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ENID BLYTON AND HER ENCHANTMENT WITH DORSET

Dr Andrew Norman

REPRINT

Enid Blyton's daughter Gillian Baverstock said about this book:

'It will always contain a very illuminating picture of her love of Dorset and our holidays long ago. I hope her grandchildren will read it and want to explore all that you describe for themselves.'

Enid Blyton first visited Dorset at Easter 1931 with her husband Hugh Pollock; she was aged thirty-four and pregnant with her first child. She would later return to spend many holidays in, and around the town of Swanage in South Dorset's Isle of Purbeck, together with her two daughters: Gillian (born 1931) and Imogen (born 1935), and later her second husband Kenneth Darrell Waters.

What was it about this particular region that would draw her back, time and time again, and what pursuits did she choose to follow whilst she was here? In order to find out, we accompany Enid as she walks, swims off Swanage beach, plays golf, takes the steam train to Corfe Castle, and the paddle-steamer to Bournemouth.

The Famous Five books are treated chronologically, from the first, published in 1942, to the last in 1963. An account of Enid and her family, and in particular of their association with Dorset, runs concurrently.



Author with Enid's eldest daughter, Gillian Baverstock

Andrew Norman was born in Newbury, Berkshire, UK in 1943. Having been educated at Thornhill High School, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he qualified in medicine at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He married in 1967 and has two children.

From 1972–83 Andrew worked as a general practitioner in Poole, Dorset, before a spinal injury cut short his medical career. He is now an established writer whose published works include biographies of Thomas Hardy, T.E. Lawrence, Sir Francis Drake, Adolf Hitler, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie and Robert Mugabe. Andrew remarried in 2005.



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