

BCP WRITERS' TRAIL

Use the trail guide to follow in the footsteps of world-famous writers such as J.R.R. Tolkien, Enid Blyton, John le Carré, and Mary Shelley. Alongside biographical information there are prompts to inspire your own writing.

Explore and enjoy!

Born in Poole, Cornwall (John le Carré) often came back and visited the area, spending his time playing with cap-guns at Constitution Hill and taking out boats at Poole Park.

Winton Library, where Flora Thompson often frequented and self-educated, is open to the public. A short distance away is Stour Valley Nature Reserve, a doorway into the rural countryside depicted in her works.

In 1884, suffering with the ill-health that plagued him his entire life, Robert Louis Stevenson moved to a house in Westbourne, which he renamed 'Skerryvore'. The site of Skerryvore can be visited today.

Robert Southey lived in Burton, Christchurch, from 1799 - 1805. His home, the quintessential Grade II listed thatched 'Burton Cottage' survives as a private residence. The nearby pub, The Bear of Burton, pays tribute to his most famous work.

Mary Shelley and the heart of her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley are buried in St Peter's Church Cemetery.

Bill Bryson lived in Christchurch and said of his daily commute via the Priory, "I could never do so without stopping to gawp at its magnificence. Stone doesn't get more glorious than this."

CHRISTCHURCH



Enid Blyton was a frequent visitor to Dorset. 'Whispering Island', the setting for another Famous Five adventure, is thought to be based on Brownsea Island, which can be seen from Evening Hill viewpoint, Poole.

Radclyffe Hall's childhood home can still be seen today as Durley Grange Hotel. The hotel is a short walk from West Cliff Green, where beautiful coastal views can be experienced.

Hotel Miramar on the East Cliff became a favourite holiday home for J.R.R. Tolkien and his wife Edith. The regular room he booked for his writing gave him the opportunity to gaze out at the sea

Shelley Park, located on Boscombe Overcliff, is open to the public, and Boscombe Manor, the former Shelley residence, survives as a medical centre.



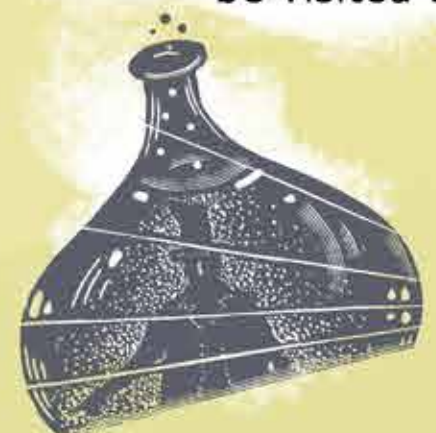
BURTON



CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY



WINTON LIBRARY



WESTBOURNE ST PETER'S CHURCH

BOURNEMOUTH

POOLE

