay, explained what was required and asked each member, round the table to loan £1,000 to the Trust to purchase a vessel. Only one member demurred and in 5 minutes he had the £9,000 (to put towards the £1000 donation already received) to purchase a 40-foot steel launch. She was purchased and slipped at Dorset Lake shipyard and the team spent the winter cleaning and painting, servicing the engine and the gear box and she was relaunched as



Studlandia, the following spring. The Hamworthy Dive Sub-Aqua Club dive team were trained in underwater archaeology by Martin Dean from the British Archaeology Dive Unit of the National Maritime Museum and learnt how to run an underwater survey and to use the airlift and other equipment to remove sand from the area. They continued for several years, clearing the silt from the wreck site, measuring and marking all they could see, finding plenty of material that lay scattered on the seabed. The dive team managed to borrow a magnetometer from Cardiff University and with a grid laid over the wreck they also found a large part of the rest of the wreck with cannons scattered around the wreck and many other objects.

In January 1985 Hamworthy Sub-Aqua Club won the coveted "Golden Club of the Year Award" for their outstanding work on the Studland Bay Wreck Project.

But time was running out for the amateur dive team.

Outsiders were thought to be coming in and plundering the wreck and to stop that, the SBWP team needed an order from the receiver of wrecks to designate it an Historic Wreck Site, and to make the wreck site a conservation area. The order was made initially on the 22 October 1984 under

the Protection of the Wreck Act 1973. To achieve this, the dive team needed a professional archaeologist, so they taught the chief archaeologist of Poole Museum, Ian Horsey, with Keith Jarvis as his understudy, to use an Aqua-lung and he became one of the diving team, and under Poole Museum's authority the investigations continued until Ian was involved in a car accident in which he was killed. The Museum handed over the project to Keith Jarvis who, with the SBWP dive team, and later a team led by Mike Markey, completed the survey, raising many more objects with the assistance of the Poole Harbour Master and the dredger. The Diving tender became redundant after a few years and I was asked to sell it, which I did, returning the same money to each Trustee who had loaned it in the first place.

The vessel, thought to be an armed cargo Caravel from northern Spain was about 100 feet long and had sunk between 1500-1525. Articles discovered were the largest find of Isobella Polychrome pottery ever found in one place. (Small pieces but no complete pieces of pottery, which dated the wreck), a number of cannon and cannon balls, barrel staves, and hoops, cordage, textiles, and leather. It was the very best example of self-help you could find. Amateurs had taken on a difficult job, learnt



how to work underwater and how to correctly carry out the survey and to remove historically valuable artefacts without damaging them and making sure that the material, once landed was kept under water in tanks until it could be properly conserved. Some of those methods were groundbreaking and large timbers lay in tanks in my yard in West Quay Road for years, until they were taken to York, I believe, to be further pickled in the correct fluids which will allow them to survive for many years on display, without them shrinking and warping out of shape. The whole scheme was an exciting and interesting time. The team led by example and showed what other teams could achieve elsewhere.

For someone involved on the periphery who could help and aid people as each problem arrived it was a great learning curve and a fascinating insight into how archaeology can work, even in a harsh and difficult environment.

There will be a display of this ship in Poole Museum when it opens, next year.

**Peter Burt.**  
Vice President. Poole Maritime Trust



# Scarification

“I don’t know what effect they have on my lawn, but by G—d it scarifies me”

This mischievous misquote, of the famous quotation attributed to the first Duke of Wellington, was prompted by the proximity in sound between ‘terrify’ and ‘scarify’. Two words quite unrelated, but reflecting my distressed reaction to my verdant lawn having been converted into a lightly ploughed field.

Opening this story at its end, I shall now follow the Julie Andrews advice (“Let’s start at the very beginning/A very good place to start”). The lawn in question surrounds on three sides, my bijou bungalow in Branksome Park. Front and back lawns, with a linking strip at one side, with espalier apple trees in the middle of that strip. Regularly mowed by a top notch Hayter 41. Not praising my own, but an indication that the cutting height is set as high as it goes. The longer the grass, the longer it lasts without rain. If there is drought and it dies, it will come green again. I am not an enthusiast of using drinking water to interfere with this natural process.

A mown lawn is of course, deeply unfashionable. I should have instead a ‘meadow’, which I reckon would cost me three times the effort to instal and effectively maintain. But wild life in general, and pollinators in particular are well-served with the rest of the plot. Existing trees, new planting including two oak, and tolerated native (mountain ash, hazel), flowers for all the seasons, a

woodpile, and logs edging the woodland paths, something approaching 300 yards. An underground network for insects: though I’ve never heard a beetle shout ‘Mornington Crescent!’.

Regular mowing is no hardship, and providing a useful component for the compost bays. What I found particularly tiresome was using a springbok rake, for a couple of hours at a time, to try and defeat the lawn moss. Of all the garden activities, the most tiring. And most of the moss remained, sneering at me. We visited friends in Bognor periodically, and I complimented them on the billiard green surface of their tiny lawn. They mentioned the name of a national franchise, who made regular visits to weed and feed the lawn.

So, I got in touch with a Salisbury based company, to relieve me of this particular chore. The senior technician makes regular quarterly visits, to weed and feed, and of course to exclude moss. My lawn is that much the better for his experienced care (he was previously a head greenkeeper). He is generally approving of my lawn, and I follow his advice.

Except that mowing in the opposite direction to the existing ‘stripe’ I find difficult, having no sense of direction, and end up following the same pattern. By way of compromise, I ‘cross mow’ giving a pleasing ‘checker’ pattern seen in well-kept sports fields.



So, when the expert recommends ‘scarification’, a process that involves removing the build-up of dead ‘thatch’, I eventually rather reluctantly accept his advice. The first time, the lawn looked like a field after haymaking time. This time, having taken the expert nearly eleven hours, he called in reinforcements at the close of play. The result looked closer to a lightly ploughed field. The process included aeration and over-seeding. It is a week now since the devastation, and already it is starting to green up, in the Indian summer of mid September.

A note to word lovers: my original conflation of ‘scare’ and ‘scarify’ is of two quite different words, each with a different pedigree. ‘Scare’ is from Old Norse, meaning to frighten. ‘Scarify’ however, reaches back through Old French, Latin and ultimately a Greek word meaning to scratch an outline, to sketch lightly.

Reluctant to ‘export’ organic matter off site (and too mean to pay for a skip) I was left with six dumpy bags of ‘scrappings’. I had somehow remembered from the previous session a couple of bags, which even then had been



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difficult enough to dispose of. Compost enthusiasts will know a judicious mix of 'green and brown' is needed: an excess of grass cuttings ends in an impenetrable soggy layer. The more so with the 'scrapings': and they do not lend themselves to mulching, again forming an impenetrable layer.

However, at time of writing I have managed to get rid of 10 barrow

loads of the scrapings, emptying one of the half-full bags. One of my four compost bays cleared ready to take fresh, and a ratio of two barrowloads of laurel shavings to one of 'scrapings'. And several barrowloads dumped on the 'bund', boundary with no17. This created with many years sweepings of the woodland paths, now about three feet higher than my neighbours.

So, by mid-October, I hope to be mowing again and creating the 'stripes' of the lawn. Many years ago, my wife's cousin asked 'How do you get the stripes? To which I solemnly replied, 'Striped lawn seed'. She initially almost believed me. But she was an Essex girl. And I do tell a good story.

David Reeves

## Smile a while Winning jokes from Edinburgh Festival

**2024:** Nick Helm added a touch of Disney magic to the frustrating task of choosing a new password.

"I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

### Previous winners:

**2023:** Lorna Rose Treen became the first female comedian to win the accolade since the inaugural Fringe joke award in 2008 with her dating pun.

"I started dating a zookeeper, but it turned out he was a cheetah."

**2022:** A pasta gag from Masai Graham triumphed as the Fringe festival returned in full force after the Covid pandemic.

"I tried to steal spaghetti from the shop, but the female guard saw me and I couldn't get pasta."

**2019:** Swedish comedian Olaf Falafel got plenty of laughs but also some

criticism from a Tourette's charity with his winning joke.

"I keep randomly shouting out 'broccoli' and 'cauliflower' - I think I might have florets."

**2018:** Liverpool comedian Alan Rowe hit the spot with a one-liner about being sacked by a Jobcentre.

"Working at the Jobcentre has to be a tense job- knowing that if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day."

**2017:** Ken Cheng, who is also a professional poker player, kept a straight face with his gag about the new pound coin.

"I'm not a fan of the new pound coin, but then again, I hate all change."

**2016:** Having made the shortlist in the two previous years, Masai Graham finally took the top spot with his organ donor joke.

"My dad suggested I register for a donor card, he is a man after my own heart"

**2015:** With a Fringe show called Punderbolt, it was no surprise that a pun was Darren Walsh's punchline.

"I just deleted all the German names off my phone. It's Hans free."

**2014:** Tim Vine became the first comedian to win the award for a second time with his joke about a vacuum cleaner.

"I decided to sell my Hoover... well it was just collecting dust."

**2013:** Having quit his job selling paintbrushes to become a comedian, Rob Auton's joke was judged a stroke of genius.

"I heard a rumour Cadbury is bringing out an oriental chocolate bar. Could be a Chinese Wispa."

### Answers for: How well do you know your local area? (PG34)

- 1 The Newfoundland Knot sculpture at the junction of West Street and West Quay Road Poole
- 2 Stone seashell and seat at the bottom of Flaghead Chine
- 3 The Poole Arms public house on Poole Quay
- 4 The entrance to Westbourne Arcade
- 5 The former Barclay's building in Poole
- 6 The flats by ASDA on West Quay Road
- 7 Alms Houses Church Street Poole. There is a plaque attached to the building which was put there in 1904 stating that they were built in the

time of Henry V and "have been devoted to the use of the poor for 500 years"!

- 8 The roof of the Amalfi Restaurant, Sandbanks Hotel
- 9 Poole Guildhall

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# Canford Cliffs Land Society

As many of you will know, Canford Cliffs Land Society exists to protect the covenants (mainly against over-development) on the Estate of the same name.

Specifically, this covers the area bounded by Spencer Road in the north, Ravine Road in the east, the relevant parts of Canford Cliffs Road and Haven Road in the west and the sea to the south.

As well as formally enforcing covenants, the Society undertakes a number of other functions in the area for the benefit of residents. These include:

- Reviewing all relevant planning applications and registering objections where this is felt appropriate. Recent examples of success include 7a Spencer Road (original application) and 50 Haven Road where both proposals were refused.
- Maintaining and enhancing Bessborough Road (which the Society owns).
- Providing regular flower displays in the Village
- Providing and maintaining a number of benches in the Village.
- Clearing vegetation and funding the creation of the mosaic on the zig-zag path from Cliff Drive to the beach
- Organising and funding (but with welcome contributions from local businesses, BPCRA and Neighbourhood Watch)



the annual Christmas Lights in the Village, together with the associated switch-on party (this year scheduled for 29th November).

- When resources permit, making donations to a number of local charities.

The current Society took over from its predecessor in May 1925 so we will be celebrating our centenary next year. To mark this, we are currently in discussion with BCP Council with a view to jointly funding some upgrades to the facilities for children in the Pirate Park. The Society funded provision of the existing facilities some years ago.

An important part of the present process is the requirement to take into account the views of local residents. We would therefore urge everyone who may use these facilities (particularly if they have children or grandchildren, resident or visiting) to take part in our survey. This can be accessed on our website <https://landsociety.co.uk/centenary-project/> where you will find a number of suggestions for improvements to

the Pirate Park and a form where you can express your views.

**Please do be active on this—it is your chance to influence a local development which hopefully will be to the benefit of many.**

**Membership of the Society** is open to all those on the Estate who either own their property or hold a lease with an original term of at least 98 years. Those who do not qualify (including those living outside the defined area) are very welcome to join as Associate (non-voting) members.

The annual membership fee is just £5 payable by standing order. We would really encourage as many people as possible to join us and help secure the Society's existence as it enters its second century. Application forms are available from our Membership Secretary: [tee.stokes@icloud.com](mailto:tee.stokes@icloud.com)

Finally, our next **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Village Hall, Ravine Road BH13 7HT on **Saturday 26th April 2025 at 11am**. Drinks and canapes will be available immediately afterwards: free to members!



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# Lord Ventry - A Lasting Legacy

Sometime ago it was suggested to me that 7th Baron Ventry, Arthur, Frederick, Daubeny, Olaf, Eveleigh de Moleyns, Bunny to his family, Skip to Scouts, Mr Ballon to Norwegians late of Lindsay Hall, Lindsay Road, would be upset about the use of his legacy.

There is little physical evidence of his footprint, a road named in his honour and part of the boundary wall of the estate along Poole Road from St. Aldhelms Church Hall to the Tesco site, as I hope to show this is not the case.

The Scouts in Poole had for many years been keen to have a site which could be used to allow visiting scouts to visit an area rich in Scouting history. There is of course Brownsea Island which was used by Baden Powell to organise his ground breaking camp in 1907. There were a number of boys from Poole who participated, Percy Medway, Reg Giles and Arthur Primmer along with boys from more privileged backgrounds. B-Ps wife, Olave Soames was a Poole resident, they married and their first child was christened at St Peters Parkstone'

During 1949 Poole Scouts decided to try and turn this into a reality and so an appeal was launched. Lord Ventry had a number of passions in life, airships, all things

Norwegian, Scouting and being a member of the Catholic faith. Thus in 1952 a plot of land was given to the Scouts of Poole for use as a training ground. The site was officially opened by Lady Olave Baden Powell on Saturday 9th June 1956. Thereafter much effort was made to clear the area of excess vegetation and a brick built hut was eventually built which was used for meetings and the Scout shop, for sale of uniforms.

Ventry had no direct dependants and with the passing of time it was recognised that change would come regarding the status of the estate. At this time the Scouts became aware of a hall with land in Layton Road, Parkstone, which was going to be sold. The leadership recognised that this would be a valuable asset and so grants and loans were sought and the property purchased.

In time Ventry died on 7th March 1987. Arrangements were put in hand to sell the estate and since the Scouts held the Deeds for the Training Ground the plot was sold in excess of £1.1 million. A huge sum of money. The loans for the newly purchased hall were paid off and a refurbishment and extension undertaken.

Scouting was presented with another opportunity. The Dorset scouts, like the Poole Scouts were keen to have a camp site. Agreement was reached for the Poole Scouts to pay half the asking price on what has become Buddens Farm a large site near Wareham.

Over the years grants and loans have been given to the Scouts of Poole to aid the achievement of Scouting aims and reduce the need to fund raise.

The most recent project has seen the refurbishment of the hall in Layton Road, now known as The Denis Gooding Centre, after former Mayor, Scout and supporter, to the tune of £124,000. This has allowed the Parkstone, St Peters group to move into a new home as the Church are to sell the hall and invest the proceeds into the fabric of the Church.

Ventry's Legacy is still managed by the Trustees of the Poole Scouts and will be for years to come for the benefit of Scouting in Poole and the wider community. I think Ventry would wear a wry smile.  
**Ian Gray**





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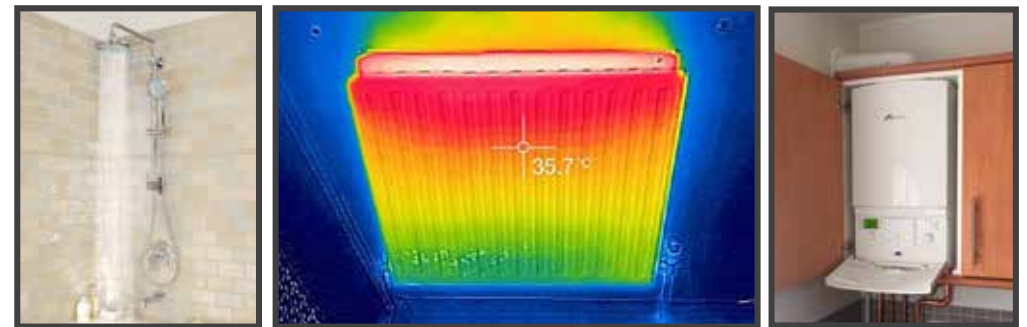


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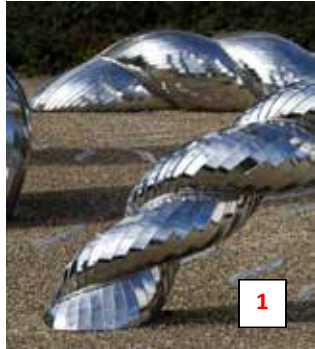
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## How well do you know your local area?

Can you identify these local sights or sites? Some of them are definitely from outside the association's area.



1



2



3



4



5



6

For answers please see page 28



7



8



9

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# Brownsea Island

## A busy place for wildlife

At this time of year, Brownsea is a busy place for wildlife. Red squirrels begin to prepare for the winter, feeding on hazel and beech nuts, caching food for the colder months.

On the lagoon bird numbers start to build, as the winter residents, having finished their breeding season elsewhere in the UK and Europe, arrive to over-winter on the island. Spoonbill, avocet and black-tailed godwit numbers are rising by the day.

Leaves are changing colour and the chestnuts are ripening on the trees. Sunrises are spectacular over the lagoon and north shore. Mixed flocks of small birds are busy in the woodland areas, feeding through the alder, willow and oak. Siskin, great tit, blue tit,

chiffchaff, goldcrest and firecrest make up these fast moving, chattering bands.

The open season is coming to an end, and after October half term the island will close to the public. For the human residents of Brownsea this is when the busy winter work begins. Work on the Wild Brownsea project, including the new Lookout, the Wildlife and Wetland Centre refurbishment, and improvements to the lagoon hides, will continue throughout the winter.

The Lookout is due to be opened at the start of the 2025 season. Work continues apace, with the interpretation going in over the next few weeks, and the new boardwalk and ramp being completed.

The Villa refurbishment is in full swing, the eventual aim to



Lookout building work



Black-tailed godwit changing from russet summer plumage into grey winter colours

provide holiday accommodation upstairs and a well-equipped visitor centre and learning lab downstairs. The Wild Brownsea project aims to improve access and interpretation throughout the reserve, with an emphasis on learning, wildlife observation and access for all.

Alongside all the project work, the Brownsea staff and volunteer team will soon begin the winter work programme for the reserve, including habitat management, maintenance of hides and infrastructure, and preparing the tern nesting islands for the return of the breeding birds next year, amongst many other busy tasks.



Spoonbill



A red squirrel wrestles with a pine cone on the boardwalk

The summer season has been a busy one, with the islands breeding birds doing well. Sandwich and common terns had a better season, with thankfully no sign of avian flu anywhere in the south, black-headed gulls bred in good numbers too. In the reedbeds and lakes greylag geese, tufted duck, moorhen, reed warbler all had broods, and long-tailed tits nested along the Villa Road in their pristine spherical spider-web lined nests.

All of these breeding birds and the many other species present on Brownsea benefit from the hard work which goes on during the winter to maintain

and improve their habitats. Our Friday practical work party does a grand job with practical habitat tasks, our Monday maintenance team are whizzes at DIY jobs, and our many other volunteers bring a myriad skills to the table. We couldn't do it without them.

Brownsea Island closes on 3 November and will re-open next year on 15 March. For more information on visiting, the Wild Brownsea project and volunteering opportunities, visit [dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk) and search 'Brownsea'.

**Nikki Tutton**  
Wild Brownsea Project Officer,  
Dorset Wildlife Trust



Goldcrest



# How to spot signs of dementia in a loved one

Everyone experiences dementia in different ways and exhibits different symptoms. However, some of the most common symptoms to look out for are usually:

- Loss of short-term memory
- Difficulty making decisions
- Becoming confused as to the day, date or location
- Difficulties following a conversation
- Inability to recall the word for something
- An increase in mood swings.

If you're worried about yourself, or a family member, it's important to make an appointment to see your GP. Take a moment to prepare ahead of the appointment and

make notes of your symptoms and worries. This will ensure that nothing gets missed and gives you the opportunity to share everything that you're concerned about.

Furthermore, the charity associated with your diagnosed illness is a good place to turn for initial information, support and signposting. In this case you could get in touch with Dementia Friends or Dementia UK.

Many people believe that a dementia diagnosis means giving up the activities one enjoys, but this isn't necessarily true. While life will change, it can also adapt to the diagnosis, allowing individuals to continue doing the things they love.



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# Royal Voluntary Service Home Library Volunteers meet Anthony Woodhouse, High Sheriff of Dorset

A group of RVS Home Library Service volunteers were delighted to welcome Anthony Woodhouse, Dorset's High Sheriff, to a coffee morning in Dorchester Library on 1st July.



The office of High Sheriff, which was established before the Norman Conquest of 1066, is an independent and non-political position appointed by the monarchy for a single-year term. The High Sheriff is the King's representative in the county in respect of law and order and nowadays plays an active role in supporting work being done across the county, both in areas of emergency services as well as public sector bodies such as probation and prison services. High Sheriffs also play an increasingly active role in promoting the voluntary sector within their communities and highlighting the work of often unsung heroes.

Mr Woodhouse learned about the work that is done by the volunteers of the Home Library Service here and across Dorset and BCP: choosing and delivering books to folk who are unable to get to the library themselves due to health or mobility issues.

He showed great empathy, saying that people can often feel isolated from society and sometimes experience real loneliness when it is difficult or impossible for them

to go out. He understood how they really appreciate a visit from a familiar, friendly face and look forward to receiving a new set of books from us, every three weeks or so. This service is free of charge.

We offer books in ordinary and large print, and, for those people with failing eyesight, audio books are often a good alternative.

Mr Woodhouse kindly presented Royal Voluntary Service Long Service Awards to several of the volunteers, in recognition of their contributions to the Home Library Service, extending from five to an incredible twenty years. He thanked all our volunteers for their work and the difference they make in their communities.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from the service, or you would like to become a volunteer and would like to learn more, please contact:

**Maria Jacobson**, the HLS Service Manager on 01305 236666, Mobile: 07786 635154; or email her at maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk





# Fraudulent Calumny

Andrew Carswell is a solicitor specialising in civil litigation. He provides an explanation of the law relating to fraudulent calumny, as a ground for challenging the validity of a person's Will.

I have written before about undue influence as a ground for challenging the validity of a person's Will. That typically involves a third party coercing the testator into making a Will, often by domination and influence of a kind not acceptable in law. A less well known and unusual ground of challenge is fraudulent calumny, a quaint sounding term that involves an allegation that someone has poisoned the testator's mind, causing them to change their Will.

To set aside a Will on the grounds of fraudulent calumny, it must be established that false representations have been made to the testator about the character of an existing or potential beneficiary and that these were made for the purpose of inducing the testator to alter their Will (either to leave more to the perpetrator or to exclude or leave less to the relevant person). In addition the false representation

must have been made in the knowledge that it was untrue or made recklessly.

Cases of fraudulent calumny are rare. Where suspicion arises and allegations are made, they are notoriously difficult to prove. As one can imagine the evidence needs to be fairly clear and claimants need to establish a direct link between the alleged falsehood and the terms of the Will. Caselaw has been fairly thin on the ground as well, although there have been two cases in recent years which have provided an insight into this subject.

*In Speakman v Muir [2022]* the court set aside Wills where the deceased person's son had his share of his father's estate steadily reduced by a series of Wills. He established that his father's household assistant, who had been left a substantial financial provision, had poisoned the



deceased's mind by telling him that his son was financially abusing him and had stolen items from him.

*In Whittle v Whittle [2022]* another son had lost out to his father's estate where his sister and her partner had falsely told their father that his son was violent, dishonest and immoral. He was led to believe that his son and his wife were "psychopaths and criminals". In that case, the defendants didn't help themselves by refusing to cooperate and give evidence, but in the circumstances, the Judge had little hesitation in finding against them and that fraudulent calumny had been established.

As mentioned, cases of fraudulent calumny are rare, but it is worth being alert to this ground of challenge, which is not always obvious and sits alongside undue influence. Thankfully, most people are honest in these situations, so cases will only very occasionally arise.

**Andrew Carswell**  
Partner  
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*Ed. Andrew acts as honorary Solicitor to the BPPCRA*



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