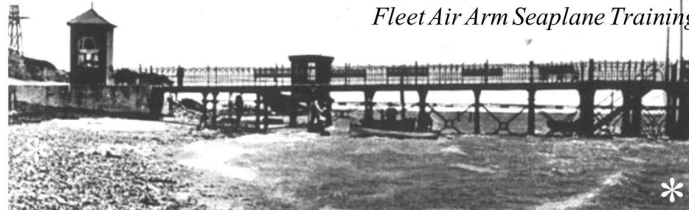


... Haventide... ?



Below: *The Pier at Sandbanks which was dismantled with the imminent 'Threat of Invasion,' in May 1940, along with most local piers; excluding the twin Piers at the RMYC which were required for RNAS Sandbanks' Fleet Air Arm Seaplane Training*

Towards the end of Nov., the Bournemouth Echo Newspaper carried a story about the proposed redevelopment of a trio of properties in the **FJB Hotel Group**: the *Harbour Heights Hotel*, *Sandbanks Hotel* & the *Haven Hotel*; which as a new 20-storey set of units with a Penthouse Restaurant would give a potential basis for the total refurbishment of both the *Harbour Heights* & the *Sandbanks Hotels*. This would see significant local changes.



Below: *Southern Cross passes thro' the Haven in late August of 1976, with a memorable time for aviation enthusiasts just some 40 years ago !*

A significant part of the *Haven Hotel* dates back to 1887, when it replaced the *Haven Inn* of 1838; and rose to international fame when **Guglielmo Marconi** conducted his wireless expts. from there, for nearly 3 decades 'till 1926, when the Hotel had a further make-over with the latest innovations. Latest upgrades such as the Business Centre replaced outbuildings e.g the stable-block accommodation.



Over the years many illustrious visitors have stayed at the Hotel... which would have significantly included **the Royal Family** etc., when it was planned to attend the **Centennial Celebrations for New Zealand** at the start of 1940...due to depart Poole on 4th. January.

Yet, despite 'the Phoney War' **King George VI and Q.E.** were strongly advised not to take such a risk to journey to Wellington! Instead, **Lord & Lady Willingdon** replaced them /stayed overnight at the Haven Hotel before transferring to the Empire Class-Leader FB *Canopus* from Sandbanks Pier with their entourage + luggage.

A second C-Class *VH-ABE Coorong* took over at Karachi to arrive in Wellington with New Zealander Capt. Bill Madge at the controls. In the following months the *Haven Hotel* passed from the **Imperial Airways** (then subsumed by BOAC) to control of *Combined Ops...* Flights were boarded elsewhere... and with the *Threat of Invasion* defensive measures continued and Sandbanks Pier was demolished.

PFBC Honorary Positions & Life Members

Foundation Trustees: Ken Sanson, Harry Alexander, Bertie Bowman, + Aimée (now Coord for PFBC Projects); Archive Adviser: Mike Phipp

PFBC ACTs: Val Lewis, Terry + Stephanie Mobley & Heather Sturman

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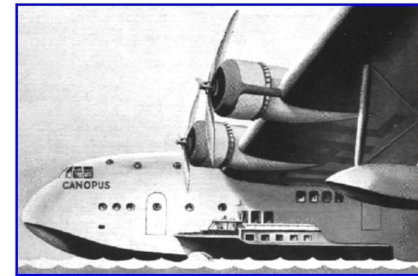
Senior 'Hons.'
within PFBC

Honorary President: Jeremy Waters

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Poole Flying Boats Celebration

Charity No. 1123274



Trustee Newsletter:
Christmas 2016

THE 'OPUS

www.pooleflyingboats.com (THE 'OPUS in colour)

"Wishing You All a Very Happy Christmas..."

The Return of the Golden Hind (Stag) to Poole ?

Poole Harbour has during the latter months of the year been very much in the *social media spotlight* with **Autumnwatch**, which came from Arne and focussed on the western shores with further excursions to Dorset Heathland & Brownsea Is. [Apparently *Winterwatch* is also planned to come from Arne]

A little earlier some U-Tube snippets taken locally went viral for **Sikha Deer** were amazingly filmed /photographed whilst swimming right across the harbour from **S. Poole's shorelines**: - Parkstone Bay, Whitley Bay, even North Haven & Sandbanks apparently safely heading for Studland, Brownsea Is. & Arne !

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2016/sep/20/deer-skips-across-poole-harbour-at-sunrise-video>

In the Flying Boat era the **Runways** had to be cleared of debris + possibly occasional deer (*though no record has been noted*). During WW2 fishing/sailing were restricted to upper reaches of the Wareham Channel, as well as Lychett & Holes Bays etc. However, the **RNAS** had loaned boats for 'leisure and angling' which greatly augmented rations + the seasonal festivities! # *Any deer (ducks etc.) likely kept a very low profile at the time*



Our Brilliant Entertainers

Jimmy Perry & David Croft receive their deserved OBEs for services to entertainment from a golden era of sitcoms:

David was born to the couple of famous stage entertainers Annie Croft & Reg Sharland (md 1915 ~ divorced 1931) at Sandbanks on 7 Sept 1922



Courtesy Rex Features

On 23rd Oct. we lost highly talented comedy writer Jimmy Perry, during a week when the St. George's Day episode of *Dad's Army* co-written with David Croft was being shown again on television:

He also made us laugh with another comedy genius Jeremy Lloyd, but of all his enduring brilliant sitcoms, *Dad's Army* has resonance with Poole for David Croft was born here & used local encounters to develop some of his beloved characterisations and situations... whilst living in Sandbanks & being an Air Raid Precautions Warden deployed in the Upper Parkstone Area, before he joined the Army.

He had been educated at Durlston Court School, Swanage & Rugby. It is reckoned that the character of Capt. Mainwaring was variously based on both Colonel Bersey who was Commodore of the RMYC and pottery entrepreneur Major Carter, with his prominent profile as Field Security Officer with BOAC - and also Poole's Home Guard Units eg the large local group which was initially based at Salterns.

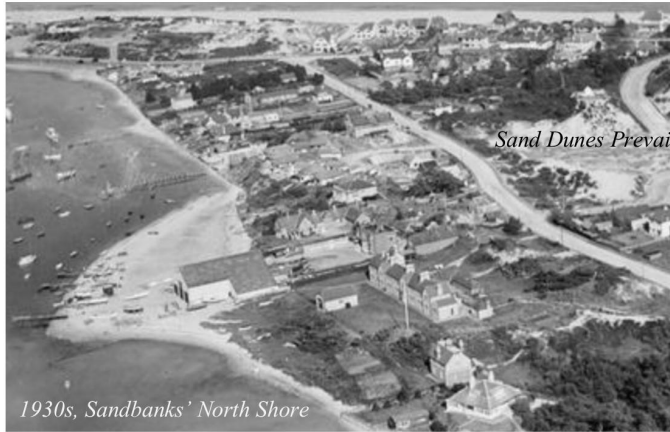
So David Croft experienced the wartime role for the RMYC in 1940 as RNAS Sandbanks with arrival of Fleet Air Arm's 765 Squadron for Seaplane Training, and Military Control of the Sandbank's Area with plenty of material for his future plots, interactions and stories; next enlisting in the Dorset Regiment in North Africa etc. and with the Royal Artillery. Following his further training at Sandhurst 1942 he served as an Officer posted to India etc. with the Essex Regiment, until demob in 1947, when he entered the entertainment industry, pursuing a career inspired by his parents who were famous players, with opportunities producing for *Butlins* before his writing success. Throughout his rise to fame he retained a holiday flat in Sandbanks. [Jimmy Perry was also ex-Home Guard, Royal Artillery & *Butlins*]

PFBC is looking for evidence he once journeyed by Poole Flying Boat !



The first family home in the Sandbanks area was called 'Sharcroft' after bringing the pair of surnames Sharland and Croft together... When Reg Sharland moved to Hollywood to pursue his radio career Annie Croft stayed behind with her two sons who used her surname.

It is known that the family bungalow was only a short distance from the RMYC... and that the name was probably changed to 'Laguna'. Yet when David tried to identify the exact location of his former home He found it very difficult to recall all the various landmarks as the place had been changed so considerably over the years, especially the sand dunes, and the slacks where the little properties once lay !



Sand Dunes Prevail

1930s, Sandbanks' North Shore

Another local lad from Sandbanks was also to play a significant role in the programme *Dad's Army* being accepted by the BBC, this was the younger son of the great Bandleader Billy Cotton... Born as William Frederick Cotton, he became better known as Bill Cotton often referred to as Bill Cotton Junior (later Sir Bill).



William Frederick 'Bill' Cotton born 1928: As the BBC's Head of Light Entertainment from 1970 to 1977 Bill lead the production of a terrific range of delightful programmes from the Two Ronnies, Morecombe & Wise, to the unique Monty Python's Flying Circus and not forgetting our enduring *Dad's Army*. Sir Bill died locally in 2008 aged 80 years.

It so happened that after 22 years of very hard work at the BBC, Bill had just been appointed a senior producer in BBC Television aged only 40 when he was able to recommend taking *Dad's Army*.

Within 2 years he was appointed the Head of Light Entertainment and was able to enjoy the many accolades for his great successes.



Photo: Hugh Insley-Fox

Billy Cotton with Bosun Charlie Hayes and the RMYC's Launch

Billy Cotton was responsible for Sir Bill's association with Sandbanks, their local homes and membership of the RMYC, with a succession of motor cruisers bearing the famous name *Wakey-Wakey* (after his popular, well-known catchphrase) ! ...And as a former member of the RFC from the Great War he was delighted to loan his boat to the RNAS Sandbanks !



Courtesy of Poole History Online

A Poole Unit of the Home Guard On Parade circa 1944

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and please mark clearly who you are contacting... This now includes PFBC's set of ACT's as new Advisers to the Trustees with various other assisting capacities...