

# Streets of Bournemouth Bournemouth's People

Many individuals played a part in the town's early growth and its later development. Some are well known, others were just as important but often overlooked.

The early character of Bournemouth owed its detail to not only the landowners such as Tregonwell, Tapps and Dean, but also to the small farmers who demonstrated at risk of imprisonment to retain what became the parks and the many tradesmen who came to work in the town and established many of its businesses. Churchmen such as Rev. Morden Bennett, benefactors including the Talbot sisters and Lady Georgiana Fullerton, and landowners including Sir George Tapps-Gervis and Clapcott Dean helped set up schools, its political structures and estates. Visitors to the town sometimes stayed to develop their own businesses and there is a long list of artists, writers and musicians who also helped establish the town's reputation.



ABOVE

1920s photograph of an unnamed workman on the Undercliff promenade

LEFT

Christopher Crabbe Creeke, Bournemouth's first Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances

Streets of  
Bournemouth





## **BOURNEMOUTH'S PEOPLE**

**This Theme includes the following Sub-Themes**

**Upstairs downstairs**

**All change**

**Building the town**

**Health visitors**

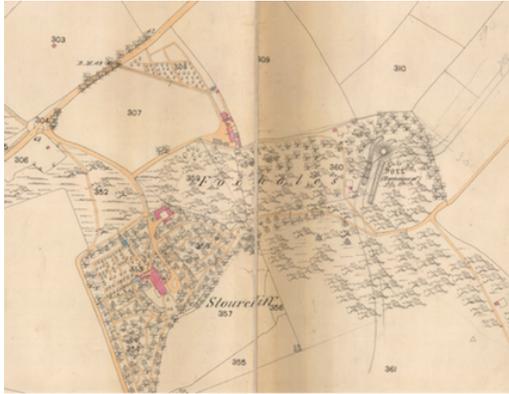
**A fair day's work?**

### **Upstairs Downstairs**

It has been said that Bournemouth had no history before 1800. We now know that to be far from the truth. Archaeologists deduce information from the remains a society leaves behind. Knowledge about more recent history depends on surviving written records often found in the legal and administrative records of the large estates. Personal information might be found in diaries, letters, travelogues and imprint such as newspaper reports. Understanding the daily life of poorer people is harder to find and may need to be interpreted by reading 'between the lines'. The interest in family history research has meant that stories of people who might not have appeared previously in the historical record are now more readily available.

The first time an effort to record every person in England was in the first full census of 1841. The census recorded basic information about each person such as name, age and occupation. A census has been taken with more detail every 10 years since. A recorded name is a recorded place in history.

At the beginning of the 19th century, there were few houses between Poole and Christchurch apart from the settlements at Moordown and Pokesdown and along the fertile edge of River Stour, including Kinson, Throop, Holdenhurst, Iford and Wick. There were several large houses in the area. Littledown was occupied by William Dean and Stourfield tenanted by the Countess of Strathmore. The Earls of Malmesbury were at Heron Court, and Sir George Ivison Tapps was at Hinton Admiral just beyond Christchurch.



1870 Ordnance Survey map showing  
Stourfield

William Dean was from a family of yeoman farmers, an independent class of freeholder who cultivated their own land. The Deans had lived in Holdenhurst for 200 years. William Dean first trained as a surgeon but later became a banker and looked after his property. Through luck and good fortune he became the owner of Littledown House in 1798, demolished

the existing house and rebuilt it in a subdued but contemporary style. It was through William Dean and the enclosure of Poole Heath that the future Cooper-Dean family became major owners of large parts of Bournemouth. Cooper-Dean roundabout is one way in which the family name has been preserved.

In April 1800, Mary Eleanor Bowes-Lyon, Countess of Strathmore died at Stourfield House and was buried a few days later in Westminster Abbey. Her life today might be the latest headline in a celebrity magazine, not least because she was a very wealthy young woman and attracted some inappropriate suitors. After a complicated private life she chose to retire out of public view, not quite to a nunnery, but to Stourfield an isolated mansion on the edge of the village of Pokesdown. She is remembered with kindness by the people of Pokesdown for her kindness and good deeds. Other people may know of her as an ancestor of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and consequently Queen Elizabeth II and her descendants.

Heron Court, or Hurn Court was the home of the Earls of Malmesbury. Hurn is on the opposite bank of the Stour to Holdenhurst and has gates opening onto Throop Road. The Earl of Malmesbury who was the nearest aristocrat to Bournemouth. The family played an important role in the early days of the town, developing the land in Winton and Springbourne. The earldom was only created in 1800 when James Harris was 54. While he chose not to live at Heron Court his son, the second Earl did.

Hinton Admiral, a large house 3 miles north east of Christchurch was built in 1720 and increased to its present size in 1790 after being badly damaged by fire in 1775. It is the home of the Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick family. Sir George Ivison Tapps, 1st Baronet, was Lord of the Manors of Hinton Admiral, Christchurch and Westover, that part of Poole Heath that would become Bournemouth.

Sir George Ivison Tapps	1st Baronet	1753-1835
Sir George William Tapps-Gervis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Baronet	1795-1842
Sir George Elliott Meyrick Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	3rd Baronet	1827-1896
Sir George Augustus Elliott Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	4th Baronet	1855-1928
Sir George Llewelyn Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	5th Baronet	1885-1960
Sir George David Elliott Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	6th Baronet	1915-1988
Sir George Christopher Cadafael Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	7th Baronet	1941-
George William Owen Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick		1970-

*Table 1: The Tapps Baronetcy*

The family was to play a prominent role in the development of Bournemouth especially in the early years. The family has been particularly keen on the name George and this can be confusing when reading about Bournemouth history.

Kinson became part of Bournemouth in 1931 having originally been in the county of Dorset. One of the oldest buildings is Pelhams. The current building was built around 1795. It was bought by William Fryer in 1816 whose wife, Elizabeth Fryer, was the daughter of local smuggler and later retired gentleman, Isaac Gulliver. It remained in the ownership of Fryer family until 1897. The building was sold to Bournemouth Council in 1930 and later became Kinson Community Centre.



## **All change**

In 1801 local landowners led by Sir George Ivison Tapps lobbied Parliament to enclose the areas of common land on Poole Heath. The Christchurch Inclosure Act was passed in 1802 and Inclosure Commissioners were responsible for administering the process. These were William Clapcott, son-in-law of William Dean, who lived at Littledown, Richard Richardson, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn Fields and John Wickens of Mapperton in west Dorset. The common land was not cultivated but was part of the economy of local cottagers who relied on the heath for fuel, grazing and as a food source.

An event took place that was to have a major impact on the future of Bournemouth. A crowd of graziers, turf cutters and their supporters from the Stour villages approached William West an educated man who farmed at Muscliff Farm. The men were concerned about the implications of losing access to the common land and loss of traditional rights to cut turf for fuel and wanted someone to represent them. Farmer West put their concerns to the Commissioners who ruled that 425 acres in five locations would be allocated for turf cutting to the occupiers of cottages of less than one acre in area. They also had to be on 'ancient sites' or have been occupied for more than 14 years. The five turbary commons would eventually become Bournemouth's parks and a popular feature of the modern town.

The alarmed cottagers took a considerable risk in walking to Muscliff Farm. At that time the establishment was concerned about gatherings of discontented workers and the government had passed the Combination Law in 1800. It made it illegal for workers to gather together and discuss their working conditions. If anyone was found guilty of unlawful gatherings it could lead to imprisonment or transportation, as would happen with Dorset's Tolpuddle Martyrs in 1834. Without people taking that risk and William West's agreement to press for their request, five of the most important parts of the landscape and recreational facilities in Bournemouth would probably not exist and almost certainly would have been built upon. This happened with strips of land at the top of Richmond Hill which had been allocated to nine cottagers from Muscliff, including Mary Vincent, Mrs. Tarrant and Martha Watton and William Troke, Peter Wareham and William Dowden.

Allotment number	Bought by	Area	Price paid	Current area
		Acre Rood Square Perch	£ s d	
31-35	Sir George Ivison Tapps	205 0 22	1050 2 10	South and East Cliffs
36	Earl of Malmesbury	2 1 20	63 10 0	Iford
37-39	Earl of Malmesbury	57 2 08	296 5 6	Moordown & Strouden
40-43	William Driver	153 1 7	622 0 6	Redhill & Meyrick Park
44	William Driver	83 0 34	265 2 4	Meyrick Park
45	Arthur Quartley	21 2 3	134 9 9	Stokewood Road
46-47	Cornelius Trim	82 0 30	378 1 2	Charminster
48-53	William Dean	500 0 17	639 1 2	West Cliff & Kings Park
54-56	Phillip Norris	141 2 2	599 11 7	Boscombe
57	Phillip Norris	11 1 18	52 10 0	Strouden

*Table 2: Christchurch Inclosure Act 1802, major purchasers*

Despite the small allowances for turf-cutting the majority of the common land was either allocated to or purchased by local landowners and added to their existing estates, although in total around forty people benefited from the sale. Some of those people sold their allocations soon after but the main landowners did very little with their land. In 1810 Sir George Tapps sold Lewis Tregonwell, a Dorset landowner and officer in the Dorset Yeomanry, 81/2 acres of land. Tregonwell built a house on the land which is considered to be the first house in Bournemouth. He extended his estate to 36 acres over the next 12 years, building a number of properties to let to visitors, together with one for his butler, Thomas Symes, and another for his gardener.

William Dean died in 1812, leaving a will which expressly prevented his land from being developed for residential buildings. His successor at the Christchurch, Wimborne and Ringwood Bank was his son-in-law, William Clapcott. By 1820, William and Mary Clapcott had accrued large debts as a result of William's losses at the bank. His poor financial judgement coincided with a nationwide speculation in stocks and shares, which drained the Bank of England and brought about a monetary crisis. Clapcott died in 1833 leaving his wife Mary and son William, then aged 21, to manage as best they could. The Dean land was to remain undeveloped until after Mary's death in 1854.



## **Building the Town**

The date of the purchase of the land by Tregonwell was the source of the celebrations of Bournemouth's bi-centenary in 1910. This set the precedent for the bicentenary being celebrated in 2010. It could reasonably be considered that the real date of the birth of Bournemouth was when Sir George William Tapps-Gervis commissioned Benjamin Ferrey to design his marine spa in 1836. It is from this date that Bournemouth really began to develop. Benjamin Ferrey, produced plans to develop the land on the east of the Bourne for the estate which included a row of villas and a hotel overlooking the sea. These were to become Westover Road and the Bath Hotel respectively. The prospect of work attracted builders and labourers from Hampshire and the neighbouring county of Dorset, and the first estate agent.

One of the first estate agents in the town was William Rebbeck. He was originally from Cranborne and came to Bournemouth to be the agent for the Tregonwell estate. William Rebbeck opened his own agency in 1845 on a piece of land opposite the Tregonwell Arms to manage the estates of other clients. This section of town became known as Rebbecks Corner. Robert Kerley, a builder from Sturminster Newton was developing the Tregonwell land on the western side of the Bourne. Kerley Road on the West Cliff is named after him. David Tuck, a local bricklayer, his son Peter and foreman James McWilliam built the Bath Hotel, the first of the villas along Westover Road and the Belle Vue boarding house.

In 1851 Bourne had a population of 598 of which only 15 people had been born there and these were all under 15 years of age. Approximately a quarter of the inhabitants came from Dorset and one seventh from Hampshire, the rest from much further afield. The migrants were mainly tradesmen, skilled building workers or artisans, shopkeepers and labourers.

One of those attracted to Bournemouth was a carpenter Henry Joy, who came from Chalbury near Wimborne with his family 1847. Henry Joy was typical of many working class craftsmen who moved to the town and used their entrepreneurial skills to make their fortune and create a new town. The next few years saw him raising capital by speculative building. He bought part of the Beckford Estate in 1863 for £3000 which included the Tregonwell Arms and built Southbourne Terrace a row of 6 shops overlooking the Square. Joy would later sell the properties for £6,500 in 1877. He built the arcade in Bournemouth town centre which at the time was called Joy's Folly. He also built Westbourne Arcade and was living in Seamoor House, Poole Road with his new wife in 1891.



The Joy family never settled in one house for any length of time and the census returns show them living in different houses at least every 10 years. Between 1881 and 1891 he also acquired a different wife. His first wife Elizabeth Joy had been born in Chalbury and had died in July 1882. His second wife Mary Teresa Joy came from Redcar in Yorkshire. Henry Joy died in 1906 and is buried in Wimborne Road Cemetery.

As the town expanded from 1860 the first builders continued to find work. James McWilliam who helped to build the Westover Villas went on to supervise the building of Talbot Village and parts of Winton. Similar developments were taking place in Springbourne on land allotted to Dr William Farr, the Earl of Malmesbury and John Sloman of Tuckton and Wick, as compensation for loss of common rights in the Inclosure Award.

#### **Bournemouth Foundations - being related to Henry Joy**

by Nick Joy

When Henry Joy built Bournemouth Arcade between 1866 and 1872 it was unkindly referred to as Joy's Folly. People thought it would never take off, and yet over 140 years later it's still the hub of Bournemouth's shopping district, and in far better shape than a more recent local shopping centre I could mention!

Many people have paused to stop and read the blue heritage plaque in Bournemouth Arcade since it was unveiled on 31st December 1986, but not many can claim to being related to Henry, who settled in the town in 1847. Henry had 11 children, 5 girls and 6 boys, who between them had 42 more children. In a recent family tree it was shown that Henry and his wife had over 180 descendants, many of whom still live locally.

I'm one of Henry's great great great grandsons and am related to him through my late father, John (a carpenter/coachbuilder), then Thomas Henry (a builder), Thomas (watchmaker) and Joseph (house painter). Sadly, I never met my great grandfather, he died in Ireland many years before I was born, but growing up I was always aware that being a Bournemouth Joy was something special, and a unique tie that connects me to the town. I even remember having an argument with my local history teacher at Winton Boys' school who just didn't believe that I was connected to 'Bournemouth royalty' until I brought in a newspaper cutting to prove it!

I'm the last of the boys in my particular line of the family, which means that sadly the Joy name will stop as and when my three daughters get married. That's a shame, but the memories will still linger as long as Henry Joy's arcades still stand, or as long as people talk or write about him.



Dr Farr was descended from an old family who had been living at Iford since 1665 and where he built Iford House in 1895. At the time of the Award John Sloman was living at Iford House while Dr Farr was physician to the Plymouth Royal Naval Hospital. John Sloman's family came from Wick and lived at Wick Farm. When Dr Farr died in 1863, his son, William Dale Farr, inherited the estate and leased the first plot in 1864 to Nicholas James, a bricklayer who used it as a brickyard for ten years. Other plots were leased to William Lane and to a partnership of Peter Tuck, the son of David Tuck, who had succeeded his father as a contractor to the Gervis Estate, and James Druitt, a Christchurch solicitor. The house and farm were sold in 1898.

Bournemouth at this time had a number of brickyards near the town centre, at Boscombe, Springbourne and Charminster which exploited local clay deposits to make bricks for the all the new houses. William Mabey, a carpenter from Beaminster in Dorset writing in 1868 remembered a brickyard in Madeira Vale and another at the entrance to Boscombe Chine. He describes Madeira Vale as the 'home of lodging men' flocking in from all parts to work in the clay and gravel pits. All the new houses would need internal decoration. During a major restoration project the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum found early drawings and inscriptions on the walls when the modern wallpaper was removed. A wallpaper hanger Tom Scullard pencilled his name, trade and date on the wall, July 1900, before he papered,. Other discoveries included sketches of designs for elaborate carved wooden screens that divided the main rooms overlooking the sea from the window bays. They were drawn by a local craftsman, William Mabey. Perhaps the son of William Mabey who came from Beaminster?

Joseph Cutler was described as one of the 'liveliest and provocative personalities in the public life of the town'. He was born in Christchurch in 1803, the son of a fisherman, and was not well-educated. He was apprenticed as a glazier and plumber in Lymington. After working in Australia and London, he moved to Bournemouth in 1865 and began working as a builder. One of his project was to complete an unfinished row of terraced shops opposite Horseshoe Common which became known as 'Joseph's Terrace'. Separating the properties were tiled panels, each of which included a portrait of Cutler. His contemporary, Henry Joy, noted that the tiles included 'the crack in the head.' The buildings still exist as 216-226 Old Christchurch Road and some of the tiles are still visible.

Cutler was elected an Improvement Commissioner in 1881 and celebrated by presenting the town with sixty horse chestnut trees which were planted on the north side of the Bourne from Invalids Walk to the present tennis courts. Earlier, after a dispute with the Burial Board, he supplied the Monkey Puzzle trees that line the main drive of the Wimborne Road Cemetery. He advocated votes for



women, cheap return tickets on the railways for working men and an independent police force, and was a member of the fire brigade and the artillery volunteers. His many letters to the press include one complaining about pig keeping in the town centre. The Municipal Corporation Act of 1882 led him to campaign for the town to have municipal status and he eventually served the newly created Municipal Borough as a councillor and later as an alderman. He died in 1910 and is buried in Wimborne Road Cemetery.

William Henry Smith lived in Bournemouth for the last 6 years of his life. He lived with his daughter at Walton House on Richmond Hill which was named after his father Henry Walton Smith. The bookseller and stationer W H Smith's developed from his father's newspaper business in London. Together with his son, also called William Henry Smith, they took advantage of the railway boom to set up bookstalls in railway stations and the business flourished. In the few years he was at Bournemouth W H Smith became associated with the National Sanatorium as benefactor and governor. His son and grandson would continue the relationship. He died at home in 1865 at the age of 73. The branch of W H Smith has been at Southbourne Terrace in the centre of Bournemouth for a long time. It is now 9-13 Old Christchurch Road.

At the same time as Bournemouth became independent of Holdenhurst and Christchurch, two new settlements also began to grow: Boscombe and Southbourne. Boscombe Spa was the project of retired diplomat, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff. When he retired from the Foreign Office after serving in the eastern Mediterranean, he bought an acre of land from Lord Malmesbury in the area bordered by Boscombe Chine and Sea Road, Boscombe and built a house there, Boscombe Towers, in 1868. A nearby spring was said to have similar mineral water to Harrogate. Wolff saw it as a potential spa and bought more land between Owls Road and the sea and later leased the remaining land between Christchurch Road and Owls Road from Sir George Meyrick. He built large villas and hotels in the estate and developed Boscombe Chine as a pleasure ground.

Further east, local doctor Thomas Compton bought 230 acres of land in 1870 upon which to develop a rival resort to Bournemouth. A Winter Garden was opened in 1874 and construction of a pier began in 1881, followed a year later by Tuckton Bridge. Then in 1883 an undercliff promenade and seawall was begun. The pier was completed in 1888, but storms damaged the pier which was finally demolished in 1907. Nevertheless Southbourne was established, although it never grew to rival Bournemouth as Compton had hoped.



## Health visitors

Many people came to Bournemouth for their health, either to convalesce, or in the hope of recovery from illness. The visit could be for a short while before returning home or was a permanent move to enjoy the mild climate particularly recommended for people with chest and lung complaints.

One of the people who came and stayed and became influential in town affairs was Merton Russell-Cotes. This followed the advice of his doctor who warned him that his wife would become a widow if they did not move somewhere more salubrious. After visiting several towns on the south coast Merton and his wife Annie came to Bournemouth and stayed at the Bath Hotel. At that time he was the manager of the Hanover Hotel in Glasgow so when an opportunity to buy the Bath Hotel arose he agreed to buy it and officially took it over on Christmas Day 1876. The hotel was renamed the Royal Bath Hotel in 1880 after it was extended. The hotel was very successful not least because of Merton's entrepreneurial activities at marketing.. He would offer the hotel as a venue to entertain the great and the good when they visited Bournemouth. It's likely that Merton suffered from some form of nervous illness because he and his wife would take long trips abroad 'to get away from it all'. They returned from their travels with many souvenirs, especially from their trip to Japan. These 'curios' were displayed in the hotel together with their personal collection of art and sculpture.

Cotes was a leading advocate of an undercliff drive, a promenade, a pavilion and a direct railway to London. He also supported the idea of building a public pavilion but would not see it built in his lifetime. He became mayor in 1893 but due to his health could not complete his mayoral year. Annie was active in many charitable works, founding the Nautical School for Boys in Parkstone. In 1901 they built a large villa in the grounds of the hotel overlooking the sea and decorated it in a crazy, eclectic mixture of styles and filled it with their possessions and paintings. One of Annie's last acts of charity was to offer the house and much of their treasures to the people of Bournemouth as a museum. It opened as the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum after their deaths in 1920 and 1921.

At first glance Dr Granville might seem the name of an ordinary English doctor but he was in fact Italian. His original name was Augustus Bozzi born in Milan in 1783. He became a surgeon on an English ship and came to London where he changed his name to Augustus Bozzi Granville. He was interested in the treatment of tuberculosis and published a book on the spas of Germany in 1837. He was invited to Bournemouth in 1841 and much to the delight of the entrepreneurs was very lavish in his praise of the climate, environment, the benefit of the pine trees, and the purity of the water. Dr



Granville published his findings in his book *The Spas of England and Principal Sea-Bathing Places*. Many extracts from the book were used to promote Bournemouth's superiority as a health resort in the town guides and reference books. He appears in the list of alumni of Corpus Christi College, Oxford but was admitted *comitatis causa* meaning he was entitled to the privileges of being a member of the college but as someone whose degrees had been gained elsewhere. At the time of the 1861 census he had become a naturalised British subject.

Horace Dobell was another doctor who enthusiastically promoted Bournemouth as an ideal place for the sick. In his book, *The Medical Aspects of Bournemouth and its Surroundings* published in 1886, he set out a comprehensive assessment of the climate and geology, concluding that it was a suitable place for the treatment many ailments. He was not in favour of young children paddling in the sea because it resulted in 'congestion, headaches and bilious vomiting.' He was born in 1828 and he and his wife came to Bournemouth in 1882 having already worked as a consultant at the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest in London, and was very familiar with Bournemouth's reputation. His wife had experienced the effect of tuberculosis as her elder brother had died from it and she was a sufferer herself although she was not to die from it. Elizabeth came from a family who enjoyed literature and reading and she was a published poet in her own right. Sadly their daughter Violet died of TB in 1881 and Elizabeth was to have recurring bouts.

### **A fair day's work**

At first the Commissioner's district had one policeman, PC Smith, who was attached to the Ringwood Division and responsible to the Chief Constable at Winchester. His job was not an easy one. He was on duty seven days a week, had virtually no holiday and was paid around £1 a week. The nearest policeman otherwise was in Holdenhurst. As the town grew there were requests for better cover and 1862 two more constables and a sergeant were acquired and eventually they had a permanent station in Madeira Road. Joseph Cutler pressed for a Bournemouth force independent from Hampshire but this didn't happen until 1948. In 1901 Winton got its own police station at the junction of Cardigan and Waterloo Roads and was known as Hamilton Towers. The station was run by a Sergeant Gill and also included accommodation for single officers. Much of the crime was petty but the last offence of poaching, unusual in this town, was heard by Bournemouth Magistrates in 1932. Crime within the Liberty of Westover was dealt with at the Petty Sessional Division of Hampshire in Ringwood. The more serious crimes would be heard at the Assize Court in Winchester.



Mr. Keats, a local carpenter, recalled serving as a special constable for the Guy Fawkes celebrations in the 1880s when extra police were drafted into the town. Lighted tar barrels were rolled from the top of Commercial Road to the Square and shopkeepers had to board up their shops. The crowds were large and lively and sometimes out of hand with some of those taking part assaulting the Police. After one court case, the Chairman commented that 'Bournemouth has for some years had an unenviable notoriety in regard to firework disturbances on Guy Fawkes day.' Keats said that not all the rioters were Bournemouth people but some came from as far as Newton and Moordown.

As more houses, hotels and shops were built in the town centre there was an increased risk of fire. The nearest fire engines were at Poole and Christchurch. Joseph Cutler agitated for a fire fighting service for the town but nothing happened until there was a serious fire on Richmond Hill. A Bournemouth-based fire service was seen as a necessity and a volunteer force was formed under the leadership of James McWilliam. It expanded over the years ahead but remained largely a volunteer force until the 1930s.

The first paid fireman was James Paradine who had worked with the London Fire Brigade. Henry Robson, a Yorkshireman, joined the Volunteer Fire Brigade soon after his arrival in the town in 1891. He became its Captain in 1912 and oversaw a number of improvements to the service. Robson started a grocery business in the Triangle and later Robson Grocery shops in the town. He was very active in the Boys' Brigade, attending first Scout camp on Brownsea Island, and ensuring that the boys had the necessary facilities. He was Mayor from 1915 to 1917 and was made an Honorary Freeman of the town in 1930.

The Second World War brought many more people flooding into the town. Airmen and soldiers were billeted on local families whilst training. The threat of air raids led to Civil Servants from London and schoolchildren from Southampton, Portsmouth and elsewhere being evacuated to Bournemouth for their safety. Many hotels were requisitioned to provide additional accommodation.

One of the early casualties of the war was Cumberland Clark, killed while asleep in his bed when his flat in St Stephen's Road took a direct hit from a German bomb. He wrote many books including *The Bournemouth Song Book* which celebrates many features of the town. His verse has been described as doggerel by many but the same has been said about the Scottish poet William McGonagall, and the verses would suit being set to music. In the 1911 census Cumberland Clark is staying at the Mont Dore Hotel with his wife Elizabeth Caroline Robertina Clark. She was a British subject born in



Petropolis, Brazil. At the age of 49 his occupation is listed as 'private means'. For a long while he was living with his family in Chepstow Villas in Bayswater but also found time to become a jockey in New Zealand, farm in Australia and become a gold miner. His memorial has the largest angel in Boscombe Cemetery and was erected before his death as he *'didn't want his relatives to spend their inheritance on a brand new motor car.'* There is something about him which suggests he is having the last laugh.

Sir Alexander MacLean, who founded the manufacturing chemists of that name, retired to Bournemouth and funded many charities for elderly and infirm people. During the Second World War he gave money to launch the National Services Club at the Lansdowne and provided mobile canteens for use by the Civil Defence in Bournemouth and Poole. These charitable activities were recognised when he was made an Honorary Freeman of the town.

The stonework for the Echo Offices, the Westover Ice Rink, the Council Chamber and many other buildings in Bournemouth was supplied by Templeman and Sons in Windham Road. Philip, the third generation of the family, became a Councillor and Chairman of the Welfare Services Committee. With the advent of the National Health Service, which wanted to use the Fairmile Workhouse in Christchurch as a properly equipped hospital, the residents of the building had to be re-housed. Overnight more than one hundred were moved into newly built old people's homes. He would later establish many more homes for elderly and disabled people. In 1970 he became the first Bournemouth-born person to become an Honorary Freeman of the town.

The Mayor in 1951-2 was Frank McInnes, a former soldier and gymnast, who at one time owned the Norfolk Hotel on Richmond Hill. He was a strong supporter of local schools and churches. He was a friend and supporter of boxer Freddie Mills from Terrace Road who became World Light Heavyweight Champion in 1948.

Bournemouth did not have any major manufacturing industries. The main employers were builders, department stores, bakeries, laundries and dairies. For working men there were jobs in the building trades and for women the choice was domestic service, shop work or in a laundry. In a seaside town there was work in the hotels and boarding houses, as well as the commercial laundries that washed and ironed the hotel linen. Nellie Hoare was born in 1898 in Winton and the youngest but one of nine children. Her father was a labourer working outside on roads, putting in kerbstones and laying drains. His wage in 1912 was about 30/- a week. He would give half to his wife for the housekeeping and



keep the remainder for his beer and tobacco. Nellie's eldest sister went into service when she was 11 years old. She would get up at 6.30 am and prepared and lit the fires before breakfast. She was paid 1/6d a week but was given free meals. When she 15, she left to become an ironer in a nearby laundry for 5/- a week.

Nellie left school when she was 14 to work in Castle Laundry. She left after collapsing in the heat and then worked as a daily maid doing housework in the morning and taking children out in the afternoon. She was paid 2/6d and given her lunch. She was 16 when the First World War started, and due to shortage of young men she took on a milk round complete with horse and float. For that she earned 18/- a week plus a pint of milk a day. After eighteen months, she moved to a bottle washing plant in the brewery in Holdenhurst Road. Eventually, as the youngest daughter, she had to give up work to look after her mother.

In 1923, at age fifteen, Kenneth Blakey joined an estate agent as an office boy. The wages of 5/- a week were not enough to help his widowed mother so he joined Sainsbury's as a grocer's assistant for 25/- a week. After two weeks training in London, he was employed in one of the Bournemouth branches. The working hours were from 8am to 6pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: until 7pm on Friday and until 9pm on Saturdays. Wednesday was a half day, closing at 1.30pm. One year's service entitled him to one week's holiday with pay. At the age of twenty one, wages increased to £3 per week, but it was usual to dispense with staff of that age to reduce costs. This was common practice in many large shops.

Apprentices before the Second World War were often used for mundane tasks such as sweeping floors, making tea and cleaning machines before any craft training was given. John Miles, a Boscombe boy, was apprenticed to a joinery shop where his main tasks were to make sure the glue pot was hot, sweep the floors and to paint with pink primer any wooden structure required for house building. Dissatisfied with this, he moved to become a 'bound' apprentice stone mason. His wages were 3d an hour for the first year rising to 7d an hour for the fifth and final year for a forty hour week. In 1938 the hourly rate for a fully qualified mason was 1/6d. Common practice in all building firms was not to pay 'wet time' – time taken for preparing materials. Also the hourly rate meant acceptance of an hour's notice of dismissal.

There were many unemployed people in the 1920s and 1930s. Among them was George Veal who described the queue at the Labour Exchange in Yelverton Road as four deep and stretching from



there down to Old Christchurch Road and up as far as Dalkeith Steps. A gap was left outside the Cadena Café for the morning coffee trade. 'Signing on' was a twice weekly ritual. Walking back to Pokesdown, Mr. Veal and others would scour the roads for enough 'fag ends' to make a cigarette. At the Pokesdown Technical Schools, they could buy a cup of tea and a bun for a penny and if they were lucky get one free. This was a time when street singers, buskers and pedlars were a common sight.

Edited by Louise Perrin and based, with permission, on original research by Eileen and John Barker.

#### **Additional Reading**

Bruce, G. *A Fortune and a family: Bournemouth and the Cooper Deans* 1987

Edwards, Elizabeth *Famous folk of Bournemouth, Poole and the surrounding area* 2006

Norman, Andrew *Bournemouth's founders and famous visitors* 2010

Popham, Rita *They came to Bournemouth* 1981