

# BOURNEMOUTH - THEN MEETS NOW

Rodney Legg

The Bournemouth we know is a Victorian new town, although its origins go back to medieval times. Despite its relatively recent development, the town has changed hugely since the nineteenth century. Using unique unpublished photographs, and pictures and prints dating back to the founding of the resort, Bournemouth's very own Rodney Legg shows just what has altered and what – remarkably – has stayed the same.

Old views are contrasted with the same spot as it looks today. There are also complementary extracts and old maps plus cameo illustrations of incidental features from the settings both then and now. Presentation and layout is refreshingly different. The effect is groundbreaking. The past is revisited with renewed vigour. *Bournemouth – Then Meets Now* will be a must for locals and visitors alike.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Legg was born in Bournemouth and has emerged as one of the area's most prolific historians. He recently published *Bournemouth: the Good Old Days* also for Halsgrove. He has produced dozens of other books, particularly on local history and walking themes, and has edited both *Dorset – The Country Magazine* and *Purbeck and Poole Magazine*. Nationally he is still active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990.

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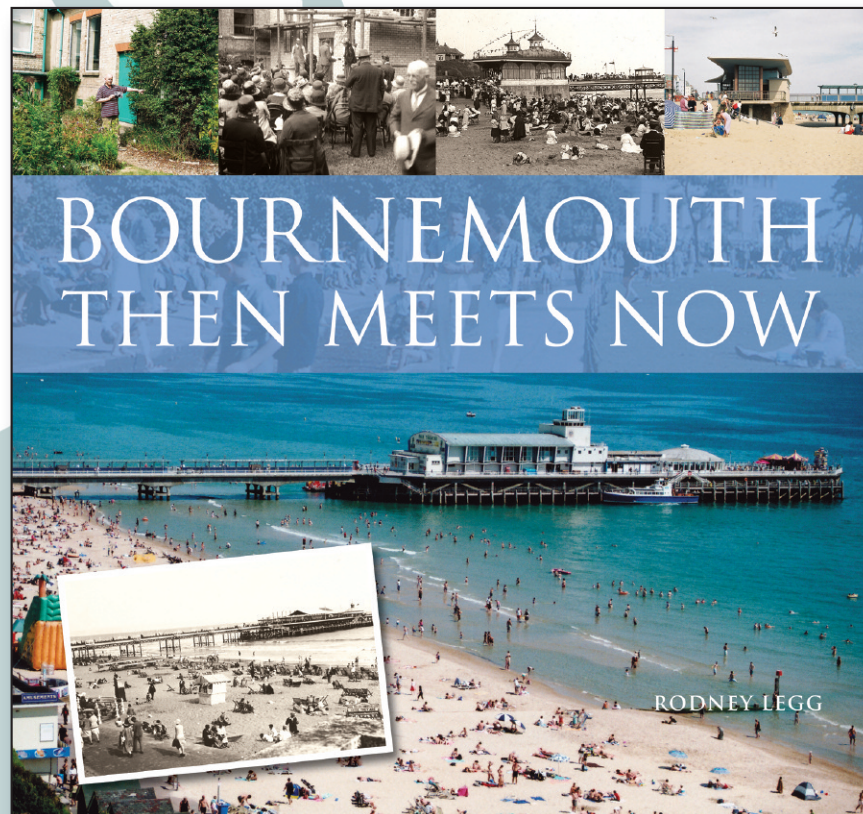
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# Great Books from your Local Bookseller



The Pavilion from across the Lower Gardens in 1935.



The Pavilion from across the Lower Gardens in 2008.



Driver and carriage passing the Royal Arcade towards the Grand in 1898.



The Opera House and Royal Arcade, then the Post Office, Green's Bar and McDonalds Restaurant, 2008.



Hengistbury Head from inside the Double Dykes, in a view posted in 1954.



Hengistbury Head from Southbourne beach, 2002.

The post-war Carlton Hotel, in a view posted in 1946

The Carlton Hotel in 2008

**CARLTON HOTEL**

Unearthed boarding houses and shops along the cliffs from Bournemouth were merged into a single building, connected by corridors and extensions, to become one of Britain's grand hotels. The inaugural dinner for the directors and their friends took place in September 1903. This was the first four-star establishment to come into a category that we would recognise as luxury hotel. It was, however, firmly from another age in that it did not encourage night life or drugs.

"Electric light in bedrooms - Electric light will be charged if used for other than ordinary purposes. Dogs cannot be catered for. The lights are turned off in the Public Rooms at 11 p.m."

There is bedrooms or sitting rooms were extra, at a shilling for the morning or evening, one shilling and sixpence for the afternoon and evening, or two shillings for all day. The tariff for dinner, between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., was five shillings for Soup, Fish, Ketchup, Jellies, Poultry or Game, Dessert with Dessert. There was a proviso: "Dogs cannot be provided for."

In five-star rating almost gone without saying since 1934. The Carlton enjoyed a good war and housed General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Sir Bernard Montgomery in the spring of 1944 as they planned the invasion of Europe. Meanwhile D-Day rehearsals took place in the bay and across Studland Heath. The luxurious Eden Sable dates from 1955 when Sir Anthony and Lady Blean came to town for the Conservative Party Conference.

Outstanding a bastion of patriotism, and often awarded a baronetcy of western values as it housed major members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Carlton Hotel set a conservative example in the 1950s. It became the paragon to fly the national flags of visiting ambassadors and ministers beside the entrance. The hotel made headlines with the Hammer and Sickle - a case of the red flag flying here - such as Communist flag flies over The Carlton. There were far more objections when it was the Rising Sun which revived raw memories of wartime Japanese atrocities. Red flags these days are those of Nations Hotels.

The Carlton Hotel in 2008

The basement (which is grey) The Carlton is luxury hotel. Entering through a north porch, a centrally placed door opens the visitor into the great hall, where he or she reaches the ornate and intricate of the establishment. Here, given an airy, light rooming, wood (oak) and paper, or chatting over the corner of the counter, is covered in the midst of chairs and evidently nothing that resembles the whole of the woodwork is of finest oak, even to the glass fronts and general fixtures. The hall and lounge are covered with rich (dark) carpet, and there is a collection of fine, ornate, and easy chairs, each of the furniture being heavily rich with rich coverings of yellow and green silk. In the dining room, in its arrangement, cushions as well as elegance has been studied, with the result that an air of comfort, rather than oppressive grandeur, pervades it.

By which it is known to the Carlton, on 15 July 1944: "Highland weather. Showable, light, sunny morning, sun too hot to do much 'good' work."

The Carlton, 1908

Entrance and view of 1908, 2008

Example of a double-page spread.