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EDITORIAL

After a somewhat wet winter it is nice to have been able to welcome spring in with what, as I write this, has been a lovely weekend.

There is plenty to interest the reader in this edition and, as always, please take time to read John Sprackling's Chairman's Report which gives an excellent run down on what has been happening in our area. Roy Pointer also updates us on progress in challenging the proposed windfarm just off our coast and Terry Stewart has written a very interesting article on a new blight to our area, the arrival of the party house.

However, as I always say, we are incredibly lucky to live in such a beautiful area. Let's work hard to keep it that way.

Have a great summer

John Gunton - Editor

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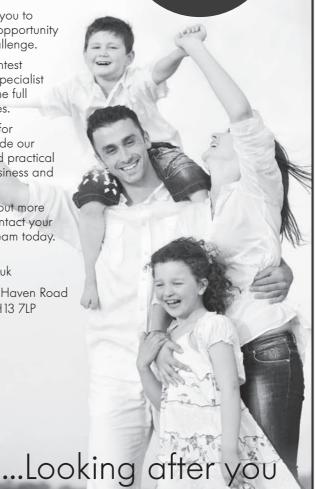
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CANFORD CLIFFS

SWANAGE

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Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday 26h April 2014 at Canford Cliffs Village Hall at 10.30am.

The Guest speaker - To be advised

An invitation has been extended to our MP, Robert Syms.

Please make every effort to attend

Refreshments will be available at the close of the meeting

THE AIM AND OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The aim of the Association is to protect the interests of residents, and to investigate on their behalf any aspects which could be detrimental to private properties or public services. The Association endeavours at all times to maintain good relationships with the Poole Borough Council and to bring to their notice all matters which adversely affect the amenities of the whole of the District.

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

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

The minimum Annual Subscription is £3.00 per member (or £5.00 per couple). In many cases contributions exceed this figure. There is a special bulk subscription rate of £2 per flat for blocks of flats.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

A small number of residents faithfully attend the Association's regular meetings on the 2nd Wednesday in each month but, bearing in mind that there are around 3,500 paid-up members, I am concerned that more do not attend so that the Association is representing your views and not those of the more vocal minority. This equally applies to the Council's quarterly Canford Cliffs & Penn Hill Area Committee meetings which, generally speaking, are poorly attended.

All residents are interested when directly touched by one particular issue, such as wheelie bins not being emptied over Christmas, travellers, or finding a 'decent' school but, once that issue has passed, most seem to revert to a profound lack of interest in matters affecting the wider local community.

This magazine is being distributed by our network of Wardens and may I take this opportunity to thank the individuals involved and, also, the Executive Committee and members for their continued support.

I am also grateful to our Canford Cliffs Ward Councillors, who attend the Association's monthly meetings.

I am sad to report the death of Wing/Cdr Peter C Spice deceased, late of Norton Grange, Lindsay Road, who was the Association's Hon Treasurer from 1995 - 1999 and, before that, was Assistant Membership Secretary.

The Association continues to take an active interest in a wide variety of issues. In the past six months these have included:

1. Community Working Group (CWG) - The CWG was formed in 2009 and meets quarterly. Its objective is to improve the engagement and communication between the Planning and Regeneration Service and the community of Poole. The Association's current representative is Terry Stewart.

The Minutes of the Group are published on the Borough of Poole website http://www.boroughofpoole.com/planning-and-buildings/planning-information/planning-working-group-meetings/

The Planning & Regeneration Unit also produce a Quarterly Newsletter and this can be accessed via the Borough of Poole website

http://www.boroughofpoole.com/planning-and-buildings/planning-information/planning-news/

2. Community Engagement Working Party (CEWP) - As I reported in the last magazine, the Working Party recommended a review of the Council's entire Committee structure but, so far, this remains 'work in progress'.

Whilst one report recommended that Area Committee meetings be abolished, the latest decision is that it should be up to each Area Committee to decide its future and any changes to its constitution.

The Association awaits the final critical CEWP report since it strongly supports any actions to improve two-way communication with the Council. This is another key reason for *YOU* to attend Area Committee meetings.

- **3. Planning Enforcement, Tree Preservation Orders/Tree replacements** Whilst the Council's Planning Enforcement Team are still kept busy dealing with complaints around the rest of the Borough, I have received one complaint only in the past six months, which concerned possible unauthorised tree work.
- **4. Sustaining Poole's Seafront** At the Poole Beach Hut Association AGM on 26 Feb 2014, Cllr Peter Pawlowski informed those present that the first meeting of the 'Task & Finish Group' looking at the Sustaining Poole's Seafront SPD was due to take place early March.

See also separate article by Terry Stewart elsewhere in this magazine.

Planning Applications for 37 new beach huts in Phase 1 have been registered and consent to construct nine new beach huts at ground level on the site previously occupied by beach huts at Canford Cliffs Beach West Undercliffe Promenade was granted on 28 February 2014 and planning consent for the following additional beach huts is expected shortly

Flag Head Chine, Shore Road Beach - In place of the existing 10 beach huts provide a block of 12.

Branksome Chine Beach West Undercliffe Promenade - In place of the existing brick and tiled pitched roof shelter provide a total of 16 beach huts.

Planning Applications for Beach Huts in Phase 2 will be submitted in May/June 2014, with construction work taking place over Winter 2014. Phases 1 & 2 are scheduled to cost £1.25m and will be funded out of the Council's current Capital reserves. **NB** The Council has recently received £1.5m from the re-negotiation of the lease of Rockley Park.

New toilets (one with a ramp) and the refurbishment of some existing toilets along the seafront is due to take place over the next few months, funded separately to the beach hut funding.

Solar powered CCTV cameras are to be installed along the seafront in July 2014 - funded by £70,000 of s106 monies.

There are no current plans for installing more lighting on the promenade but this is estimated to cost £100/150,000 and will require to sub-stations to be installed at Shore Road & Branksome Chine.

The number of beach hut leases surrendered over the last three years has been 67 (2012), 91 (2013) & 78 (2014). The number of beach huts for Short Term let has been reduced over the last three years viz 94 (2012), 84 (2013) & 74 (2014). There are now 1,400 names on the new waiting list and the registration fee is being used to refurbish the toilets at Branksome Chine.

5. Strategic Car Parking Review - At its meeting on 14 January, the Cabinet agreed that further work be progressed to help assess the potential to reduce the price of Beach Road and Penn Hill Car Parks, with further work on a funding strategy towards the shortfall on multi-storey car park repairs. **NB** Penn Hill car park has also been identified as a Temporary Stopping Site for travellers.

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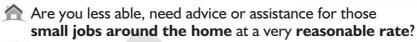
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Proposal for On-Street Pay & Display on selected roads adjacent to beach areas - At the Call-in Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 February 2014, Members of the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to Cabinet to overturn its decision to approve the principle of summer charging on residential roads adjacent to the beaches, including the Sandbanks peninsula.

However, at its meeting on 18 March 2014, Cabinet decided to refer this matter to the 'Task & Finish Group' looking at the Sustaining Poole's Seafront SPD (formerly known as the Beach Masterplan) which, coincidently, has its first meeting today, so that all beach car parking arrangements can be considered strategically.

- **6. Navitus Offshore Wind Farm** See separate article by Roy Pointer about this elsewhere in this magazine.
- **7. Uniting the Conurbation** The South East Dorset Conurbation centred around Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole has a population of 357,000, which approaches the size of Bristol and exceeds that of Cardiff and Southampton but is split into three or four local government units. A group has been formed with the aim of lobbying for the creation of a single unitary authority with boundaries closely aligned to the work, education, housing and leisure needs of the whole community.

This proposal is gaining traction amongst residents but faces implacable opposition from our elected representatives.

8. Compton Acres - Compton Acres has a Grade II listing from English Heritage and has legal protection from the Council to prevent any new owner changing its use, and to ensure it remains open to the public.

There have been no new developments since my last report.

- **9. Sunken Gardens at Pinecliff Gardens** The Association has been granted a Licence by the Borough of Poole to manage the sunken garden in Pinecliff Gardens near the Canford Cliffs Library. The garden continues to progress well, in spite of the Council's policy of not allowing watering by hosepipe. As always, volunteers are always welcome on a Tuesday morning, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m and anyone interested in lending a hand is asked to contact Wayne Hancock on 01202 765993.
- **10.** Canford Cliffs Village Christmas Lights The Canford Cliffs Land Society (CCLS) was unable to get the Christmas lights erected last year for a number of reasons, but are very hopeful that it will get them up for next Christmas. This involves some considerable effort by members of the CCLS committee and it will need to provide some seed money. It will be asking the Canford Cliffs traders to assist by making a financial contribution.
- **11.** Canford Cliffs Pocket Park The Canford Cliffs Land Society continue to improve this parcel of land between Haven Road and Bessborough Road. CCLS has a new Gardener/Maintenance man who has started to tidy up the park and will be keeping it under control this summer.

12. Public Rights of Way:

<u>Westminster Road end of Dalkeith Road</u> - No new developments <u>Buccleuch Road to Lakeside Road</u> - ditto Bessborough Road - ditto Footpath 82/128 (at the rear of 48 Panorama Road to the small beach) & Footpath 85 (Adjacent to 2A Shore Road) - the objectors have withdrawn, so the order for Footpath 82 is now unopposed, with the Sealed Orders returned to the Council.

13. Quayside (former Dolphin Quays) development, former Poole Pottery & Swan Inn, Old Orchard House, Quay Thistle Hotel & former Poole Pottery factory buildings in Sopers Lane - The Association continues to take a close interest in these properties (two of which are on Borough-owned land), which were formerly owned by Orb Estates or its subsidiaries.

There has been no new developments since my last report.

14. Council's Budget 2013/2014 - Poole is still in the bottom 10 of Unitary Authorities in terms of funding.

At its meeting on 25 February, the Full Council accepted the Government's offer of 1% Council Tax Freeze Grant and there will be no increase in Council Tax for 2014/15. On this occasion, for the first time, the Liberal Democrat Group did not present an alternative budget.

However, there will be an increase in the Police and Fire & Rescue portion of the Council Tax bills. The Police precept is due to increase by 1.96%.

<u>Corporate Asset Management Plan</u> - At its meeting on 24 October 2013, the Council Efficiency & Effectiveness Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report on the Corporate Property and Asset Management Strategy 2013 - 2016 & Action Plan 2013-2014, but the current Forward Plan simply describes this matter as "<u>items considered previously</u>", with no reference to an Action Plan for 2014 - 2015.

15. Community Speed Watch - John Gunton is the Branksome Park Community Speed Watch co-ordinator.

The monitoring group consists of three or four people who carry out the monitoring over a two hour period. The speed of cars is registered using a hand held portable device and the registration number of cars travelling over 36 miles per hour noted. No photographs are taken. The owners of vehicles travelling over the limit will then receive a letter from the police reminding them of the importance of keeping to the speed limit. If they are caught a second time then a further letter is sent and if they are caught a third time then the police are likely to visit them to personally remind them that speed limits are here for a reason

The aim of the exercise is to remind people that we live in a residential area and they should think twice about travelling at speeds which have been monitored, of 45 mph and above.

A decision was taken at one of the Association's monthly meetings last year to purchase two kits for the monitoring at a cost per kit is £300 but these have, as yet, to be purchased.

In summary the speed monitoring is an initiative adopted by the Association in response to residents' requests. It is important we do something other than just saying the authorities are responsible when clearly the resources are not available.

16. Gypsy & Traveller Encampments - See separate article by Terry Stewart elsewhere in this magazine.



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17. Friends of Poole Park - The Association supports the Friends of Poole Park, a voluntary group dedicated to preserving and enhancing this park in the centre of our town, continue their work with various improvements/additions to the facilities in the park.

From 2014 to 2016 the Friends of Poole Park and the Council will be making a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for approximately £2.5m to help deliver improvements that have been identified through talking to local people.

18. Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) projects - The package to improve junctions, bus facilities, walking and cycling infrastructure and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). along the corridor linking Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch town centres - named the '3 Towns Corridor' is now in progress. A video about this initiative can be viewed via www.threetownstrayel.co.uk

At the time of writing this note, the improvements on Poole Road and at the junction of St Aldhelm's Road and Lindsay Road are almost complete.

- **19.** Southern Poole Chairman's Liaison Group (Chairmen of nine local Associations) We continue to meet a week or so before the Area Committee meetings, so that we can present a united front on matters of common concern to all the Associations in our immediate area.
- **20. Vision for Poole Group** Terry Stewart and I are members of this Group, who are monitoring the various planning applications within the regeneration area, such as Neptune's (West Quay Road), Pilkington's Tiles (Blandford Road) and Gallagher's (Former Power Station) sites.

The application for Poole Quays Neighbourhood Forum was approved by the Council and aims to be the point of contact for developers and the Borough Of Poole in the regeneration area.

21. Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) - PHC have produced a draft Master Plan identifies the port's strategic planning for the medium to long term (i.e. the next 20 to 30 years) by identifying the port activities necessary to support the growth and development of business.

See also separate article by Terry Stewart elsewhere in this magazine.

22. Safer Neighbourhood Team - The Team covers Parkstone, Penn Hill & Canford Cliffs http://www.dorset.police.uk/Default.aspx?page=829 and holds regular events.

23. Poole Borough Council - Committee Dates

Please see the Borough of Poole website at www.boroughofpoole.com for Agenda and supporting papers.

24. Other matters -

Membership Secretary - We are still looking for someone to fill this role. The main responsibilities are;

- Recruit and manage the wardens, so every road in the area is covered.
- Recruit members/blocks of flats
- Together with the Magazine Editor, administer the delivery of the magazines to the wardens and the accompanying wardens' lists
- Make contact with lapsed members before the Treasurer removes them from the database

John Sprackling

Chairman

Planning Report

I have, once again, been contacted about very few planning applications during the course of the past six months. The only contentious applications to which the Association raised objections were

- Puss n Boots Nursery 2 Lindsay Road (Partial Change of Use of 1st floor of premises from residential to nursery and increase the maximum number of children attending from 28 to 40) Application refused on 28 May 2013 but appeal allowed by Planning Inspector on 27 November 2013.
- 114 Canford Cliffs Road (Demolish existing dwelling and erect two dwellings on the plot) Application refused on 20 January 2014 but revised application registered on 27 February 2014.
- 9 Beaumont Road (Demolish existing dwelling and garage, severance of plot into two, each with detached dwelling and integral garage. Formation of a new highway access. (Revised Scheme) Application granted on 11 December 2013.

Keith Alcroft

Planning Officer

Chairman's note: The Association has also been monitoring the following application... 7 Wilderton Road (*Demolition of the existing block of 6 flats and the construction of a new block of 7 flats with basement car parking, accessed from Balcombe Road) - Application granted by Planning Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2014.*

Treasurer's Report

We have an effective membership of 2698 members counting each flat in the bulk membership scheme as 1. This is 132 more than a year ago. This has lead to an increase in subscriptions of £317 from last year.

The increase in the cost of the magazines of £3340 is due to the increased production run and delivery cost to the whole of the BH13 postcodes to try to increase our membership numbers. Whilst we did attract some new members, the result was not as great as we had hoped.

We made a donation of £1250 to PCBA. The PCBA Steering Group is made up of representatives of local Residents' Associations in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole who have got together to mount a united objection to the Navitus Offshore Wind Farm.

We had an excess of expenditure over income of £1864 this year driven mainly by the cost of the magazine. However, we have funds of £33,379 so we are still in a healthy financial state.

Paul Fearnley

Hon.Treasurer

BRANKSOME PARK, CANFORD CLIFFS & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>₹</u>	<u>£</u>
Income Subscriptions received during the year		6,299		5,912
Donations		-		· -
Deposit Interest:		15		16
		6,314		5,928
Expenditure				
Magazine and circular expenses	8,560		5,220	
Less Advertising revenue	3,750		4,235	
G		4,810		985
Committee and secretarial expenses Committee and Association meetings	997 653		997 343	
Annual General Meeting	373		284	
Subscriptions	34		34	
Insurance	-		215	
Sundries	36	2,093	70	1,943
		2,073		1,743
Donations and subscriptions				
Christ's College NORA	25		100 25	
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights	-		750	
PCBA	1,250	1,275	-	875
		8,178		3,803
Excess of income over expenditure		(1,864)		2,125
Balance Sheet At 31 December 2013				
Accumulated fund				
At 1 January 2013		35,243		33,118
Excess of income over expenditure		(1,864)		2,125
At 31 December 2013		33,379		35,243
B				
Represented by: Investment: Barclays		29,828		31,813
Barclays Current Account		923		1,622
Santander Bank Account		2,628		1,314
Debtors		-		575
Creditors				(81)
		33,379		35,243

Approved:

J Sprackling P Fearnley
Chairman Honorary Treasurer

8 February 2014

Save our Seaside! Navitus Bay consent application expected soon...

Community Consultation on the project has now ended and the developer, NBDL has made a minor reduction to the size of the area of the wind farm in the hope that this will satisfy objectors. However, the development remains too big, too close and more importantly is in completely the wrong location. The site is in one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and impacts on cross-channel navigation as well as a major competitive and leisure boating area. Other objections include construction and operational noise, impact on significant resident and migrating birds and the possibility of the loss of UNESCO world heritage status of the Jurassic coast due to the damage to its setting. The visitor survey results given by NBDL would devastate tourism right around the bays and this would impact on a host of supporting industries. Just look at the scale of a 200m high turbine compared with the sea front buildings near Bournemouth Pier; and there could be nearly 200 of them in the bay!



200m high turbine at sea front by Bournemouth Pier - all to the same scale!

As we go to press NBDL has postponed its target application date from mid March to Quarter 2 -2014; this could mean any date up to the end of June. When an application is made, control of the process moves from the developer to the Planning Inspectorate (Bristol) who will impose a strict timetable on activity while the proposal is 'examined'.

This does not mean that the process is over as far as residents are concerned; far from it. Any individual or group can register as an 'Interested Party' and provide their own written evidence to the Examiners. Some stages will involve public 'hearings' and these are likely to be held locally. We will give further guidance on how you can take part in the process on our web site.

All five of our local coastal MPs have expressed their opposition to the scheme. Local authorities are consulted but have no role in the decision-making which will be taken by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change probably after the next election. Even so, we need to show our Councils how strongly we feel.

**Continued overleaf*:...*

Since the last issue of Pines and Chines PCBA has:

- Commissioned an (adverse) independent noise-report from an acoustician;
- Led an MP's Drop-in session in Westminster to widen political knowledge;
- Presented the 'case against' to Bournemouth Council. We regret Poole has not allowed us to do this although NBDL has met the Council in camera;
- Met with Bristol planners to understand the Examination process and our role in it;
- Presented contentions that the Consultation process used by NBDL failed to meet the expectations given at the start;
- Continued to petition key stakeholders including National Trust, RSPB, UNESCO and local authorities.

When all is said and done, we believe there is a growing consensus that wind is a most inefficient method of energy generation (35% active), requires 'hot' standby for 65% of the time and therefore **adds** carbon to the atmosphere. It would never be contemplated without massive subsidies to the generators, all of which are being added to our bills. In this beautiful location there would be a major downturn in the economy and the few jobs promised would be dwarfed by job losses in other sectors.

It just doesn't make sense! Make sure you have your say to stop it before it gets away from us.

Lastly we appreciate the support of Branksome Park, Canford Cliffs and District RA.

Roy Pointer Chair - Poole and Christchurch Bays' Assn. (PCBA) www.saveourdorsetseaside.co.uk SPRING SALE SPRING SALE SPRING SALE

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A Message from the Vicar of All Saints

This is the first time I have written in the Pines and Chines magazine, so I thought I would start by introducing myself. I have been Vicar of All Saints Church since 12 September 2013. It has been very busy, so forgive me if I have not been out and about as much as you would have expected. I did attend the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and it was great to see so many people there.

We as a family have been warmly welcomed by the Church and surrounding community. It is such a great place to live for us as a family with three boys and a huge garden to enjoy, as well as the beach only a few minutes walk away. A wander along the chine to the sea is truly a great privilege and what a blessing to be able to do it from the back door. The waves are not quite as large as in Cornwall, where we have spent the last three years in Truro, but the water certainly seems much warmer. We all had a quick dip in the sea on New Year's Day, certainly one way to get the circulation going and blow away the cobwebs of the night before!

Before my training post as a Curate in Cornwall we spent two years in Cambridge, where I studied theology at Ridley Hall during which time we lived in College. It was an amazing experience to live in a Cambridge college and quite a change from the busy life we enjoyed in West London. God willing, we hope to be here for many years and having moved three times since 2008, we're looking forward to putting down roots in Poole.

The Church is always open for prayer, or a bit of peace during daylight hours. It is your community church, so do please pop in to use it. If I can be of assistance in any way (especially for baptisms weddings and funeral enquiries) the church office is open in the mornings, alternatively try me at the Vicarage or leave a note if I'm out and about.

You may have noticed that we have been running various courses since we arrived, which we hope are of benefit to the wider community. If, as a church, there is something else you think we could be doing please do get in touch.

I look forward to being of service in Christ's name.

yours ever, Charlie Boyle

A Look at Lilliput

The boundaries of Lilliput are difficult to define. The harbour shore is positive enough from the Blue Lagoon to Luscombe Valley but the edges blur into Whitecliff, Parkstone, Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks. However, it is from Parkstone that it derives its roots.

Previously within the Tithing of Parkstone, which prior to 1833 was itself part of the large parish of Kinson and Great Canford, Lilliput did not become a parish in its own right until the 1960's. The chapel of the Holy Angels in Lilliput Road was built in 1874 as a chapel-of-ease to St Peter's in Ashley Cross. The Reverend Sargent became the first Vicar in 1962 as opposed to Priest-in-Charge.

There is evidence of industry as far back as 1142 and Lord Mountjoy established alum and copper mines in the mid 1500s whilst saltings or salterns were later constructed and remained until the 1820s. In the latter part of the 1800s and early 1900s there was extensive agriculture, particularly on the landward side of Sandbanks Road. Lilliput began to be developed in the 1930s to become what is now an elegant residential area.

The origins of the name are unclear. 'The Place Names of Dorset' by A D Mills mentions Lillypute in 1783 but Lilliput 1811.

The two people who have been named as having some connection with the appellation are Jonathan Swift and Isaac Gulliver. Jonathan Swift 1667-1745, later Dean Swift of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, was born in that city; he was an Anglo-Irish satirist and has been described as one of the greatest masters of English prose. His masterpiece 'Travels into Remote Nations of the World' more popularly known as 'Gulliver's Travels' was published anonymously in 1726. It has been suggested that he wrote the book in Poole but this cannot be confirmed and seems unlikely. Three names serve to remind us of his book-Gulliver Close, Dean Swift Crescent and Lagado Close.

A famous wealthy smuggler who was granted a pardon around 1782 and progressed to a second career as a banker may also have some connection with the name of Lilliput. Isaac Gulliver was born in Wiltshire in 1745 (the year of Jonathan Swift's death) and died in 1822, being buried in Wmborne Minster. He had an association with a number of Dorset villages - Kinson, West Moors, Corfe Mullen, Long Crichel and Sixpenny Handley and he lived at Flag Farm (once called Lilliput Farm) adjacent to the Luscombe Valley for a few years. There is a suggestion that there might have been a tunnel linking the property with Brownsea Island, which would have been very handy for his smuggling. Heathland also covered most of the surrounding area and this, too, would have been useful for moving the contraband. Luscombe Valley is now a Nature Reserve.

Taken from Looking Back at Lilliput by kind permission of Iris Morris

Beware 'Party' Houses - They Will Disturb Your Peace

There are many houses and flats that are let for holidays locally, but there is apparently a local Letting Agent who is actively marketing Party Houses for raves, stag and hen parties, etc. These cause serious distress to their neighbours mostly through noise. There are 4 or 5 houses like this in Canford Cliffs Avenue, Elgin Road, Elmhurst Road, Brownsea View Avenue, etc.

Cllr. Xena Dion has now said that they have been experiencing these problems for some two years. Your Residents' Association is pressuring the Council to develop a prompt, firm procedure for dealing with these growing anti-social problems. If you find that your neighbour's house has been taken over, the key is keeping a detailed diary of the specific address, dates, times, problems, etc. and complaining firmly to the Council.

This is the complaint from one sufferer:

Dear Cllr. Atkinson

We are writing to express the great concern of ourselves and our neighbours at the recent establishment of what is openly referred to as a 'party house' in our quiet residential neighbourhood in Lower Parkstone.

The property which is next door to ours at no. 21, is advertised as 'live the dream in Sandbanks' and offers accommodation for up to 20 people (in a 4 bed house) and be suitable for, inter alia, 'wedding receptions,... corporate training and entertainment and much more'. Already in the first month of it's existence we have had several disturbed nights sleep, reported the noise to the Council twice and spoken to the occupants requesting they keep the noise down - see our attached noise diary. We believe that as we move into the summer months the noise and disturbance will become intolerable. Not only are we subject to the noise of cars coming and going at all hours and then climbing the steep drive to the house but as the plan of the properties shows we have no peace in our rear garden during the daytime either as it faces the side of no. 21. No. 21 is higher than ours and the noise drifts down to us and the lower properties in the road. The noise from music and loud conversations over long periods will destroy the peace and privacy of our home. The worry of not knowing what we will have to face the next week or weekend, is causing us a great deal of stress and affecting our health.

In short we believe that this property, located where it is, is totally unsuited to operating this type of business - it is in effect an entertainment venue and should be treated as such by the Council.

Some of the Trip Advisor reports on the properties are very instructive :

"LIVE THE SANDBANKS DREAM: Property description: Poole Rental Home - 5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, *Sleeps 24*. This large house is set within its own grounds and has amazing facilities which include an indoor jacuzzi, sauna and gymnasium. There is a separate bar room consisting of a pool table and football table and also a separate full size snooker room. The bedrooms consist of double beds and single beds and there are sofa beds throughout. This property definitely has the WOW factor and is furnished and finished to a very high standard throughout. Available for weekend breaks, short breaks, *stag and hen nights*, holidays and entertaining and much more."

If you need to report environmental nuisance such as noise or bonfires then the numbers to ring are: Office hours Monday to Friday: 01202-261700 8pm to 2am Monday to Saturday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday: 0800 506050

Terry Stewart

(Editor: There is no reason why people should not be able to enjoy their gardens and homes without being subject to the kind of anti social-behaviour detailed by Terry. Do not put up with it. Let the council know.)

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PLEASE USE THESE FORMS **BOTH** TO **JOIN** THE ASSOCIATION **AND** TO **RENEW** YOUR MEMBERSHIP

To: The Hon. Treasurer
Branksome Park, Canford Cliffs & District Residents Association,
102 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole, Dorset BH13 7AE
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Wonderful English! Collected on our travels around the World. By Jean Hann and James Rodda

In a Bangkok temple:

It is forbidden to enter a woman, even a foreigner, if dressed as a man.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

Ladies are requested not to have children in the lounge.

Doctors' office, Rome:

Specialist in women and other diseases.

Dry cleaners, Bangkok:

Drop your trousers here for the best results.

In a Nairobi restaurant:

Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

On the main road to Mombassa, leaving Nairobi:

TAKE NOTICE: When this sign is under water this road is impassable.

On a poster at Kencom:

Are you an adult that cannot read? If so we can help.

In a city restaurant:

Open seven days a week and weekends.

In a cemetery:

Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.

Tokio hotel's rules and regulations:

Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviour in bed.

On a menu of a Swiss restaurant:

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

In a Tokio bar:

Special coctails for ladies with nuts.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

Hotel, Japan:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

continued...

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:

It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest campsite that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for this purpose.

Hotel, Zurich:

Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen:

We take your bags and send them in all directions.

A laundry in Rome:

Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Advert for B & B in Crete:

Breakfast served on balcony, in restaurant, or on your privates. (Let's hope the porridge is not too hot!!!)

Bob Young

Branksome Park: The Tempest

'Blow winds and crack your cheeks! Rage! Blow!
You cataracts and hurricanes spout....'

Oops sorry! Wrong Shakespeare play¹. But I thought we'd start with a bit of class, before this article goes downhill: introducing the Pathetic Fallacy before it degenerates into the merely pathetic. Not just one tempest of course, but a succession sweeping across the country, giving us the wettest winter on record, with a Met Office figure of 486 mm of rain for the UK as a whole up to 19th February. It certainly seemed more than that in Branksome Park Perhaps a more appropriate quote might be 'The rain it raineth every day'². Downpours day after day can have a dampening effect on your spirits: the answer is never to leave your whisky out in the rain...

The hills and sandy subsoil of Branksome Park minimises the risk of flooding: if any of my readers have been affected, my profound sympathies. A recent trip to town revealed from the comfort of a railway carriage, a huge lake stretching over field after grey field in neighbouring Christchurch. Walks down our nearest Branksome Chine would require wellies, or recourse to the roads running parallel to the Chine. Once on the coast, the destruction of beach huts made the national press, with the army called in to help volunteers with the clean-up process. By March, the front had been tidied, though the encroaching sand on stretches of the promenade indicated the front line between Man and Nature.

The high winds have meant that numerous trees have come down: even the Dorset country lanes categorised as 'A' roads have large slices of trunk poking over wall or fence, indicating the prompt removal of trees that had fallen over the road. Closer to home, over the Christmas period, walking to Compton Acres using cul-de-sac and footpath, there were innumerable branches and smaller stuff strewn on the road. And in the garden of a recently erected glass and steel confection, a pine had measured its length, fortunately falling short of the house itself. An update of the traditional saying is required, perhaps: 'People who live in glass houses shouldn't grow pines'.

Closer to home, our respected Chair had lost the substantial half of a Cupressa Macrocarpa, split right down the middle ('cloven pine' - now that is *The Tempest*!3). The half a tree fell across the car park of the adjoining flats. Providentially, there were no cars parked in those spaces, otherwise there would have been tens of thousands pound's worth of damage. The common name for the tree being 'Monterey' pine, those swinging lovers amongst you who can remember the fifties, or Frank Sinatra fans, will be humming, 'It happened in Branksome Park'.

In our own back yard, our eight-year old grandson reported gleefully 'There's been an earthquake in the woodland, granddad!' Closer inspection revealed that a young oak, reaching perhaps some forty or fifty feet, was leaning at an alarming angle, the roots consequently lifting and cracking the adjoining sandy path. Sadly, it could not be saved, leaning at almost 45° over the neighbouring property. The tree surgeon served the relevant 'dead or dangerous tree' notice on the council, and promptly felled it for us.

Asking them to leave behind the entire tree, in manageable lumps, led them to suspect a more than usually eccentric OAP. But, the domestic electric shredder has handled smaller branches, giving me heaps of mulch. Anything thicker than that are 'logs', intended for a Litton Cheney wood-burner, as is quite a bit of dead kindling. The odd straight run of log will replace edging on woodland paths, with greater durability.

A new 'standard' size tree has been sourced, (nigh on nine feet high!) and I have excavated the recommended 2 cubic feet and the site prepared. Though we mourn the passing of a fine young tree, we are hopefully planting for future generations, and hope our grandchildren's grandchildren will see one of the same size.

David Reeves

- ¹ King Lear Act III scene 2 line I, of course
- ² Twelfth Night Act V
- ³ ...where Ariel is confined by the witch Sycorax Act I Scene 2 line 279

Environmental Threats to Poole

Poole faces a number of worrying issues.

1. Car Parking Island in the Harbour

Both the Poole Harbour Commission (PHC) and MDL - the owners of Cobbs Quay Marina - are each planning a massive Marina sticking out into the Harbour from Town Quay. Details of the MDL plan slipped out last July when the Crown Estates named them as potential Preferred Bidders. The Crown Estate owns the seabed and will lease out the sites. It is under a mandate to maximise their revenue which goes to the Government. So we met MDL to clarify their plans which were horrifying: since boat owners need a car park to leave their cars while they are cruising, they were proposing to build a car park for 200+ cars in the middle of the harbour, since there was no room for parking on the Quay. To get to this island they proposed a bridge from Baiter Park. But because this would block the entrance to the fishermens' harbour, they planned a high level bridge which fishing boats could pass under. The island and bridge would be ugly eyesores in environmentally protected Poole Harbour.

So two of us met the Crown Estates Manager in London to press for information and ask that he consulted all the stakeholders about this very unpopular proposal. I also appeared on the BBC TV Politics Show to protest. Good News, the Crown Estates has now rejected the MDL bid - so we wait to see the what the PHC will propose. But this is likely to include an island Marine Centre off the Quay with buildings on - another visual block. This is one of the many developments in Poole that are being monitored by the Poole Quays Forum which we are progressing to a full Plan, when it will have some planning powers and the right to decide on some of the Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure.

2. Poole Seafront Plan

The Council has decided that it needs £7 million to upgrade the infrastructure and toilets along the Seafront. It has proposed that it should raise these funds by building two hotels, 500 additional Beach Huts, some 25 residential Studios in the Chines, new shops on Sandbanks and two apartment blocks. We have held protest meetings with our MP, Councillors and Officers because we believe this would commercialise the character of our distinctive beachfront. The Plan reduced the number of car parking spaces, when it was meant to attract more tourists. The Council received over 300 comments when they put the Plan out for consultation - most of them objecting. The relevant Scrutiny Committee has set up a Working Party which has yet to meet to agree their Terms of Reference and revise the recommendations. These revised Plans will be put out for consultation, and I urge ALL local residents to respond if you want to protect our unique Blue Flag Beaches.

3. Traveller 'Invasions'

Poole suffered from some 13 'invasions' last year from Travellers - mostly last Summer before moving on to the Dorset Steam Fair. These caused serious problems for the neighbours such as the excrement smeared onto the Whitecliff Park Playground equipment, and the previous 10 caravans which left 5 tons of waste and spoil in the Beach Road car

continued ...

park. So I asked Judy Butt, our Cabinet Member for Public Engagement, to arrange a high-level meeting to agree a firm and prompt procedure for reducing the social, environmental and crime impact of these visitations. She chaired a highly successful meeting on October 18 with our two MPs, the Dorset Crime Commissioner, the Assistant Chief Constable, Cabinet Members, Councillors and Resident representatives. The meeting agreed 6 key recommendations, and I submitted six additional ones.

The key recommendation was that the Council should find a site as a Temporary Stopping Place that the Police could direct the Travellers on to under Section 62a. The Council has now evaluated some 90 possible sites, and has submitted planning applications for two possible Temporary sites. Unfortunately the main site is at Marshes End, next to the Fire Station, on the main approach to Poole. Because the site is marshy with the main drain into Holes Bay, it will cost some £250,000 to lay hogging and prepare the site. It is not a good environmental site. The proposal has caused a major row with the local residents, the sacking of the Cabinet Member, and has now gone to a special meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Lighthouse Concert Hall. Some 250 residents attended to hear that the land was designated for employment, is at the main 'Gateway' to Poole, is a threat to local residents - and even the Travellers will refuse to use it since the land is contaminated. Both proposed Temporary Stopping Sites were decisively rejected. In the meanwhile our MPs are pressing the Minister for a change in the Law.

Terry Stewart

The Shakespearian Housing Market

'The Winter's Tale'... over yet? Now it's ... 'As You Like It'; but not yet 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

Wind water, rain and pestilence. Roofs blown off; trees falling on to cars, roads and houses; Shore Road regularly closed down, as the waves pounded and then flooded over the harbour wall. But Sandbanks / BH13 and BH14 have survived another Winter's Tale and are now beginning to dust off the storm shutters in preparation for a different sort of onslaught from tourists and developers alike.

There is a fresh air of confidence about the place (As You Like It!) - some of the new developments (so often disappointing in their architecture or quality of build) have been shifted and the developers are again making their presence felt in the market. Sales volumes (the total value of property sold - at prices greater than £200,000 in BH13 and BH14 only) in both Quarters 3 and 4 2013 were nearly 50% ahead of the same figures recorded for 2012. Better still, while activity is spread across the board, it is concentrated in the broad, influential £200,000 - sub-£1 million market. The second half of last year saw sales above £2 million up from £27m to £29m (from 8 in 2012 to 11 units in 2013) and those between £1m and £2m went up by nearly 20% from £55m to £65m (from 26 units

continued ...

in 2012 to 37 units last year). So, the lower than average percentage increases in those top-end markets must point to there having been an even more significant rise in the more 'mortgage-sensitive' market beneath £1 million.

It really is a much more vibrant market, with the return of the 'domino effect' throughout the area, a feature of a healthy market - as one property sells, another local buyer fills the void - the Midsummer Night's Dream.

Of course, while the market as a whole still has its fair share of foreign and out-of-area buyers, second home owners and others, the characteristic flood of London and other out-of-area UK buyers - often prevalent at this time of year - has been somewhat tempered so far by the lack of enthusiasm to venture out and (King) Lear - because of the recent spate of foul weather. However, that trend is now correcting itself and our applicant register has recently been growing consistently - there is strong, evident demand for family homes in the £600,000 to £1.5 million segment, as well as at the top end and an acute shortage of stock priced for sale.

Indeed, the main issue for sellers at this juncture is the shortage of saleable stock; exacerbated, as usual, by a small band of sometimes unscrupulous estate agents (Much Ado About Nothing?) who entrap unwitting sellers (some on Sandbanks too whom one might expect to be more sophisticated) into the delusion of unjustifiably high price expectations - and then fail utterly to deliver. The standards of professionalism of some local agents does occasionally drive to distraction those of us who aim to operate with respectability and integrity. We see vendors manipulated into unwarranted fee extortion, or being cajoled into accepting offers from buyers whose own property sale is decidedly rocky, if not suspect, often, with no real prospect of a sale. Roll on legal regulation of estate agents which successive governments have promised! It just might tame the Kleptomaniac Devils and Sexed-up Cobblers out there.

This is a market in which the cautious and wise will prosper and the foolhardy will come a cropper. Over-pricing and the consequent delay in achieving a sale could prove disastrous; the possibility of interest rate rises is an awful spectre, especially given the high levels of debt and gearing locally. Clouds still hover ominously - the election in May 2015; UKIP - Impact on the Tory vote? Will Clegg align the Lib Dems with Miliband? Mansion Tax? Is the recovery stable and consistent?

There <u>is</u> a good market out there; and it <u>is</u> active. Properties are shifting - provided pricing is sensible. Wise sellers will heed the message and curb their greed. Caveat emptor - the buyers' motto. Ne'er has there been better advice for sellers too. Beware the white-socked estate agent, wet behind the ears, flash and brash go for experience. Make the wrong choice and it'll be a case of Love's Labours Lost!

For further information, contact *Jeremy Priestley FRICS, FARLA*, formerly MD of Hamptons International; *Adrian Black*, formerly of Goldman Sachs or call in and see *Pippa and the (experienced) team* at Berkeleys in Haven Road on 01202 708383

Parking in Burton Road

It has become apparent that a significant issue exists in Burton Road with camper vans and vans taking advantage of the £50 permit system operated by Poole Council to park long term along the road.

The parking of these vehicles is causing serious visibility problems for residents exiting their driveways and, to put it bluntly, residents of Burton Road are fed up. There have been various meetings with the Council and I have received, from George Crawford - a Burton Road resident, an amusing summary of one of the meetings held at the Council which neatly combined both the current traveller problem with the Burton Road parking issue. Please find below an 'amusing' extract from George's piece.

'Unfortunately, the hard-pressed councillor was unable to reply as a Poole Council official proudly announced that they were to host the Annual UK Motor home Convention. Branksome Park would be wholly dedicated for this prestigious event. The excited council official stated that they were very proud to have been selected, against fierce competition for this prime event which was also open to the whole of Europe. Bournemouth did not submit a bid.

The recent experience of Poole Council in successfully attracting motorhomes to Branksome Park with cheap rates (£50/annum) and lining them up, on show, in Burton Road environs had proved invaluable when evaluating the bids.

This was, the official announced, an opportunity for the local residents to meet up with people from all walks of life as previously they would not have had the opportunity. Travellers would also be invited to attend and would be welcome to demonstrate their unique way of life. Suggestions from the public would be commissioned. The official confirmed that they might have difficulty moving existing vehicles and some degree of persuasion might be necessary. (One or two are perpetually stuck in mud)'

The light-hearted tone of George's piece should not obscure the strength of the feelings of the Burton Road residents and I am aware they are pushing the Council hard to resolve this issue and looking at other avenues open to them.

Editor

The Menacing Tax Gap

H M Revenue and Customs (HMRC) recently issued figures which estimate that there is £35m of uncollected taxes for 2011-12. Little wonder then that they will take all steps within their power to collect all that is due.

One of the easiest taxes for HMRC to collect is Inheritance Tax, the reason being that the tax is initially calculated by the Personal Representatives who are obliged then to pay much, if not all, of the tax before a Grant of Probate can be issued. All HMRC has to do is sit back and await the cheque!

In the light of this, it can be expected that this increasingly lucrative source of revenue will remain a target for the Exchequer and so the more relaxed view on Inheritance Tax planning which came about after the transferable nil rate band rule was introduced in 2008 has reached an end for many. The honeymoon period is over.

Unless you would like HMRC to be a major beneficiary of your Estate there are steps which can be taken legitimately to avoid Inheritance Tax. These include making gifts from unspent income each year before the income crystallizes into capital poised to be taxed at 40% (many people do not realize that these gifts are immune from the "7 year" rule); using your annual gift allowance to the full; assigning insurance backed investments and ensuring that your Will is as tax efficient as possible. There is here the possibility of reducing the IHT rate to 36% and for people with an Estate of a certain value there is even the scope to give 10% to charity, reduce the IHT rate and see your personal beneficiaries inheriting even more than they would have done if your had not made the charitable gift and kept the tax rate at 40%.

Expert, professional advice is vital to ensure that everything is in order. Your Solicitor, Accountant and Financial Advisor can work together to produce the most tax efficient arrangement for you and then keep it under review to reflect personal and fiscal changes.

Mark Daniels
Managing Partner,
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Probus Club of Poole

Are you a retired, or soon to be retired, Professional or Businessman who wishes to remain socially active and meet new friends in your retirement? If so, then Probus Club of Poole could be just the thing for you. We hold monthly luncheons with interesting speakers at The Connaught Hotel in Bournemouth , and arrange throughout the year a series of varied and enjoyable social events, including days out and an annual holiday. In addition the Club has active bridge and golf sections, and on the first Tuesday morning in each month members with spouses gather at Compton Acres Cafe to enjoy an informal cup of coffee and a chat.

Probus clubs provide a regular opportunity for people of similar background and interests to meet together for friendly and convivial contact. Clubs are autonomous in nature but operate within a loose federation that ensures common aims and values, and provides a measure of centralised support. The clubs endeavour to be simple in style and to operate at reasonable cost. Membership of the Probus Club of Poole is only open to men, but spouses of club members, and widows of former members, are strongly encouraged to take part in all social activities.

Enquiries about membership are most welcome. After initial contact you will be invited to attend a monthly luncheon as our guest - please do not be put off if you do not know any existing members. Your application follows, if you wish, and you will shortly thereafter be inducted as a member of the Club. Annual subscription is £20 and the cost of coffee on arrival, and a two-course luncheon, is currently only £16. Drinks are obviously on your own account, as are the costs of social events.

If you would like to know more about us please visit our excellent website at www.probuspoole.org and, initially, click the option on our Welcome page to find out more. We can be contacted either at secretary@probuspoole.org, or ring Malcolm on 01202 700586.

Malcolm Parry-Davis



The Times and Rotary are "a Changing"

Rotary in Poole is moving with our changing times and responding to offer local people and businesses a variety of new ways to engage with and enjoy this community based service organisation.

The world has changed significantly since Paul Harris started Rotary with a group of friends who "rotated" their meetings around each others offices just over 100 years ago. Today there are three traditional style Rotary Clubs in the Poole area which meet weekly over a meal (either lunch or dinner).

A new Rotary group, however, is starting up which will meet monthly for coffee or a drink on the last Thursday in the month. Aimed at younger, working Rotarians with less time to linger over a meal, this satellite club is being sponsored by Poole Bay Rotary.

It is championed by Dimpee Kalita, Cluster Sales Manager based at the Holiday Inn Express in Poole. Dimpee had already experienced Rotary through her family back in India and approached the Poole Bay Club via their website (www.poolebayrotary.org) to see how she could get involved locally. Little did she realise just how involved she would be, so quickly!

Poole Young Rotary have their own facebook page (Young Rotary) and are just about to hold their third interest meeting - on Thursday 27 March from 6.30pm at the Holiday Inn Express, Poole. With over 30 people expressing interest in joining the new Club, they have already started to talk about their first community project.

Dimpee Kalita, Rotary lead person for the new group said, "I have seen Rotary in action in India where they have been immunising millions of children a day against polio. Now I am based in the Poole area I wanted to see how I could get involved locally here. This new group will be a great opportunity for local business people like myself to use our professional skills and put something back into our community."

For further information on the new group contact: Dimpee Kalita sales@hiexpoole.co.uk 07584 016639



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Beaumont Road Mrs C. Parkin, 22 Ravine Road BH13 7HY
Bessborough Road Mrs C. Parkin, 22 Ravine Road BH13 7HY
Bodley Road Mrs C. Parkin, 22 Ravine Road BH13 7HY

Canford Cliffs Ave Mrs E. A. Knight, 40 Canford Cliffs Avenue BH14 9QN
Canford Cliffs Road (Even Nos) Mr P J. Gamble, 5, 166 Canford Cliffs Road, BH13 7ES
Canford Cres Mr Kees Scholts, Flat 1, Corvesgate,23 Nairn Road
Chaddesley Glen Mr K. Sanders, Flat 4, 25 Chaddlesley Glen BH13 7PB
Chaddesley Wood Road Mr K. Sanders, Flat 4, 25 Chaddlesley Glen BH13 7PB

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Cliff Drive Mr B. Kitson, 9 Nairn Road BH13 7NE
De Mauley Road Mr M.R. Heath, 26 Ravine Road BH13 7HY
Elmstead Road Mr M.R. Heath, 26 Ravine Road BH13 7HY
Flaghead Road Mr R. Smith, 27 St Clair Road. BH13 7JP
Haig Avenue Mrs S E Arnold, 26 Links Road BH14 9QR
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Macandrew Road Mrs C. Parkin, 22 Ravine Road BH13 7HY
Martello Park Mr R. Young, Flat 6, 8 Martello Park, BHI3 7BA

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Nairn Road Mr K Scholts, Flat 1, Corvesgate, 23 Nairn Road BH13 7NF

Newton Road Mrs M. Hodsdon, 5 Newton Road BH13 7EX

Ravine Road Mr E M Parry-Davies, Flat 2, 10 Ravine Road BH13 7HX

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Blake Dene Road Mr R.S. Sharman, 29 Elgin Road BH14 8QU

Brudenell Ave Mr K. Pottle, Flat 7, 2 Crichel Mount Road BH14 8LT
Brudenell Road Mr K. Pottle, Flat 7, 2 Crichel Mount Road BH14 8LT
Clifton Road Mrs D. Greenwood, 4 Links View Avenue BH14 9QT

Compton Avenue Mr J.N. Gunton, 36 Links Road BH14 9QS
Compton Drive Mr J.N. Gunton, 36 Links Road BH14 9QS
Compton Gardens Mr J.N. Gunton, 36 Links Road BH14 9QS

Crichel Mount Road Mr K. Pottle, Flat 7, 2 Crichel Mount Road BH14 8LT

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Links View Avenue Mrs D. Greenwood, 4 Links View Avenue BH14 9QT

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COUNCILLORS

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Ronald Parker 29 Cliff Drive, Canford Cliffs, Poole. BH13 7JE

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Sally Carpenter 31 Lilliput Road, Poole. BH14 8JU

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