

= Bournemouth =

Bournemouth / ˈbɔːnmʊθ / is a large coastal resort town on the south coast of England directly to the east of the Jurassic Coast , a 96 @-@ mile (155 km) World Heritage Site . According to the 2011 census , the town has a population of 183 @, @ 491 making it the largest settlement in Dorset . With Poole to the west and Christchurch in the east , Bournemouth forms the South East Dorset conurbation , which has a total population of over 465 @, @ 000 .

Before it was founded in 1810 by Lewis Tregonwell , the area was a deserted heathland occasionally visited by fishermen and smugglers . Initially marketed as a health resort , the town received a boost when it appeared in Dr Granville 's book , The Spas of England . Bournemouth 's growth really accelerated with the arrival of the railway and it became a recognised town in 1870 . Historically part of Hampshire , it joined Dorset with the reorganisation of local government in 1974 . Since 1997 , the town has been administered by a unitary authority , giving it autonomy from Dorset County Council although it remains part of the ceremonial county . The local council is Bournemouth Borough Council .

The town centre has notable Victorian architecture and the 202 @-@ foot (62 m) spire of St Peter 's Church , one of three Grade I listed churches in the borough , is a local landmark . Bournemouth 's location has made it a popular destination for tourists , attracting over five million visitors annually with its beaches and popular nightlife . The town is also a regional centre of business , home of the Bournemouth International Centre or BIC , and a financial sector that is worth more than £ 1 @, @ 000 million in Gross Value Added .

= = Toponymy = =

The first mention of Bournemouth comes in the Christchurch cartulary of 1406 , where a monk describes how a large fish (" uni magno piscis ") , 18 ft. long , was washed up at " La Bournemowthe " in October of that year and taken to the Manor of Wick ; six days later , a portion of the fish was collected by a canon from Christchurch Priory and taken away as tithe . " La Bournemowthe " , however , was purely a geographic reference to the uninhabited area around the mouth of the small river which , in turn , drained the heathland between the towns of Poole and Christchurch . The word bourne , meaning a small stream , is a derivative of burna , old English for a brook . From the latter half of the 16th century " Bourne Mouth " seems to be preferred , being recorded as such in surveys and reports of the period , but this appears to have been shortened to " Bourne " after the area had started to develop . A travel guide published in 1831 calls the place " Bourne Cliffe " or " Tregonwell 's Bourne " after its founder . The Spas of England , published ten years later , calls it simply " Bourne " as does an 1838 edition of the Hampshire Advertiser . In the late 19th century " Bournemouth " became predominant , although its two @-@ word form appears to have remained in use up until at least the early 20th century , turning up on a 1909 ordnance map .

= = History = =

In the 12th century the region around the mouth of the River Bourne was part of the Hundred of Holdenhurst . The hundred later became the Liberty of Westover when it was also extended to include the settlements of North Ashley , Muscliff , Muccleshell , Throop , Iford , Pokesdown , Tuckton and Wick , and incorporated into the Manor of Christchurch . Although the Dorset and Hampshire region surrounding it had been the site of human settlement for thousands of years , Westover was largely a remote and barren heathland before 1800 . In 1574 the Earl of Southampton noted that the area was " Devoid of all habitation " , and as late as 1795 the Duke of Rutland recorded that " ... on this barren and uncultivated heath there was not a human to direct us " .

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Borough of Bournemouth would grow to encompass a number of ancient settlements along the River Stour , including Longham where a skull thought to be 5 @, @ 500 years old was found in 1932 . Bronze Age burials near Moordown , and the discovery

of Iron Age pottery on the East Cliff in 1969 , suggest there may have been settlements there during that period . Hengistbury Head , added to the borough in 1932 , was the site of a much older Palaeolithic encampment . During the latter half of the 16th century James Blount , 6th Baron Mountjoy , began mining for alum in the area , and at one time part of the heath was used for hunting , although by the late 18th century little evidence of either event remained . No one lived at the mouth of the Bourne river and the only regular visitors to the area before the 19th century were a few fishermen , turf cutters and gangs of smugglers .

Prior to the Christchurch Inclosures Act 1802 , more than 70 % of the Westover area was common land . The act , together with the Inclosure Commissioners ' Award of 1805 , transferred five thousand acres into the hands of five private owners , including James Harris , 1st Earl of Malmesbury , and Sir George Ivison Tapps . In 1809 the Tapps Arms public house appeared on the heath . A few years later , in 1812 , the first official residents , retired army officer Lewis Tregonwell and his wife , moved into their new home built on land purchased from Tapps . The area was well known to Tregonwell who , during the Napoleonic wars , spent much of his time searching the heath and coastline for French invaders and smugglers .

Anticipating that people would come to the area to indulge in the newly fashionable pastime of sea bathing , an activity with perceived health benefits , Tregonwell built a series of villas on his land between 1816 and 1822 , which he hoped to let out . The common belief that pine scented air was good for lung conditions , and in particular tuberculosis , prompted Tregonwell and Tapps to plant hundreds of pine trees . These early attempts to promote the town as a health resort meant that by the time Tregonwell had died in 1832 , Bournemouth had grown into a small community with a scattering of houses , villas and cottages . The town would ultimately grow up around the scattered pines and tree lined walk to the beach , later to become known as the Invalids ' Walk .

After the death of Tapps in 1835 , his son Sir George William Tapps Gervis inherited his father 's estate . He hired the young local architect Benjamin Ferrey to develop the coastal area on the east side of the stream . Bournemouth 's first hotel , later to become part of the Royal Bath Hotel , opened in 1838 and is one of the few buildings designed by Ferrey still standing . Bournemouth started to grow at a faster rate as Tapps Gervis began developing the area similarly to the south coast resorts of Weymouth and Brighton . Despite enormous investment , the town 's share of the market remained modest . In 1841 Tapps Gervis invited the physician and writer Augustus Granville to stay . Granville was the author of The Spas of England , which described health resorts around the country , and as a result of his visit he included a chapter on Bournemouth in the second edition of his book . The publication of the book , and the increase in visitors seeking the medicinal use of seawater and the pine scented air , helped the town to grow and establish itself as an early tourist destination .

In the 1840s Benjamin Ferrey was replaced by Decimus Burton , whose plans for Bournemouth included the construction of a garden alongside the Bourne stream , an idea first mooted by Granville . The fields south of the road crossing (later Bournemouth Square) were drained and laid out with shrubberies and walks . Many of these paths , including the Invalids ' Walk , remain in the town today . A second suggestion of Granville 's , a sanatorium , was completed in 1855 and greatly raised Bournemouth 's profile as a place for recuperation .

At a time when the most convenient way to arrive in the town was by sea , a pier was considered to be a necessity . Holdenhurst Parish Council were reluctant to find the money , and an attempt to raise the money privately in 1847 had only succeeded in financing a small 100 feet (30 m) jetty . The Bournemouth Improvement Act of 1856 granted greater financial autonomy to the town and a pier was approved that year . A number of wooden structures were built before an 838 feet (255 m) cast iron design by Eugenius Birch was completed in 1880 . Under the Act , a board of 13 Commissioners was established to build and organise the expanding infrastructure of the town , such as paving , sewers , drainage , street lighting and street cleaning .

The arrival of the railways in 1870 precipitated a massive growth in seaside and summer visitors to the town , especially from the Midlands and London . In 1880 the town had a population of 17 ,000 , but by 1900 , when railway connections to Bournemouth were at their most developed , the

town's population had risen to 60 @, @ 000 and it had become a favourite location for visiting artists and writers . The town was improved greatly during this period through the efforts of Sir Merton Russell @-@ Cotes , the town's mayor and a local philanthropist , who helped to establish the town's first library and museum . The Russell @-@ Cotes Art Gallery & Museum was housed in his mansion , and after his death it was given to the town . Bournemouth became a municipal borough in 1890 and a county borough in 1900 .

As Bournemouth's growth increased in the early 20th century , the town centre spawned theatres , cafés , two art deco cinemas and more hotels . Other new buildings included the war memorial in 1921 and the Bournemouth Pavilion , the town's concert hall and grand theatre , finished in 1925 .

The town escaped heavy bombing during the Second World War , but the sea front incurred great damage when it was fortified against invasion . The cast iron lampposts and benches along the front were removed and melted down for munitions , as was much of the superstructure from both Bournemouth and Boscombe piers before they were breached to prevent their use by enemy ships . The large amounts of barbed wire and anti @-@ tank obstacles along the beach , and the mines at the foot of the chines , took two years to remove when peace was finally achieved .

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution stationed an inshore lifeboat at Bournemouth between 1965 and 1972 . Coverage for the area has otherwise been provided from Poole Lifeboat Station . The Bournemouth International Centre (BIC) , a large conference and exhibition centre , was constructed near the seafront in 1984 , and in the following year Bournemouth became the first town in the United Kingdom to introduce and use CCTV cameras for public street @-@ based surveillance .

The Waterfront complex , which was intended to hold an IMAX cinema , was constructed on the seafront in 1998 . The 19 m (62 ft) -high concrete and smoked glass building featured a wavy roof design , but was despised by residents and visitors alike because it blocked views of the bay and the Isle of Purbeck . In 2005 it was voted the most hated building in England in a 10 @, @ 000 @-@ person poll conducted by the Channel 4 programme Demolition , and was pulled down in spring 2013 . The site is to be used as an outdoor event arena . The council still plan a larger redevelopment of the site and adjoining council land in the long term .

In 2012 Bournemouth was unsuccessful in its bid for city status , losing out to Chelmsford in competition with 26 other towns to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee .

= = Governance = =

Historically Bournemouth was part of Hampshire , with neighbouring Poole , just to the west of the border , in Dorset . At the time of the 1974 local government re @-@ organisation , it was considered desirable that the whole of the Poole / Bournemouth urban area should be part of the same county . Bournemouth therefore became part of the non @-@ metropolitan county of Dorset on 1 April 1974 . On 1 April 1997 , Bournemouth became a unitary authority , independent from Dorset County Council . For the purposes of the Lieutenancy it remains part of the ceremonial county of Dorset .

For local elections the district is divided into 18 wards , and the Bournemouth Borough Council is elected every four years . In the 2011 local elections the Conservatives held overall control , winning 45 of the available 51 seats . The Council elects a Mayor and Deputy Mayor annually . For 2014 ? 15 the mayor is Chris Mayne .

Bournemouth is represented by two parliamentary constituencies in the House of Commons ; Bournemouth East and Bournemouth West . In the 2010 general election , the former was held for the Conservatives by Tobias Elwood with 48 @. @ 4 % of the vote , while the latter was also held for the Conservatives by Connor Burns with 45 @. @ 1 % .

= = Geography = =

Bournemouth is about 94 miles (151 km) southwest of London at 50 ° 43 ? 12 ? N 1 ° 52 ? 48 ? W. The borough borders the neighbouring boroughs of Poole and Christchurch to the west and east

respectively and the East Dorset District to the north . Poole Bay lies to the South . The River Stour forms a natural boundary to the north and east , terminating at Christchurch Harbour ; while the River Bourne rises in Poole and flows through the middle of Bournemouth town centre , into the English Channel . The towns of Poole , Bournemouth and Christchurch form the South East Dorset conurbation with a combined population of over 400 @, @ 000 . Bournemouth is both a retail and commercial centre . Areas within Bournemouth include : Boscombe , Kinson , Southbourne , Springbourne , Throop , Westbourne and Winton .

The area 's geology has little variety , comprising almost entirely of Eocene clays which , prior to urbanisation , supported a heathland environment . Patches of the original heath still remain , notably Turbary Common , a 36 @-@ hectare (89 @-@ acre) site , much of which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest . This heathland habitat is home to all six species of native reptile , the Dartford warbler and some important flora such as sundew and bog asphodel . Small populations of Exmoor pony and Shetland cattle help to maintain the area . Bournemouth is directly north of Old Harry Rocks , the easternmost end of the Jurassic Coast , 96 miles (155 km) of coastline designated a World Heritage Site in 2001 . Bournemouth 's own coastline stretches from Sandbanks to Christchurch Harbour and comprises mainly sandy beaches backed by gravel and sandy clay cliffs . These cliffs are cut by a number of chines which provide natural access to the shore . At the easternmost point lies Hengistbury Head , a narrow peninsula that forms the southern shore of Christchurch Harbour . It is a local nature reserve and the site of a Bronze Age settlement .

= = = Climate = = =

Like all of the UK , Bournemouth has a temperate oceanic climate with moderate variation in annual and daily temperatures , cool summers , and frequent overcast skies . From 1981 to 2010 the annual mean temperature was 10 to 11 ° C (50 to 52 ° F) . The warmest months are July and August , which have an average temperature range of 12 to 22 ° C (54 to 72 ° F) , while the coolest months are January and February , which have an average temperature range of 1 to 8 ° C (34 to 46 ° F) . Average rainfall in Bournemouth is around 800 mm (31 in) annually , well below the national average of 1 @, @ 126 millimetres . Since 1960 , temperature extremes as measured at Bournemouth Hurn Airport have ranged from 34 @. @ 1 ° C (93 @. @ 4 ° F) in August 1990 , down to ? 13 @. @ 4 ° C (7 @. @ 9 ° F) in January 1963 . The lowest temperature recorded in recent years was ? 10 @. @ 4 ° C (13 @. @ 3 ° F) in December 2010 .

= = Demography = =

The 2011 census records the population of Bournemouth as 183 @, @ 491 , comprising 91 @, @ 386 males and 92 @, @ 105 females , which equates to 49 @. @ 8 % and 50 @. @ 2 % of the population respectively . The mean average age of all persons is 40 years . With 4 @, @ 000 residents per square kilometre , Bournemouth has the highest population density of any authority in the South @-@ West region , and is the eighth most populated .

Much of the population , 83 @. @ 8 % , describe their ethnicity as ' white British ' while other white groups account for a further 8 @. @ 1 % . Asian groups ; Indian , Pakistani , Bangladeshi , Chinese and other Asian , make up 3 @. @ 9 % . Black British , black African , black Caribbean and other black groups form 1 @. @ 0 % of the population , Those of a mixed race make up 2 @. @ 3 % of the population , and 0 @. @ 9 % are from other ethnic groups .

Christians made up 57 @. @ 1 % of the population but 30 % of residents said they had no religion and 7 @. @ 8 % refused to say whether they were religious or not . Muslims were 1 @. @ 8 % , Buddhists , Hindus and Jews each had a 0 @. @ 7 % share , Sikhs were 0 @. @ 1 % . and other religions made up 0 @. @ 7 % .

Of all Bournemouth residents aged 16 or over , 19 @. @ 1 % had no qualifications at all , although 35 % said they had between one and four O @-@ levels , CSEs , GCSEs or equivalent , and 36 @. @ 5 % have more than five O @-@ level equivalents (grade C and above) , an A @-@ level or two to three AS @-@ levels . Those with an NVQ level 1 comprise 8 @. @ 0 % of the population

while 15 % have a level 2 NVQ , a City and Guilds craft certificate , BTEC or general diploma . Just over 20 % of residents had two or more A levels , four or more AS Levels or an advanced diploma while 8 % possessed a degree , such as a BA or BSc or a higher degree such as an MA or PhD . An NVQ level 4 or 5 , HNC , HND , higher BTEC or higher diploma , is held by 4 % and a professional qualification is held by 9 % of residents . An apprenticeship has been completed by 3 % of the population while 9 % have some other work related or vocational qualification and 3 % hold a foreign qualification .

Historically Bournemouth has suffered from negative rates of natural increase and has relied on immigration to maintain population growth . In 2007 however , births exceeded deaths for the first time , and this trend has continued through to 2011 . This , coupled with a substantial increase in people moving into the area , has led to a sharp rise in the resident population since 2001 . Of the total population , 3 % are 85 or over , compared to 2 % nationally ; however the largest group of people moving into the area are students in the 16 - 24 year age group , and 9 % of the current population are between 20 and 24 . In England this age group accounts for only 7 % .

= = Economy = =

Similarly to the rest of Dorset , Bournemouth 's economy is primarily in the service sector , which employed 95 % of the workforce in 2010 . This was 10 % higher than the average employment in the service sector for Great Britain and 11 % higher than the South West . Of particular importance are the financial and public service sectors which through 2011 continued to show sustained growth . Compared to the rest of the country , Bournemouth performed well in these two areas but underperformed in transport and communications .

The smallest geographical region for which Gross Value Added information is available is the NUTS3 area , Bournemouth and Poole . The latest figures , as of 2012 , are for the year 2009 which showed that the Bournemouth and Poole area enjoyed the strongest annualised growth in the South West region . In 2009 the South West Regional Accounts showed that the Financial Services sector in Bournemouth was worth £ 1 ,031 .8 million in Gross Value Added . Important employers in this sector include : JPMorgan , Nationwide Building Society , and the Liverpool Victoria , Tata Consultancy Services (formerly Unisys) , and RIAS insurance companies . The manufacturing sector is predominantly based in neighbouring Poole , but still employed 2 % of the workforce in 2010 and 2 % in 2011 .

Tourism is also important to the local economy . In 2011 , domestic and overseas visitors made more than 5 .6 million trips to the town and spent over £ 460 million between them . The equivalent of 8 ,531 full time jobs exist as a result which accounts for 15 % of all employment in the town . Bournemouth seafront is one of the UK 's biggest attractions with 4 .5 million visitors in 2011 . RNLI lifeguards provide seasonal coverage of Bournemouth 's beaches .

With a third of all town centre businesses in the leisure industry , Bournemouth has a booming nightlife economy and is a popular destination for stag and hen parties . These party goers contribute £ 125 million a year to the economy and support 4 ,000 jobs . In 2010 the town was awarded a Purple Flag for providing a wide variety of night time activities while maintaining the safety of both residents and visitors . An independent report published in 2012 indicates there has been a rise in antisocial behaviour which it attributes to the increase in nightlife .

Those of working age make up approximately 65 % of Bournemouth 's population and of these , 74 % are economically active although not necessarily employed within the Bournemouth area . Industry in Bournemouth employed more than 76 ,400 people in 2011 but not all of these were Bournemouth residents . Of those employed in Bournemouth based industries , 29 % were employed in the public administration , education and health sector . This compares favourably with Dorset , the South West region , and the country as a whole , as do the other large sectors ; distribution , hotels & restaurants (29 %) , and banking , finance and insurance (24 %) . 37 % of Bournemouth 's resident population are employed full time while 13 % are employed part time . An additional 7 % full time workers are self

@-@ employed , 3 @.@ 1 % are self @-@ employed part @-@ time . Full @-@ time students with jobs account for 5 @.@ 3 % and 3 @.@ 8 % are unemployed .

The shopping streets are mostly pedestrianised with modern shopping malls , Victorian arcades and a large selection of bars , clubs and cafés . North of the centre there is an out @-@ of @-@ town shopping complex called Castlepoint . The 41 acre site has 40 units and was the largest shopping centre in the UK when it opened in 2003 . Other major shopping areas are situated in the districts of Westbourne and Boscombe .

= = Culture = =

Bournemouth is a tourist and regional centre for leisure , entertainment , culture and recreation . Local author and former mayor , Keith Rawlings , suggests that Bournemouth has a thriving youth culture due to its large university population and many language school students . In recent years , Bournemouth has become a popular nightlife destination with UK visitors and many clubs , bars and restaurants are located within the town centre . In a 2007 survey by First Direct , Bournemouth was found to be the happiest place in the UK , with 82 % of people questioned saying they were happy with their lives .

Major venues for concerts include BIC , Pavilion Theatre and O2 Academy . Built in 1984 , the BIC is also a popular place for party political conferences and has been used by all three major political parties . Its four auditoria make it the largest venue on the south coast . The O2 and Pavilion are older and are both Grade II listed buildings . The O2 , which opened in 1895 as the Grand Pavilion Theatre , was initially used as a circus and later for music hall theatre . The Pavilion opened in 1929 as concert hall and tea room while also providing a venue for the municipal orchestra . It continues to provide traditional entertainment today , presenting West End stage shows , ballet and operas . Bournemouth has more than 200 listed buildings , mainly from the Victorian and Edwardian eras , including three grade I churches ; St Peter 's , St Clement 's and St Stephen 's .

The Russell @-@ Cotes Museum is a Grade II * listed , villa completed in 1901 . It houses artefacts and paintings collected by the Victorian philanthropist Merton Russell @-@ Cotes and his wife during their extensive travels around the world . The four art galleries display paintings by William Powell Frith , Edwin Landseer , Edwin Long , William Orchardson , Arthur Hughes , Albert Moore and Dante Gabriel Rossetti . It was Russell @-@ Cotes who successfully campaigned to have a promenade built ; it runs continuously along the Bournemouth and Poole shoreline .

The Lower , Central and Upper Gardens are Grade II * public parks , leading for several miles down the valley of the River Bourne through the centre of the town to the sea . Bournemouth has a further 425 acres (172 ha) of parkland . Initially serving to compensate for the loss of common rights after common land was enclosed in 1802 , it was held in trust until 1889 when ownership passed to Bournemouth Corporation and the land became five public parks : King 's Park , Queen 's Park , Meyrick Park , Seaford Gardens and Redhill Common .

The detailed Land Use Survey by the Office for National Statistics in 2005 noted that the local authority area of Bournemouth had the third highest proportion of land taken up by domestic gardens , 34 @.@ 6 % , of the 326 districts in England ; narrowly less than the London Boroughs of Harrow and Sutton at the time with 34 @.@ 7 % and 35 @.@ 1 % .

One of Bournemouth 's most noted cultural institutions is Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra which was formed in 1893 under Dan Godfrey . It became the first municipal orchestra in the country when in 1896 , Bournemouth Borough Council took control and Godfrey was appointed musical director and head of the town 's entertainments . Originally playing three concerts a day during the summer season , in the great glass palm house known as the Winter Gardens ; the orchestra is now based in Poole and performs around 130 concerts a year across Southern England .

Bournemouth is currently host to a number of festivals . Bournemouth Food and Drink Festival is a ten @-@ day event which combines a market with live cookery demonstrations . The Arts by the Sea Festival is a mix of dance , film , theatre , literature , and music which was launched in 2012 by the local university , the Arts University Bournemouth , and is set to become an annual event . The Bourne Free carnival is held in the town each year during the summer . Initially a gay pride festival ,

it has become a celebration of diversity and inclusion . Since 2008 , Bournemouth has held its own air festival over four days in August . This has featured displays from the Red Arrows as well as appearances from the Yakovlevs , Blades , Team Guinot Wing @-@ Walkers , Battle of Britain Memorial Flight including Lancaster , Hurricane , Spitfire and also the last flying Vulcan . The festival has also seen appearances from modern aircraft such as the Eurofighter Typhoon . The air festival attracts up to a million people over the four @-@ day event .

The town was especially rich in literary associations during the late 19th century and earlier years of the 20th century . P. C. Wren author of *Beau Geste* , Frederick E. Smith , writer of the 633 Squadron books , and Beatrice Webb , later Potter , all lived in the town . Paul Verlaine taught at Bournemouth a preparatory school and the writer J. R. R. Tolkien , spent 30 years taking holidays in Bournemouth , staying in the same room at the Hotel Miramar . He eventually retired to the area in the 1960s with his wife Edith , where they lived close to Branksome Chine . Tolkien died in September 1973 at his home in Bournemouth but was buried in Oxfordshire . The house was demolished in 2008 .

Percy Florence Shelley lived at Boscombe Manor ; a house he had built for his mother , Mary Shelley , the writer and author of the Gothic horror novel , *Frankenstein* . Mary died before the house was completed but she was buried in Bournemouth , in accordance with her wishes . The family plot in St Peter 's churchyard also contains her parents William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft , and the heart of her husband , Percy Bysshe Shelley . Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and most of his novel *Kidnapped* from his house " Skerryvore " on the west cliff , Westbourne . Vladimir Chertkov established a Tolstoyan publishing house with other Russian exiles at Tuckton , and under the ' Free Age Press ' imprint , published the first edition of several works by Leo Tolstoy . Author Bill Bryson worked for a time with the Bournemouth Echo newspaper and wrote about the town in his 1995 work *Notes from a Small Island* .

= = Landmarks = =

Bournemouth has three Grade I listed churches , St Peter 's and St Stephen 's in the town centre and St Clement 's in Boscombe . St Peter 's was the town 's first church , completed in 1879 and designed by George Edmund Street . In his book , *England 's Thousand Best Churches* , Simon Jenkins describes the chancel as " one of the richest Gothic Revival interiors in England " , while the 202 feet (62 m) spire dominates the surrounding skyline . When the architect , John Loughborough Pearson , designed St Stephen 's his aim was to , " bring people to their knees " . It has a high stone groined roof , twin aisles and a triforium gallery , although the tower lacks a spire .

The borough has two piers : Bournemouth Pier , close to the town centre , and the shorter but architecturally more important Boscombe Pier . Designed by the architect Archibald Smith , Boscombe Pier opened in 1889 as a 600 feet (180 m) structure which was extended to 750 feet (230 m) in 1927 when a new head was constructed . Added in 1958 , the boomerang @-@ shaped entrance kiosk and overhanging concrete roof is now a Grade II listed building . In 1961 a theatre was added but this was demolished in 2008 when the rest of the pier was renovated . In 2009 , fashion designer Wayne Hemingway described Boscombe Pier as " Britain 's coolest pier " . It was also voted Pier of the Year 2010 by the National Piers Society .

In 1856 , Bournemouth Pier was a simple , wooden jetty . This was replaced by a longer , wooden pier five years later , and a cast iron structure in 1880 . Two extensions to the pier in 1894 and 1905 , brought the total length to 305 metres (1000 feet) . After World War II , the structure was strengthened to allow for the addition of a Pier Theatre , finally constructed in 1960 . Between 1979 and 1981 , a £ 1 @. @ 7 million redevelopment programme , saw a great deal of reconstruction work , and the addition of a large two @-@ storey , octagonal @-@ shaped entrance building .

Built as the Mont Dore Hotel in 1881 , Bournemouth Town Hall was designated a Grade II listed building in 2001 . Designed by Alfred Bedborough in the French , Italian and neo @-@ classical styles , the foundation stone was laid by King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway and the hotel opened in 1885 . The buff brick exterior features Bath stone dressings and terracotta friezes . The main entrance is sited within a projected façade that reaches to the eaves and is topped with a pediment ,

while above sits a belvedere with turrets and a pavilion roof . During the First World War the hotel was used as a hospital for British and Indian soldiers and after as a convalescent home . It never opened as a hotel again and was purchased by Bournemouth Borough Council in 1919 .

Built in the Art Deco style in 1929 , situated close to the seafront , the Pavilion Theatre was at the time considered to be the greatest ever municipal enterprise for the benefit of entertainment . Built from brick and stone , the frontage features square Corinthian columns . Still a popular venue , it is today a Grade II listed building .

The Bournemouth Eye is a helium @-@ filled balloon attached to a steel cable in the town 's lower gardens . The spherical balloon is 69 m (226 ft) in circumference and carries an enclosed , steel gondola . Rising to a height of 150 m (492 ft) , it provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area for up to 28 passengers .

= = Sport = =

The town has a professional football club , AFC Bournemouth , known as the Cherries , which was promoted to the Championship in 2013 and Premier League in 2015 . AFC Bournemouth play at Dean Court near Boscombe in Kings ' Park , 2 miles (3 km) east of the town centre .

Bournemouth Rugby Club , which competes in the National League Division Two South , has its home at the Bournemouth Sports Club , next to Bournemouth Airport , where it hosts an annual Rugby sevens tournament and festival . Bournemouth Cricket Club also plays at Bournemouth Sports Club and is reported to be one of the biggest cricket clubs in the country . Its first team plays in the Southern Premier League . Dean Park is a former county cricket ground , once home to Hampshire County Cricket Club and later Dorset County Cricket Club . Today it is a venue for university cricket .

The BIC has become a venue for a round of the Premier League Darts Championship organised by the Professional Darts Corporation .

The Westover and Bournemouth Rowing Club , is the town 's coastal rowing club . Established in 1865 , it is reported to be the oldest sporting association in the county . The club regularly competes in regattas organised by the Hants and Dorset Amateur Rowing Association which take place on the South Coast of England between May and September .

Other watersports popular in Poole Bay include sailing and surfing , and there are a number of local schools for the beginner to learn either sport . Bournemouth has the third largest community of surfers in the UK and in 2009 an artificial surf reef , one of only four in the world , was constructed there . The reef failed to deliver the promised grade 5 wave , suffered a series of delays and ran over budget , finally costing £ 3 @.@ 2 million .

= = Transport = =

= = = Road = = =

The principal route to the town centre is the A338 spur road , a dual carriageway that connects to the A31 close to the Hampshire border . The A31 joins the M27 at Southampton and from there the M3 to London and the A34 to the Midlands and the North can be accessed . The main road west is the A35 to Honiton in Devon which runs through the South East Dorset Conurbation and continues east as far as Southampton , albeit as a non @-@ primary route . The A350 in the neighbouring borough of Poole provides the only northern route out of the conurbation . National Express coaches serve Bournemouth Travel Interchange & Bournemouth University . There are frequent departures to London Victoria Coach Station and Heathrow Airport and Gatwick Airports . Local buses are provided mainly by two companies , More Bus , the former National Bus Company subsidiary and now owned by the Go @-@ Ahead group , and Yellow Buses , the former Bournemouth Council @-@ owned company and successors to Bournemouth Corporation Transport , which began operating trams in 1902 . Other operators serving the town include Damory Coaches and the

Shaftesbury & District bus company .

== Rail ==

There are two stations in the town , Bournemouth railway station and Pokesdown railway station to the east . Parts of western Bournemouth can also be reached from Branksome station . All three stations lie on the South Western Main Line from Weymouth to London Waterloo . South West Trains operates a comprehensive service along this line , which also serves Southampton Central , Winchester and Basingstoke to the east , and Poole , Wareham , and Dorchester South to the west . Before its closure in 1966 , Bournemouth was also served by the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway which provided direct access to Somerset and the Midlands .

== Air ==

Originally an RAF airfield , Bournemouth Airport was transferred to the Civil Aviation Authority in 1944 and was the UK 's only intercontinental airport before the opening of Heathrow in 1946 . Acquired by the Manchester Airports Group in 2001 , the airport underwent a £ 45 million phased expansion programme between 2007 and 2011 . Situated in the village of Hurn on the periphery of Bournemouth , the airport is 7 kilometres (4 @. @ 3 mi) from the town centre and serves around 600 @, @ 000 passengers annually . There are direct flights to 23 international destinations in nine countries : Cyprus , Finland , Greece (3 destinations) , Italy (4) , Malta , Portugal , Spain (10) , Switzerland and Turkey .

== Education ==

The Bournemouth local education authority was first set up in 1903 and remained in existence until local government was reorganised in 1974 when Bournemouth lost its County Borough status and became part of the county of Dorset . Under the later reforms of 1997 , Bournemouth became a unitary authority and the Bournemouth local education authority was re @-@ established .

The local council operates a two @-@ tier comprehensive system whereby pupils attend one of the 26 primary schools in the borough before completing their education at secondary school . Bournemouth is one of the minority of local authorities in England still to maintain selective education , with two grammar schools (one for boys , one for girls) and ten secondary modern / comprehensive schools . There are also a small number of independent schools in the town , and a further education college . Bournemouth has two universities : Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth , both of which are located across the boundary in neighbouring Poole .

In 2012 , 60 @. @ 7 % of the borough 's school leavers gained 5 GCSEs of grade C or above . This was slightly better than the national average of 59 @. @ 4 % and above the average for the rest of Dorset , with 58 @. @ 8 % of pupils from the local authority of Poole , and 54 @. @ 1 % from the remainder of the county , managing to do likewise .

== Religion ==

The 2011 census revealed that 57 @. @ 1 % of the borough 's population are Christian . With all other religions combined only totalling 4 @. @ 7 % , Christianity is by far the largest religious group . 40 % of the borough falls within the Church of England Diocese of Salisbury . The remainder , to the east , belongs to the Diocese of Winchester . The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth incorporates most of Bournemouth with the exception of two small parishes to the west which are covered by the Diocese of Plymouth .

The borough has several notable examples of Victorian church architecture including the previously mentioned St. Peter 's , the churchyard of which contains the grave of the author Mary Shelley ; St Stephen 's Church , completed in 1898 for services under the influence of the Oxford Movement and St Clement 's , one of the first churches to be designed by John Dando Sedding , built in Boscombe

in 1871 . To serve a rapidly expanding population a third church was built in the town centre in 1891 . St Augustin 's church was commissioned by Henry Twells who was ' priest @-@ in @-@ charge ' there until 1900 . The largest church in the town is the Richmond Hill St Andrew 's Church , part of the United Reformed Church . Built in 1865 and enlarged in 1891 , it has a seating capacity of 1 @, @ 100 and is unusually ornate for a non @-@ conformist church .

Few purpose @-@ built places of worship exist in borough for faiths other than Christianity although with a higher proportion of Jewish residents than the national average , there are three synagogues . Chabad @-@ Lubavitch of Bournemouth is a branch of the worldwide movement . The Bournemouth Reform Synagogue , formerly known as Bournemouth New Synagogue , is a Reform Jewish synagogue with over 700 members . There is also the architecturally notable Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation synagogue built in 1911 with an Art Nouveau take on the Moorish Revival style .

The Bournemouth Islamic Centre provides information , support and a place of worship for the Islamic community . There is also a separate mosque in the town .

Those who are not religious , over 30 % of the population , are welcomed by the Dorset Humanists who hold bi @-@ monthly meetings in the borough and are affiliated to the British Humanist Association .

= = Naming conventions = =

The word ' Bournemouth ' is often used loosely to describe the South East Dorset conurbation , which also contains the neighbouring towns of Poole , Christchurch , Wimborne Minster , and Verwood . As a result , " Bournemouth " is used in the following terms :

Although it has a significant presence in Bournemouth town centre , Bournemouth University 's main campus is located in Poole , on the boundary with Bournemouth .

Bournemouth Airport is located near Hurn in the borough of Christchurch , and was originally named RAF Hurn .

" Bournemouth Bay " is sometimes used for Poole Bay

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is now based in Poole .

= = Twin towns = =

Bournemouth is twinned with :

Netanya , Israel

Lucerne , Switzerland