

# Streets of Bournemouth Politics & Local Government

As Bourne began to grow in the 1840s, local people realised that to become the country's premier resort as suggested by Dr. Granville in 1841, they needed control of their own affairs. In particular they need to construct sewers to make sure that the town and its water were clean. They wanted to build a pier and provide better facilities for their growing number of visitors. So a small group of local landowners and businessmen chaired by the Reverend Morden Bennett was set up.

The Bournemouth Improvement Act 1856 gave these powers to the Bournemouth Improvement Commissioners. It also fixed the first formal boundary for Bournemouth.

It became a Municipal Borough in 1890. By the end of the 19th Century, the town gained separate powers from the County of Hampshire when it became a County Borough. The present-day boundaries were fixed in 1931-2 when first Kinson and Holdenhurst and then Hengistbury Head were added. The town's separate existence was lost in 1974 when the town was absorbed into the New County of Dorset, only to get back its independence in 1997 when it became a Unitary Authority.



The Town  
Hall





## **POLITICS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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

**Liberties, hundreds and tythings**

**Becoming a County Borough**

**National Government**

### **Liberties, hundreds and tythings**

The structure of local government in Bournemouth today is very different from what it was 200 years ago. In 1800 local administration was organised under a system based on land tenure descended from medieval times. These have unfamiliar names today such as hundreds, tythings and libertys, but include the more familiar shires and parishes. The administrative units could have different boundaries and could overlap each other.

At the end of the 18th century, the site of Bournemouth was situated partly in the parish of Christchurch and in the chapelry of Holdenhurst. The whole area comprising the Liberty of Westover which itself formed part of the Manor of Christchurch. The Lord of the Manor ruled within a hierarchy of land tenure granted at the highest level by the monarch. At the end of the 18th century the Lord of the Manor of Christchurch was Sir George Ivison Tapps and the title has descended through the family to the present day Meyrick family of Hinton Admiral.

A liberty was a unit of local government where the land was held by a senior lord and independent from the system of hundreds and boroughs. For most of its history the Liberty of Westover was co-owned with the Manor of Christchurch. The Liberty was divided into six tythings. Muscliff, Muccleshell, Throop, Holdenhurst were in the chapelry of Holdenhurst and Iford (including Pokesdown) and Tuckton (including Wick) were part of the parish of Christchurch. .

Shires, or counties, were divided into hundreds and tythings. A hundred was a division of the shire for administrative, military and judicial purposes. Tythings were a smaller unit within hundreds originally a grouping of ten households.



By the 19th century several single-purpose subdivisions of counties, such as poor law unions, sanitary districts, and highway districts were established, filling the administrative role previously played by hundreds.

A borough was a town which had been granted elements of self-government and was eligible to send members to parliament. County boroughs were introduced in 1889 and were completely independent of the County Councils.

To the west of the Liberty of Westover was the town of Poole which had been a borough since 1342. Christchurch to the east has a very ancient history but did not receive a charter of incorporation until 1886.

## Becoming a county borough

The Bournemouth Improvement Act of 1856 introduced aspects of self-government to the growing town. It allowed for the collection of a local rate from owners of houses of an annual value of £7 to pay for public utilities such as pavements, lighting and sewage. The Act was administered by the Board of Improvement Commissioners consisting of thirteen elected members together with the Lord of the Manor and his nominee as permanent members. Members had to own a property with a rateable value of £30 within the boundary or no more than a mile outside. Local landowners and tradesmen were equally represented on the first board but the enthusiasm of the landowners was short-lived and after 1873 they took no further part in the Board of Improvement. It is likely that their allegiance was not to the new town but their existing interests and activities. Whatever the reason the inactivity of the landowners led to the creation of an imaginative and independent local authority.

The next significant step towards self-government was on 23rd July 1890 when Queen Victoria granted Bournemouth its Charter of Incorporation. This gave Bournemouth the legal status of a town and greater powers of self-government by electing a town council and a mayor. The first election of councillors was held in November 1890 and continued annually until the month was altered to May in 1949.

Name	Position	Main holdings
Sir George Elliott Meyrick Tapps-Gervis-Meyrick	Lord of the manor	Meyrick Estate
Decimus Burton	Nominated by Lord of Manor	
Samuel Bayly	Hotelier	Belle Vue Hotel (?)
William Clapcott Dean	Landowner	Cooper Dean Estate
Robert Kerley	Landowner & developer	Alum Cliff Estate
George Ledgard	Landowner	Westover Road
Charles William Packe	Landowner	Branksome Tower Estate
William Robson	Unknown	
Thomas Shettle	Landowner	
David Tuck	Builder	Gervis Estate
John Tregonwell	Landowner	Tregonwell Estate
Samuel Thompson	Unknown	
William Esdaile Winter	Solicitor	Branksome Estate

Table 1: The first Improvement Commissioners



The newly incorporated Borough was divided into six wards, each with three directly elected councillors. In addition to councillors, there were to be six Aldermen, one for each ward, who were elected by the councillors themselves. For the first election in 1890 there were 37 candidates including some members of the former Improvement Board. A significant number of the Corporation continued to be builders, in the building trade, or house agents. While this was similar to other towns it was particularly evident in Bournemouth. The council was dominated by people who particularly favoured the building of amenities to attract visitors and the new authority followed a vigorous programme of activity. The predominance of those from the building trade and related industries persisted throughout the period 1890 to 1914. In the 1905 election one candidate in the Malmesbury Park Ward commented in the Bournemouth Visitors Directory that there were too many builders on the council.

The earliest elections were free of party politics and candidates campaigned on local issues. The political persuasion of the candidate was not mentioned in the nomination lists which appeared in the Bournemouth Visitors' Directory. If candidates adopted a Conservative or Liberal label they still tended to act as individuals, speaking and voting as they felt fit. The first official Labour Party candidate stood in the Springbourne Ward in 1912.

Only ten years later Bournemouth Borough Council sought the wider powers that would result from becoming a County Borough and autonomy from Hampshire County Council. Bournemouth became a County Borough on 1st April 1900 and the sole administrative authority for the former Liberty of Westover. Once established as a County Borough the ward boundaries were re-drawn and the number increased to eleven. The change to borough status forced a new election of all councillors. The increased number of wards and councillors introduced a greater diversity in the occupations of the candidates. Builders and related trades were still an important factor but more tradesmen stood reflecting the growing commercial nature of the town.

Streets of  
Bournemouth





## **The town's Mayors**

The Chairmen of the Improvement Board were often mistakenly considered to be the mayor of Bournemouth and were sometimes referred to as such in the newspaper. Incorporation was first proposed for the Town in 1883 in order to elect a mayor who would be a recognised head to represent the Town at municipal and ceremonial functions. The composition of the early council was primarily made up from builders, shop trades and hoteliers. This was reflected in the occupations of the early mayors. The table above lists the names, occupations and birthplace of the mayors of Bournemouth up to Local Government Reorganisation in 1974.

In 2010 the Mayor takes precedence over all persons within the Borough including visiting Lord Mayors, Mayors and Town Mayors apart from members of the Royal Family or the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset. The Mayor is the First Citizen of Bournemouth, representing the Council and is a public relations officer for the town. The councillors elect the mayor who also has to be a serving councillor. This has not always been the case, as Merton Russell-Cotes who was mayor from 1894-1895 had not been elected to the Borough Council. The mayor-elect for 2010-2011 is Cllr. Barry Goldbart of Westbourne and West Cliff Ward.

Year of election	Mayor	Business or Occupation	Place of Birth
Nov 1890	Thomas James Hankinson	Land Agent	Norfolk
1891	Edward Wise Rebbeck	Estate Agent	Poole
1892	Henry Newlyn 1 <sup>st</sup> term	Hotelier	Dorset
1893	George Merriman Hiron	Doctor	Birmingham
1894	Merton Russell-Cotes	Hotelier	Wolverhampton
1895	Henry Newlyn 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	As above 1892	
1896	James Atkinson Hosker	Doctor & Surgeon	Liverpool
1897	William Mattocks	Tradesman	Coventry
1898	William Hoare	Builder	Dorset
1899	John Clark Webber	Hotelier	Dorset
1900	George Joseph Lawson	Builder	Hampshire
1901	George Frost	Doctor	Surrey
1902-1904	John Elmes Beale	Tradesman	Dorset
1905-1906	John Aldridge Parsons	Tradesman	Dorset
1907-1909	George Edward Bridge	Pharmacy	Kent
1910	Charles Hunt	Builder	Bournemouth
1911-1914	Henry Seymour McCalmont Hill	Retired	SW England
1914-1915	James Druitt	Solicitor	Christchurch
1915-17	Henry Robson	Tradesman	Yorkshire
1917-18	Edward Ernest Bishop	Tradesman	Dorset
1919-1922	Charles Henry Cartwright 1 <sup>st</sup> term	Hotelier	Unknown
1923 (part)	Thomas Bodley Scott (died during Office)	Doctor	Sussex
1923 (part)-1924	Frederick Skinner Mate	Tradesman	Bournemouth
1925-1927	Harry John Thwaites	Shopkeeper	London
1928	Charles Henry Cartwright	As above	
1929-1931	Percy May Bright	Tradesman	India
1932-1934	John Robert Edgecombe	Tradesman	Devon
1935	Henry George Harris	Tradesman	Bristol
1936	Thomas Victor Rebbeck	Surveyor	Bournemouth
1937	John Bennett Cole Beale	Tradesman	Dorset
1938	Isaac William Dickinson	Building trade	Lincoln
1939	Percy Wilfred Tom Hayward	Builder	Dorset
1940	Alfred Herbert Little	Grocer	London
1941	John James Empson	Retired	London
1942	Frank Bassett Summerbee	Shopkeeper	Southampton
1943	Jabez Richards	Retired	Cornwall
1944	Harry Charles Brown	Hotelier	Kent
1945	Robert Charles Henry Old	Shopkeeper	Cumberland



1946-May 1949	John William Moore	Master baker	Nottinghamshire
May 1949	James Hugh Turner	Retired	Herefordshire
1950	Sydney Arthur Thomson	Hairdresser	Bournemouth
1951	Frank James McInnes	Hotelier	Eire
1952	Harold Alfred Benwell	Insurance Broker	Essex
1953	Harry Percival Evelyn Mears 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Cinema owner	Sussex
1954	George Smith	Shopkeeper	Lancashire
1955	Donald Nelson Willoughby	Estate Agent	London
1956	Philip George Templeman	Stonemason	Bournemouth
1957	William James Whitelock	Transport	Bournemouth
1958	Henry Brown	Hotelier	Yorkshire
1959	Louis Victor Barney	Not known	London

1960	Bessie Bicknell The first woman Mayor	Hotelier	Cornwall
1961	Deric Sidney Scott	Funeral Director	Bournemouth
1962	Alban Ernest James Adams	Building trade	Bournemouth
1963	Harry Percival Evelyn Mears 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	As above 1953	
1964 (part year)	Harold Alfred Benwell (died during Office)	No details	
1964 (part year)	Harry Percival Evelyn Mears 3rd Term	As above 1953	
1965	Reginald Sylvester Morris	Law	Coventry
1966	Philip Gordon Whitelegg	Estate agent	Cheshire
1967	Frank Alfred William Purdy	Hotelier & shopkeeper	Poole
1968	Michael William Green	Publican	Bournemouth
1969	Basil Ewart David Beckett	Estate Agent & Manager	Bournemouth
1970	Edwin Alfred Lane	Hotelier & Engineer	Coventry
1971	Richard Ayton Judd	Building trade	London
1972	Lesley Mary Swetenham	Engineer	India
1973	Bertram George Dillon	Retired	Devon
The Mayoral Year ended on 30 <sup>th</sup> March 1974 as Bournemouth lost its County Borough status and was transferred into the County of Dorset on 1st April.			

For 74 years Bournemouth remained a County Borough. But Local Government reorganisation in 1974 thrust Bournemouth back into partial county control when the Government abolished County Boroughs.



Table 3: List of current Honorary Aldermen 2010.

Names of Honorary Alderman
Mr Alderman D J Trenchard
Mr Alderman K R Thomason, OBE
Mr Alderman Vic Williams
Mr Alderman Adrian Fudge
Honorary Aldermen who are also ex-mayors
Alderman Mrs S McQueen
Alderman Dr G V Jaffé, MBBS(London), MRCS, LRCP
Alderman Mrs. J Curtis
Mr. Alderman P Whitelegg (Hon Freeman)
Mr. Alderman K Rawlings
Mr. Alderman D Eyre
Alderman Mrs. J Harris, MBE
Alderman Mrs. B Siberry
Alderman Mrs. Pamela Harris
Mr. Alderman Jim Courtney
Alderman Mrs. J Moore
Alderman Dr J Millward
Alderman Mrs. E Morrell-Cross

It was considered desirable that the whole of conurbation of Poole Bournemouth and Christchurch should be part of the same county so Bournemouth and Christchurch were transferred into the county of Dorset. Although a shock for the people of Bournemouth who had been "Hampshire Hogs" for less than 200 years, it was much more of a shock for the people of the Christchurch who had been part of Hampshire for at least 1,000 years. Hampshire had a much better cricket team for a start! Some local authority functions remained at Bournemouth Town Hall but others such as libraries, social services and education, the fire service and the courts came under the jurisdiction of County Hall in Dorchester. However within one generation the situation was largely reversed when Bournemouth became a unitary authority in 1997.

In 2010 Bournemouth celebrates its Bi-centenary. It is a unitary authority within the geographical county of Dorset and formerly the historic county of Hampshire.

Date	Event	Governing body	
1856	Bournemouth Improvement Act	Improvement Commissioners	Meetings held at the Belle Vue Hotel.
1875			Town Hall opens in Yelverton Road
1890	Charter of Incorporation	The Municipal Borough of Bournemouth	Pulchritudo et Salubritas
1900		The County Borough of Bournemouth	
1921			The new Town Hall opens in the former Mont Dore Hotel
1974	Local Government Reorganisation	Dorset County Council	Bournemouth & Christchurch move from Hampshire to Dorset
1997	Unitary Status	Bournemouth Borough Council	Bournemouth and Poole are regarded as part of Dorset for ceremonial purposes

*Table 4: Table Summary of sequence of local government*

Borough Extensions		
1856	Bournemouth Commissioners' District	A Circle of the Radius of a Mile centred on the front door of the Belle Vue Hotel
1876	Boscombe & Springbourne	
1884	Westbourne, Malmesbury Park & remainder of Boscombe	
1895	Malmesbury Park (remainder)	
1901	Pokesdown & Winton, remainder of Boscombe, & Southbourne	
1914	Queen's Park, Lower Charminster & Strouden	
1931	Holdenhurst & Kinson	
1932	Hengistbury Head	

*Table 5. Addition of new lands to the Borough*



## **National Government**

While things were mostly going on quietly in the far southwest corner of Hampshire great matters were being debated in Parliament. The Representation of the People Act commonly known as the Great Reform Act was passed in 1832 bringing changes to the electoral system. The Act resolved inconsistencies in the House of Commons whereby small older county boroughs were represented by several MPs but the new industrial cities with much larger populations could only return one MP, or even none at all. The Act also increased the number of men who were eligible to vote by 60%. This was long before the principle of one man one vote, and certainly women were not eligible to vote at all.

Eligible voters from the small settlement at Bourne and the parish of Holdenhurst voted in the Christchurch constituency. When the Act became law Christchurch was represented by a single MP rather than the two Members it had been sending since 1561. The MPs were primarily aristocrats and even the more radical MPs still mostly supported landed interests. The first MP to be elected in the 1832 election was Sir George William-Tapps-Gervis.

Universal male suffrage for men over the age of 21 was introduced in 1918 together with married women over the age of 30. Universal female suffrage for women over 21 was introduced in 1928. The voting age for men and women was reduced to 18 years in 1969. Eligible voters in Bournemouth had their own polling station in the town in 1865 but Bournemouth did not have its own MP until 1918 when Henry Page Croft was the winning candidate. He had previously been the MP for Christchurch. All the Bournemouth constituencies have returned members from the Conservative Party.

Date	Constituency Name
Pre 1918	Before 1918 the County Borough of Bournemouth was included in the Christchurch constituency.
1918	Bournemouth became a parliamentary borough.  (Christchurch became part of the New Forest and Christchurch constituency.)
1950	Bournemouth was divided into two constituencies. Bournemouth East & Christchurch, and Bournemouth West.
1974	The Bournemouth constituencies were rationalised into Bournemouth East, and Bournemouth West.(Christchurch became part of the Christchurch & Lymington Constituency)
From 2010	The Bournemouth West constituency will include Branksome and part of Alderney from Poole Constituency.  Bournemouth East will gain Eastcliff and Springbourne, Moordown, and Queen's Park wards from Bournemouth West.

*Table 6: Bournemouth Constituencies*

Many of the politicians who came to Christchurch stayed for a short while and then moved on, some left their mark. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff was MP for Christchurch between 1874-1880. During the time he was MP for Christchurch he lived in Boscombe where he developed the Boscombe Spa estate and played an active role in the public life of Bournemouth. Roumelia Lane in Boscombe is named after Eastern Roumelia part of present-day Bulgaria. It was under Turkish rule when Drummond went on a special mission to Constantinople on behalf of the Government. Sir Henry was also the founder member of the Primrose League an organisation for promoting Conservative Party principles. It was founded in 1883 and active until the 1990s. Lady Wimborne was one of the committee of the Ladies Branch and Grand Council.

Other MPs had local connections. Edward Alfred John Harris born in 1808 was the second son of the second Earl of Malmesbury. He became a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy in 1828 and followed a career in the Navy eventually achieving Rear-Admiral. He became the MP for Christchurch in 1844 but only served for one term. He was to become an Ambassador to Peru, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Lt Col Kenneth R. Balfour was MP for Christchurch from 1900-1906 and also the owner of Brownsea Island for a while. He purchased the island in Poole Harbour in 1891 but sold it ten years later.



## European Parliament

People on the electoral roll in Bournemouth have been able to vote for MEP candidates in direct elections to the European Parliament since 1979. The system of voting has changed from 'first past the post' to Proportional Representation.

Name of European Parliamentary Constituency	Dates	Boundary	Number of MEPs elected & system
Wessex	1979-1984	The parliamentary constituencies of Bournemouth <b>East</b> , <b>Bournemouth West</b> , Christchurch & Lymington, North Dorset, Poole, South Dorset, Westbury and West Dorset	1 First past the post
Dorset East and Hampshire West	1984-1994	The parliamentary constituencies of <b>Bournemouth East</b> , <b>Bournemouth West</b> , Christchurch, New Forest, North Dorset, Poole, Romsey and Waterside and South Dorset	1 First past the post
Dorset and East Devon	1994-1999	The parliamentary constituencies of <b>Bournemouth East</b> , <b>Bournemouth West</b> , Honiton, North Dorset, Poole, South Dorset and West Dorset	1 First past the post
Southwest	1999	Former MEP constituencies of Bristol, Cornwall and West Plymouth, Devon and East Plymouth, <b>Dorset</b> and East Devon, Somerset and North Devon, Wiltshire North and Bath, and parts of Cotswolds.	7 Proportional representation
	2009		6 Proportional representation
	2004		From the 2004 election the Southwest constituency included Gibraltar

## Women

The Municipal Franchise Act 1869 gave women ratepayers the vote in the election of Councillors but this was confined to single and widowed women as married women were not permitted to use the property qualifications of their husbands. This changed in 1894 when married women were allowed to vote on the same terms as men and also to serve as Councillors. Women were a significant force in Bournemouth municipal elections. In the Boscombe West Ward the number of women eligible to vote was 336 equal to that of 337 men registered. Of the first two women to put themselves forward as candidates one was 'the wife of Mr. Tiller and the other was a Dyer and Cleaner'. Neither was successful. The story of Bournemouth has strong links to the weather and the Bournemouth Visitors' Directory felt the weather had an influence on whether women cast their



vote. It reported in the 1892 election 'the favourable weather allowed the ladies to come out and cast their vote'. The role of women in local government was accepted if they kept to the 'soft' topics such as education, poor law, and hospital work while men dealt with the 'hard' topics – war, commerce, empire, and finance.

During 1913 various meetings were held in Bournemouth in support of the Suffragists under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) founded in 1907. Little progress had been made and during 1912-1913 a national campaign began of direct military action. On one occasion Dr Stancombe from Southampton addressed a meeting of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) in the Town Hall Assembly Rooms. He said how women were 'crowded out of public life' and 'kept in a state of domestic slavery.' The Bournemouth Graphic newspaper reported a meeting held at St Peters Hall in May where the police were called to 'hold the door against the "anti's"' and later escort the speakers from the hall. The meeting should have been addressed by Flora Drummond, but she had been summoned to attend Bow Street Court in London and would be imprisoned 9 times for her activities in support of Women's Suffrage. One of the other speakers that evening was Ruth Cavendish Bentinck another active member of the suffragette movement but who was turning away from the more violent tactics of the WSPU and had joined the NUWSS. This did not stop the newspaper reporting 'As the militants and their friends departed they were subjected to many gibes from members of the large crowd that had assembled outside the hall.



## Law enforcement

Modern-day law enforcement began in 1829 with the introduction of the Metropolitan Police Force in London. Before then the system was based on Justices of the Peace (JPs), watch men, parish constables, and troops when required. At the end of the 18th century, crime, violence, corruption was on the increase together with riots and civil disobedience and there was concern that troops were being used to control civil matters. Non-compulsory legislation recommending that cities and boroughs introduce a police force had been ineffective but 1856 the Country and Borough Police Act compelled all cities and boroughs to introduce a police force.

Hampshire Constabulary was formed in 1839. Until 1856 Bournemouth did not have separate jurisdiction but was part of the Ringwood Petty Sessional Division with headquarters at Ringwood. The nearest policeman was in Holdenhurst. After 1856 all prisoners were taken to Christchurch magistrates. The first Bournemouth police station was built in Oxford Road in 1869 and the number of police stations grew rapidly as the town expanded. The Improvement Commissioners, and later the Council, wanted to have a police force independent from Hampshire, but despite continued attempts this would not happen for many years. If additional police were required they were called in from Ringwood.

A large number of extra police were on hand on the night of 5th November 1897 as previous Guy Fawkes nights had been a little too exciting for some people. The evening had been uneventful but shortly after midnight a few 'squibs and firecrackers' were set off in the town centre followed by a lighted tar barrel being rolled down Norwich Road and Avenue Road, accompanied by much shouting. Not a lot of damage was done but the newspapers reported that the conduct of some of the police was not to be commended and that a few "peaceful citizens" were molested by over zealous or over officious policemen, and in two or three instances were roughly handled.'

In 1913 the police were on duty in connection with suffragette meetings in order to protect women speakers who were 'subjected to much abuse and often physical violence from hostile crowds.' The work women did during the First World War helped them to gain the vote and this was mirrored in the work of auxiliary policewomen in the Second World War. In 1938 Hampshire Police Authority had refused Bournemouth Town Council's request for women police. At the beginning of the Second World War women were recruited as Women Police Auxiliaries first for administrative duties





and then later for uniformed patrols, eventually forming their own section. After many years of waiting Bournemouth also achieved its own Borough Police Force in March 1948. The new force was divided into a central division and a Boscombe division.

Crime within the Liberty of Westover was dealt with at the Petty Sessional Division of Hampshire in Ringwood. The more serious crimes would be heard at the Assize Court in Winchester. In 1894 a separate justices' clerk was appointed to the Bournemouth Sub-Division of Ringwood and courts were held in the town Hall on old Christchurch Road. When the Borough of Bournemouth was established in 1890 a Commission of the Peace was issued to the Borough in 1899 which had administrative responsibilities for licensing laws. The two-tier system of borough magistrates and county magistrates was merged into one when the new County Borough was created in 1910. New courts were opened in Stafford Road in 1914. Today Bournemouth has its own Crown Court just off Castle Lane East near the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Bournemouth Magistrates Court is in Stafford Road retaining links with the early days of civil and criminal justice in the town. Many cases were heard at the Stafford Road court but below is just one - a report of a case from the early days of flying.

Heavy Fine for Alleged Low Flying

Flight Magazine 17 June 1920

AT Bournemouth police court on June 10, Reginald Edmund Tollerfield, an air pilot, employed by the Bournemouth Aviation Co., answered two summonses taken out under the Air Navigation Regulations, 1919, one for flying over Bournemouth at a dangerously low altitude and the other for trick-flying over Bournemouth on May 9. Two R.A.F. officers gave evidence to the effect that defendant executed two Immelmann turns at an altitude of 500 to 600 ft. The defence was that the Immelmann turn was not trick-flying, but merely a quick way of turning. Defendant also stated that he did two Immelmann turns over the sea, and during his flight he was never under 1,500 ft. He could have glided down to the sands or to Meyrick Park had his engine failed. Mr. Tollerfield was fined £25 in each case — £50 in all—and costs.

Written by Louise Perrin, and based in part on a contribution by David Atkinson (the Town's MPs)