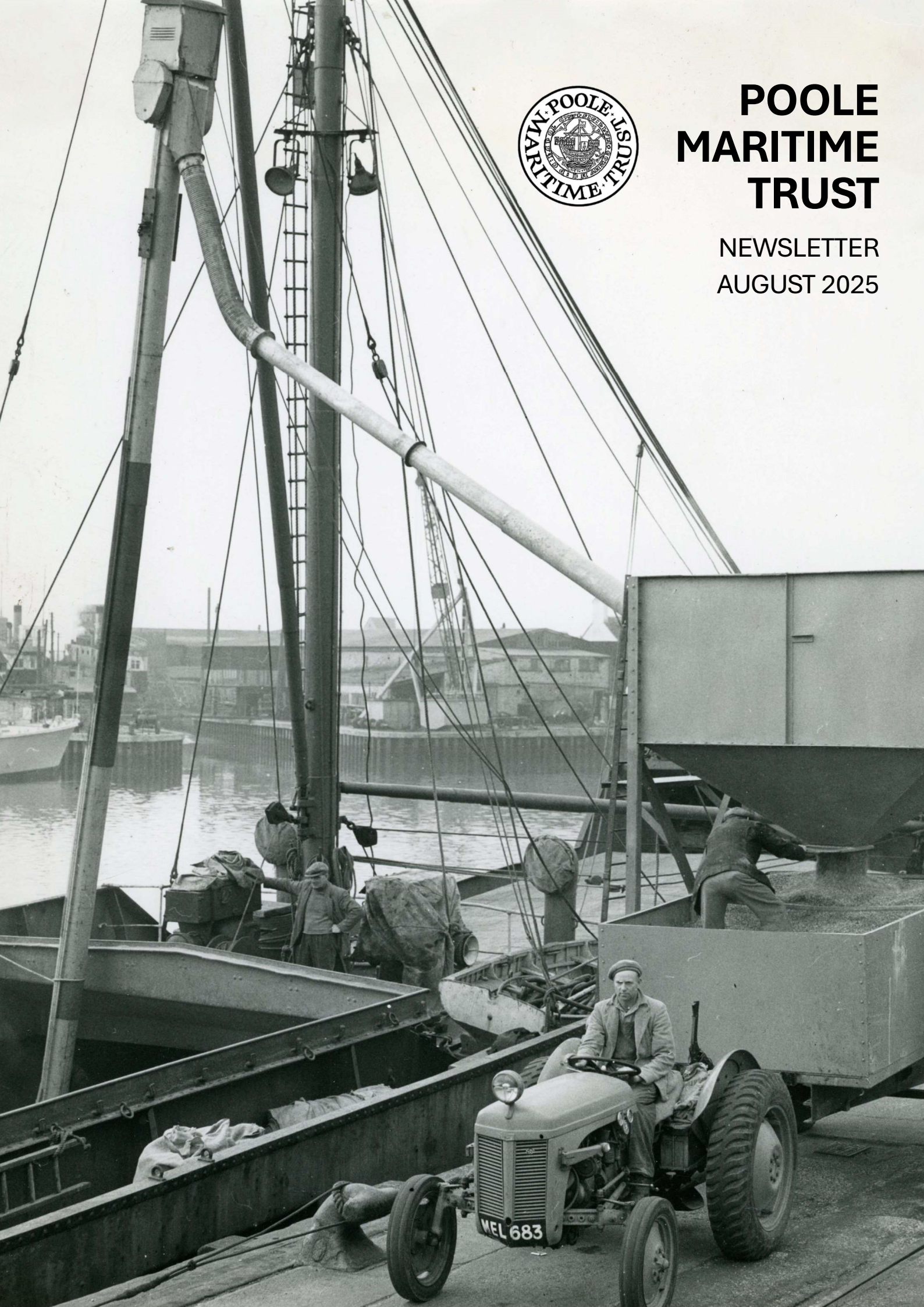


POOLE MARITIME TRUST

NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2025



ARCHIVING AND DONATIONS

The archive team have enjoyed an extremely busy month having received a number of important and historically valuable donations. Current work includes scanning and restoring a remarkable collection of images taken, mainly, from the air. These feature Poole and, to a lesser extent, other local harbours and Ports – Christchurch, Southampton and Weymouth etc.

We are, once again, indebted to the family of the late Lionel Fynn for considering the Trust when disposing of his large collection of accumulated historic material. The attached example (below) is an undated aerial image of Poole across the old Power Station and through the largely undeveloped port, as far as Fisherman's Dock. All of this material will be freely available to visitors upon completion the of the restoration.



AFTERNOON TEA ON THE DORSET QUEEN



Members of the Poole Maritime Trust enjoyed afternoon tea and a cruise round the Islands of the Harbour on the *Dorset Queen* on 19 August. The tea was delicious and the scenery beautiful.

A KID ON POOLE QUAY

I recently read an account of someone's childhood spent living in Poole which sent my thoughts winging back to my own early life. I was born the sixth of ten children in Green Road, which adjoins the east end of the Quay. Nearby was the shoreline known as "down Powder House or Point" (now Baiter) where I spent many happy times with my family enjoying picnics laid out on an old blanket brought from home. Calling those days to mind, I remember particularly the "cosy" knitted by my mother which fitted perfectly until it got wet when it stretched down to my ankles and I could not wait for it to dry when it would shrink back again!

This then was my playground in the thirties. In those days the Quay was a very busy place with numerous cargo boats bringing in coal, timber, cement, clay, etc. I would stand fascinated, watching the loading and unloading. In particular I remember the paddle steamers, the *Empress of India*, the *Monarch*, *Embassy* and the *Bournemouth Queen*, all of which travelled from the harbour to local coastal resorts. To fuel them men would fill baskets with coal from the railway trucks waiting on the Quay, run up the gang planks, unload them on board and then run down again to refill.

The steam trains *The Havre* and *St Malo* ran from and to the sidings of Poole Station and all along the Quay. We had great fun jumping onto and into the trucks from which we would emerge black as the ace of spades. All the time however we had to look out for the Guard who would shout and chase us away if he saw us.

In the winter months, between four and four thirty in the afternoon, I would watch the sprat boats lying deep in the water under their catches as they sailed in line down the harbour channel, turning at Stakes Buoy and then tying up at the Quay. All along the Quay were stacked packing boxes in readiness. When the fishermen were not looking, we would pick out whiting or maybe on occasion a herring from a sprat box and quickly thread a piece of string through the gills and tie it to our waists. After finding a few, I would hurry off home to be greeted by my grateful mother. Another spectacle was the yearly Fishermen's Boat Races which were always followed by a sprat supper at a local pub.

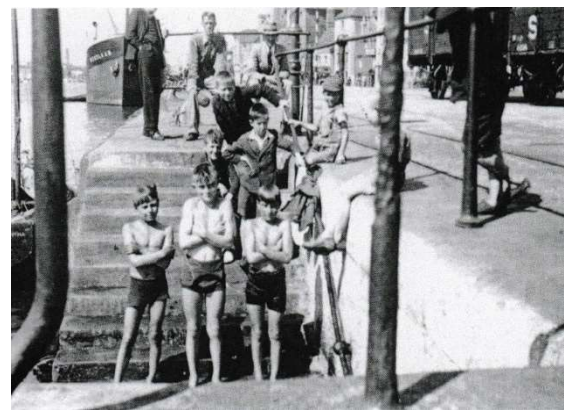
Across the east end of the Quay was a high gantry suspended from which a huge grab unloaded coal from the holds of ships and transported it to the nearby gas works. As a youngster I collected the coals that fell from the grab onto the road, putting them in a wooden cart. I was pleased as punch with myself and would hurry off home with my haul.



Andrew Hawkes image

A lot of coal went over the sides of the boats into the water and was later retrieved by the canny fishermen with their dragnets. One of my Saturday jobs was to go and get coke for Mrs Moore at the gas works. I would fill her big sack and large old cart at a cost of 6d and staggering under the load deliver it to her, receiving 2d for my trouble. This went towards my 4d ticket to see a film at the local Amity Cinema in the afternoon – remember two in a seat?

On summer evenings and during weekends about a dozen of us lads would spend our time diving off the Quay to retrieve pennies thrown in by visitors and occasionally we even rode bikes into the water.



Andrew Hawkes image

Sometimes we were able to get permission to dive off one of the cargo boats. At other times we would fish for crabs and cat fish from the Fishermen's Dock using a piece of string and a bent nail with limpets or mussels for bait.

I spent many happy hours gazing at the never-changing beautiful view over Brownsea Island and the Purbecks, but times have changed for although it is still a working quay, the boats tied up are now mostly yachts and power boats.

Les Rose

DIG REVEALS SLIPWAY WHERE NELSON'S SHIPS WERE MADE

Patrick Hughes

BBC Website 12 August 2025



HMS Agamemnon, known as Nelson's favourite ship, took part in the Battle of Trafalgar and was one of the ships built at Buckler's Hard

(Image source: Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust)

A slipway from the 18th Century where ships for Lord Nelson's fleet were built and launched has been excavated by archaeologists. The team from the University of Southampton said it was the first time one from this period had been totally uncovered in the UK. Buckler's Hard, the small hamlet in the New Forest where the slipway is located, was once home to one of the busiest private shipyards of the 1700s. The researchers said they hoped the findings would help improve their understanding of shipbuilding techniques and infrastructure during the period.



The slipway is the first of its era to be fully revealed in the UK

The dig was supported by the newly formed Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust, a conservation charity. A total of 55 wooden

warships were built at Buckler's Hard for the Royal Navy in the 1700s, some of which were comparable in size to HMS Victory. "No other private yard built as many ships for the navy during this period," said Prof Jon Adams, director of the university's Centre for Maritime Archaeology.



Prof Jon Adams said Buckler's Hard provided a unique look into the shipbuilding techniques and infrastructure of the time

Unlike the slipway at Buckler's Hard, most slipways from the 18th Century are now buried under concrete. Prof Adams said that made this one uniquely suited for learning about traditional shipbuilding. "The only opportunity is a place like this where you can actually see the whole of the whole of the infrastructure and the logistical structures needed to build ships of that size," he said.



The team also found some historical curiosities, such as musket balls and fastening nails from the 1700s

One of the most famous ships built at the site was HMS Agamemnon, which took part in the Battle of Trafalgar and was known as Lord Nelson's "favourite". There are now plans to place a replica of the vessel on the end of the slipway as it would

have looked under construction. A 3D model of the slipway has also been created to aid research, and the site will be covered with a new layer of soil and topped with timbers in the style of the 1700s. "The visitor would then come into the village and actually see what the yard might have looked like," said Prof Adams.

PARKSTONE YACHT CLUB (1924)

Parkstone Sailing Club. The coming season promises to be a busy one. This club is very happily situated in every way. It possesses its own club house and premises, including a most useful jetty down to low-water mark, and outhaul moorings all along for members' dinghies. It undertakes storage, fitting-out, and repairs to members' yachts at a co-operative and barely cost price. Excellent racing is provided weekly (or more frequently) throughout the season. Already yachts are beginning to appear on their moorings. Mr. Keene's ex-class St. Helens-built boat was hauled off last week, Mr. Cridland's 6-ton cruiser following. During the past week several more have been getting ready for the next high tides. The Poole Harbour Dolphins and the X class of the R.M.Y.C. will have plenty of chances of proving their merits in competition with the boats of the East Dorset and Poole Sailing Clubs all through the summer. There will also be the usual fortnightly races for all boats belonging to the club. Last year there was very keen competition in these races, for which there are numerous handsome cups offered. More recruits are wanted for the new ex-class, and members are invited to enter their boats. Poole Harbour, with its various ramifications and large water area, affords delightful smooth-

water sailing facilities. Smooth, that is compared to outside, but Studland, Swanage, and Bournemouth are always available for longer voyages, with the shelter of Standfast Point, Old Harry, and Durlston Head on the west, in case of westerly winds.



SKYE FERRY



Our picture shows the second Kyle of Lochalsh / Kyleakin (Isle of Skye) ferry vessel built by William Denny and Brothers Ltd, Dumbarton for Scottish Region of British Railways.

The Broadford like her sister ship the Portree (already in service is designed to carry four motor cars and has covered access for 50 passengers. Powered by two Gleniffer 4-cylinder 80hp high speed diesel engines, providing a speed of about 9 knots, engines will be controlled from a

steering position above the passenger accommodation.

Principal dimensions (approx.) – Length (overall) 72ft 6in; Length (waterline) 67ft 9in; Breadth (moulded) 21ft; Depth mean (moulded) 6ft; Draught – Forward 3ft, Aft 4ft

PORT UPDATE

by Kevin Mitchell

On the evening of 31st July, Channel Seaways' fully loaded *Trinity* sailed from Poole on a regular journey to the Channel Islands. However, it briefly grounded just outside the harbour entrance and had to return to port for inspection by divers. *Trinity* eventually departed again on 2nd August for Guernsey and then Jersey.



Trinity after grounding

Also, at the end of July, the Sandbanks chain ferry *Bramble Bush Bay* was off service for about an hour one day due to a technical fault. Unfortunately, ferry staff were subjected to abuse from some passengers. The ferry is busy at most times of the year, but especially during the summer months. On Saturday 2nd August it was noted that the ferry was already busy with cars at 7.30am, but hopefully the staff had an otherwise uneventful day.

On 1st August a group of adult passengers thought it was a good idea to throw a child's inflatable beach toy off one of the local passenger boats as it neared Town Quay. Unluckily for them, this action was noted by the crew and Poole VTS (Harbour Control) was notified by radio. The nearby patrol vessel *Vixen* retrieved the item from the water then came alongside the ferry as it berthed, much to the embarrassment of the culprits but to the great delight of the other passengers! But this could have had more serious consequences as an empty beach toy found floating in the harbour could have sparked a search and rescue operation.



Patrol boat Vixen

The steamship *Shieldhall* returned to Poole on 8th August. This year, this member of the National Historic Fleet is marking 70 years of service having been originally built, rather unglamorously, to carry sludge for disposal at sea.

Shieldhall has been a regular summer visitor at Poole in recent years, when it operated Bournemouth Air Show sightseeing trips. Although there is no Air Show this year, *Shieldhall* made two trips from Poole – one eastward to The Needles and the other westward along the Jurassic Coast to St Aldhelm's Head. She sailed back to Southampton on 11th August, hopefully to return to Poole next year.



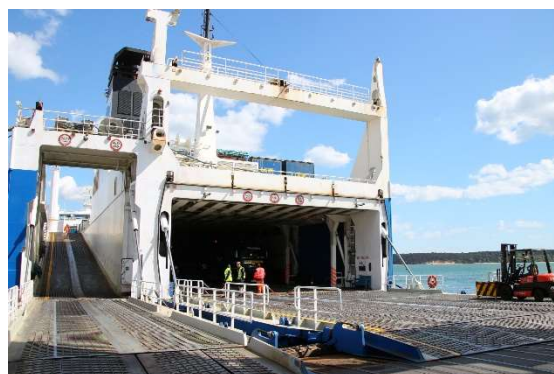
Shieldhall - photo supplied by Frazer Hockey

In cross-channel ferry news, Poole has now been beaten by the French port of St Malo as Guernsey's busiest sea route. Figures show now 45,000 passengers use the St Malo-Guernsey route (up from 27,000 last year) whilst 41,000 passengers travel from Poole. Both routes are operated by Brittany Ferries' *Condor Voyager* on a daily St Malo – Guernsey - Poole - Guernsey - St Malo rotation which allows better day-trip options from the French port to the island. Following the loss of Condor Ferries' contract to serve Jersey earlier this year, the high-speed *Condor Liberation* was sent to Le Havre for lay-up, joined by the freight ship *Commodore Goodwill*. Although the *Liberation* has not yet found new work, the *Goodwill* has recently joined the fleet of DFDS as *Caesarea Trader* and is now back on her old route to Jersey from Portsmouth, where she was photographed by Darren Holdaway. *Commodore Goodwill* was only an infrequent visitor to Poole over the years.



Caesarea Trader

Another freight ferry, *MN Pelican*, made a final departure from Poole to Bilbao on 31st August. The *Pelican* has been a familiar sight, calling twice a week, since the beginning of 2016. However, the opening of the Bayonne (southwest France) to Cherbourg rail link for freight trailers earlier this summer means traffic is now carried by train, so Brittany Ferries has no further use for her. We wish her and her crew well for the future.



MN Pelican loading at Poole

The port's second cruise ship call of the year occurred on 17th August when the small *Hebridean Princess* arrived from Portland so her passengers could visit Kingston Lacy. A past visitor to Poole, *Hebridean Princess* returned on 25th August but this time enabling her passengers to visit the RNLI College. The 72m ship has an interesting history, built in 1964 as the MacBrayne car ferry *Columba* for service around Scotland. In 1988 she was acquired by Hebridean Island Cruises and, following a refit, emerged as the luxurious 48-passenger cruise ship *Hebridean Princess*. During 2009 she was chartered by Queen Elizabeth II for an 80th birthday cruise around the Scottish Islands. The late Queen obviously enjoyed her time on board, as she chartered the ship again the following year.



Hebridean Princess

Photos taken by Kevin Mitchell unless otherwise stated.

MAN WHO WAS TRADITION ON PRE-WAR BOURNEMOUTH BEACHES IS DEAD

Bournemouth Daily Echo 11 August 1958

With the death of Bill Bailey, the Bournemouth photographer, at the age of 82, a piece of old Bournemouth has died too. He was a man whose name was linked within the town throughout the word.

His full name was Ernest Benjamin Bailey and in the heyday of his profession he became a beach tradition. He died at St Leonard's Hospital.



Bill Bailey

Bill Bailey was the man with a pair of steps and a whistle strapped to his wrist who photographed thousands and thousands of holiday makers in the balmy days before the war.



Bill in his beach days, was nearly as well-known as Bournemouth itself. During the war, wherever Bournemouth men went and the name of the town cropped up, someone was sure to ask, "Do you know the man with the whistle?" They heard it in Calcutta, in Singapore, in the Arakan.

But the third day of September 1939 spelled for a time the end of a Bournemouth tradition. Bill Bailey clicked the shutter on the last holiday maker and climbed down his steps for the last time.

For the next five years beaches were to be no places for taking photographs.

When I met Bill Bailey after the war he was working in his studio below street level in Glen Fern Gardens off the busy Old Christchurch Road and instead of taking pictures on the beach he was living a quieter life taking ordered photographs of weddings and parties.

OTTER BANK



Postcard in PMT archives

Otter Bank was a six-and-a-half-ton cabin cruiser, built c.1923-1926. Otter Bank provided full banking facilities in the North islands of Orkney from 1962-1970. The service was started in 1962 by the National Commercial Bank of Scotland and ten islands in the Group were visited. The boat passed into private ownership outside Orkney after closure. When her last owner put her up for sale in 2007, she was bought by the OIC's museum service with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Fund for Acquisitions. The Friends of Orkney Boat Museum and NorthLink Ferries provided support to bring her home and she is now on display at the Scapa Flow Visitor Centre at Lyness.



Taken from website

For further details of restorations see
Orkney Historic Boat Society website
(www.ohbd.net)

OLD NEWSPAPER SNIPPETS

Salisbury & Winchester Journal
Saturday 18 December 1853

Messrs Meaden and Saunders of Hamworthy, Poole on Monday morning launched a very handsome schooner on the model of the celebrated Aberdeen clipper. There were as usual a large number of spectators. The vessel is of the burthen [tonnage] of 200 tons and is expected to prove a very fast sailer.



Bristol Daily Post
13th July 1860

Great catch of mackerel – A most extraordinary quantity of mackerel was caught in Poole Bay on Friday night last by the fishermen of that place. It was estimated that as many as 600,000 were drawn on the shore at one time and many other minor draughts have been taken. Numerous carts were despatched into the county and a ready sale was obtained. In order to make a clearance they were sold at 3d and 4d a dozen to the inhabitants, which proved a boon, meat being now at so high a price. The fishermen must have reaped a rich harvest from the quantity caught.

FAIRMILE "B" LAUNCHES

These vessels were used extensively in the St Nazaire raid in WW2. When one of them was trying to escape, it was attacked by a German destroyer. The machine gun operator in the ML fired to the last when the vessel was sinking. The Commander of the German destroyer recommended that he be awarded the Victoria Cross. This was duly awarded posthumously. The only instance I think in warfare where an enemy has made such a recommendation, certainly in WW2.

The first photograph (below) shows two converted WW2 Fairmile 'B' launches in St. Peter Port in 1950. They were "FLEET COMMODORE" and "SILVER COMMODORE". Many of these versatile vessels operated as passenger boats for many years after the war.

The "SILVER COMMODORE" was later purchased by J. Bolson of Poole and renamed "SWANAGE BELLE" ("WESSEX BELLE" towards the end of her career) operating cruises around Poole Harbour and linking Bournemouth with Swanage.



Photo : Simon Masterton.

The image below shows the vessel as "SWANAGE BELLE" alongside Bournemouth Pier on a wet morning.



TURLAND AWARD 2025

The Turland Award is awarded annually to a student of AUB who has shown the greatest promise in the preceding year. It is awarded in memory of Frank & Mary Turland, inaugural joint secretaries of Poole Maritime Trust.

This year, we were delighted to share the award between two exciting young students: Grace Newton (BA Costume) and Lydia Ward (BA (hons) Fashion).

Note: AUB - Arts University Bournemouth



Autumn Luncheon – Wednesday 24th September 2025

You are invited to apply for tickets at £30.00 per head to attend the Autumn Luncheon at The Royal Motor Yacht Club on Wednesday 24th September at 12:00 for 12:30

The talk will be by John Megoran - 'Keeping Paddle Steamers Afloat'

MAIN

A

Roasted Chicken Breast stuffed with Sundried Tomato & Spinach
Creamed Chicken Velouté, Seasonal Vegetables and Parmentier Potatoes

B

Pan Seared Seabass served with Dill Butter Sauce
Seasonal Vegetables and Parmentier Potatoes

C

Tomato & Mediterranean Vegetable Risotto
Basil Pesto & Parmesan Crisp **(Vegetarian)**

DESSERT

A

White Chocolate & Raspberry Crème Brûlée
with Homemade Shortbread

B

Lemon Tart with Raspberry Sorbet and Berry Coulis

Tea/Coffee included

POC: Julie Reid 01202 761380 or 07535713398 or
programme@poolemaritimetrust.org

Please book no later than 15th September 2025
Bookings after this date will not be accepted



To: Hon. Prog. Sec., Poole Maritime Trust, 6 Western Road, Canford Cliffs, Poole BH13 7BN

Kindly let me have (Qty) tickets at £30.00 each for the **Autumn Luncheon on Wednesday 24th September 2025**, for which I enclose a cheque made payable to **Poole Maritime Trust** for £..... or

Pay by BACS - Poole Maritime Trust : (Lloyds) 30-99-50 Acc no. 17098962 Ref: Autumn Lunch

Choices: Mains A.....B.....C..... Dessert A..... B.....

Mains A.....B.....C..... Dessert A..... B.....

Tea Coffee

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE CLEARLY STATE NAME OF EACH PERSON'S FOOD CHOICE (ANY FOOD ALLERGIES) GIVING THEIR NAME AND IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE TO SIT WITH SOMEONE. MANY THANKS.



Autumn/Spring Programme 2025/26

Poole Maritime Trust Talks at the Royal Motor Yacht Club Sandbanks, Poole BH13 7RE

24 September 2025 12.00 for 12.30pm	Poole Maritime Trust Autumn Luncheon at RMYC John Megoran 'Keeping Paddle Steamers Afloat'
16 October 2025 8.00pm	Peter Lamb & Chris Wood 'Confessions of a Cruise Escort'
20 November 2025 8.00pm	Alan Watson HMS ML 1387 Harbour Defence Motor Launch & The Medusa Trust
7 January 2026 12.00 for 12:30pm	Poole Maritime Trust New Year Luncheon at RMYC Mike Randall Smuggling from 1797 - the stories of local Dorset people involved in this 'trade'
15 January 2026 8.00pm	Kit Pearce 'Closure, Storage & Re-Opening of Poole Museum'
19 February 2026 8.00pm	Philip Beale 2008-2010 Phoenician Ship Expedition
19 March 2026 8.00pm	David Bailey - Wildlife Photographer.
15 April 2026 11.00 for 11:30am	Poole Maritime Trust AGM & Luncheon at RMYC Speaker: TBC Luncheon to follow

Poole Maritime Trust members may purchase drinks from the main bar (if the upstairs bar is not manned.)

There are disabled facilities on the ground floor and facilities on the first floor.

If you arrive by car there is parking on the main road, Panorama Road. If arriving by Taxi the main entrance to the RMYC is off Old Coastguard Road.



SOCIETY FOR POOLE

PROGRAMME 2025 / 2026

All meetings are held at the Oakdale Club, 92 Darbys Lane, Poole BH15 3EU 7pm for 7.30pm

16th September	Guildhall Open Morning 10-12 (DAHW)
16th September	Isaac Gulliver – the Dorset smuggler Richard Hutley
21st October	Poole Beaches 1920s / 1930s Ken Standing
18th November	Poole Museum Project Kit Pearce
20th January	History of Tank Museum, Bovington James Donaldson
17th February	RNLI Poole David Richmond-Coggan
17th March	Downstream Dorset Rivers Mary van Coller
21st April	AGM
19th May	Tales of the riverbank (Stour & Avon)

For full details see the Society for Poole website

www.societyforpoole.org

WANTED

If readers can assist in respect of any of the following it would be greatly appreciated by the Poole Maritime Trust team at Canford Cliffs.

HISTORIC ARTICLES AND IMAGES relating to all aspects of Poole Harbour and the maritime industry are always welcome.

Please be sure never to dispose of any historical maritime ephemera or artifacts. The Trust is actively seeking material to boost our excellent collection. We can call and collect, or donors are welcome to visit the Trust offices at Canford Cliffs Library.

VISITORS to the library are always welcome. We are open each Thursday from 10.00 – 13.00. Park freely in the library car park, walk through the white gate and turn left around the back and into the building (it is signposted). We are upstairs.

VOLUNTEERS are keenly sought to assist the archive team. Much of the work can be undertaken from home.