

Today's Activities

Poole Bay Rotary Club has organised today. The activities all derive from our experiences in the Pirates, Castaways & Codfish project. More at our website www.pirates2codfish.com

Pirates

In the 1580's, lots of pirates were about; locals and visitors. Studland Bay, renowned for its protection from the weather was a great place to sell their booty and their boats could be maintained and replenished with food and provisions.

Nine pirates were hung on Studland Beach in 1583; a warning to others against piracy, but it didn't make much difference. Pirates from France, Spain and North Africa were around too.

Poole seamen were important to the development of the town; as were the women.

Poole men went fishing for cod in Newfoundland, 2,300 miles away across the Atlantic each year; away for six months. Women managed things here meanwhile. Trade soon followed when settlement began in Newfoundland; the more so once colonial settlements started on the North American coast and in the Caribbean.

The cod trade largely served other European countries and Poole men produced the best dried and salted cod for their purposes. Often it was exchanged for other goods; wines, spirits and other valuable commodities.

Channel Island trade featured here in earlier times; wool and clothing from Poole, and beer and bread. Stockings, wines and other goods came back from the Islands.

Poole's coastal shipping also became steadily more important to the town in this period; firstly through the export of pipe clay and later with stone and gravel.

Poole's merchants established businesses that led to the fine Georgian Buildings here in Poole; many of them had humble beginnings as seamen.

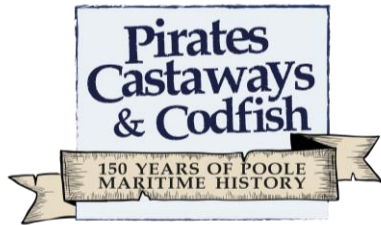
Two Poole characters

Two alleys off the Quay in 1751; Roger's lane and Bennett's Alley were perhaps named after two characters whose lives we researched in the project; or their families.

Royal Governor Woodes Rogers, a Poole boy brought up here and living in Thames Street when he was 9, and who after a move to Bristol trained as a sailor. Late in life he colonised the Bahamas, and dealt a death blow to the Golden Age of piracy in the Caribbean, when living in Nassau; he died there in 1732.

As a 28 year old Commander of two ships and over 300 men, on a round the world voyage in 1708, he discovered a castaway on a desert island off of Chile and subsequently captured a Spanish gold galleon, returning as a national hero in 1711. Daniel Defoe's a 'Robinson Crusoe' is assumed to have drawn extensively on Rogers' experiences.

Another son of Poole; Captain John Bennett, followed his dad in working for the Navy. He travelled all over the world doing hard 'convoy work' connected with wars, and somehow amassed a fortune leaving the equivalent in today's money of over £4m. We think he was probably involved in smuggling in Poole and in Barking, London, where he went to live in the 1690's.



Family Fun Day at Scaplen's Court

Today's activities

Storytelling: 11.15am and 2.30pm

Jane tells stories of her life in Poole in the early 1600s
20 mins approx. - Upstairs in the small playroom

'Mayhem at the Inn': 12pm, 1.15pm and 3.15pm

May 1623 a pirate's warning causes mayhem in Scaplen's Inn
30 mins approx. - Ground floor in the kitchen

Build a pirate ship: 11.30am-1pm and 1.30pm-3pm

Craft workshops for parents and children
2 sessions - Upstairs in the school room

Exhibition: all day

Discover more about Poole's history between 1580 and 1730
All day - Upstairs in the rear gallery

Sea Shanties: 12.30pm and 2pm

Wareham Whalers
30 mins approx - Upstairs in the Main Hall

Pirates, Castaways & Codfish: 11.15am and 2.30pm

Presentation on Poole's maritime heritage 1580 -1730
30 mins - Upstairs in Main Hall

Refreshments: 11.30am-3.30pm

Old Harry rock cakes, Jumbles (C17th biscuits), Honey Cake (C17th recipe); Tea/coffee/fruit juices
All day - Upstairs in Main Hall

The Scaplen's Court Players present
Mayhem at the Inn – Poole, May 1623

Performances begin at 12pm; 13.15 pm; 15.15 pm (30 mins approx)

Here we are at Scaplen's Inn, part of this lovely C15th building. Watch The Scaplen's Court Players bring to life an interesting afternoon in Poole in May 1623.

Poole was small then, there were only around 1500 people living here, mostly engaged in maritime activities of one sort or another.

Poole was virtually an island. The town's buildings were all in Old Town near the small quay, down in the vicinity of where the Museum is today and in the more southerly parts of today's town centre.

Life then had a lot to do with the sea, although there was plenty of open space in the town. Poole's herd of cows were still being taken out onto the heath every day and tended by a cowherd:

- Men went off in small boats to Newfoundland for the cod fishing each spring, despite the risks of tempest and pirates; they only came back later in the autumn. The women looked after affairs in Poole;
- There was merchant trade with the Channel Islands and other ports in England, coastal shipping was largely to do with general goods and there was a fast growing demand for pipe clay at this time.

The country was at war with Spain and King James was determined to find more sailors for his Navy. Poole and ports like it were deemed 'nurseries' for good seamen. Town Mayors had to find suitable people and to make sure they were handed over to 'recruitment parties' (later called press gangs) who saw that they joined the fleet.

It's May 1623 and there are rumours that the recruitment party is on its way. See the events as they might have unfolded, in our short play led by our narrator.

Producer: Carole Allen

Director: Jo Puttick

Authors: Don and Katy Nutt, with advice from Jenny Oliver and Jo Puttick

Wardrobe supervision and costumes: Christine Orridge

Special thanks to: Roger Emmerson - English Civil War Society, Poole Museum, Bournemouth Little Theatre, Castle Players, Brownsea Open Air Theatre & Barbara Taylor for the loan of props and costumes

Today's event is organised by The Rotary Club of Poole Bay

on behalf of Poole Museum

Mayhem at the Inn

Cast: In order of appearance

Singer	John Wicks
Narrator	Don Gent
Bill Martin(captain)	Paul Mole
Tom Smith	Scott Sullivan
Boy/messenger	Olivia Moss
Mistress Meg (landlady)	Carole Allen
Barmaid Sally	Sally Hadlington
Barmaid Janet	Janet Plummer
Goodwife Mary Smith	Veronica Ryder
Goodwife Bidy Martin	Rachael de Courcy Beamish
Mayor John Bramble	Andrew Whyatt
Captain Richard Emmett	Adam Hopkins
Soldier 1	Roger Allen
Soldier 2	Tim Owen-Smith
Smuggler Gabe	Frank Holden
Smuggler Caleb	Phil McMullen



Jane's Story

Performances begin at 11.15 am and 2.30pm (30 mins approx.)

Jane tells you of her life in Poole – its 1628 and she looks back on her life from the 1580s when she was born, through the latter years of Queen Elizabeth's reign and right up to the present day.

Storytelling – June Garland