

# A brief history of Bournemouth

**B**ournemouth has a population of 164,600, that's 1,156 more than the last time we were here, making it the largest settlement in Dorset. The town was founded by Lewis Tregonwell in 1810 and grew steadily and became a proper town in 1870 when the railway came.

Since 1997 the town has been administered by a unitary authority.

The town is the home of the Bournemouth International Centre and is also home to several financial companies including JPMorgan Chase, Nationwide Building Society, Liverpool Victoria and Standard Life Healthcare.

**In a 2007 survey by First Direct Bank, Bournemouth was found to be the happiest place in Britain with 82% of people questioned saying they were happy with their life.**

## Politics

Bournemouth Borough Council is made up politically as follows:-

Conservative (37, three down on last time)  
 Liberal Democrat (9)  
 Independent (5)  
 Labour (3)

## Literary links

Bournemouth appears as Sandbourne in **Thomas Hardy's** novels and the town also features in The Well-Beloved and Jude the



Obscure.

In James Herbert's horror novel *The Fog*, the entire population of Bournemouth runs into the sea and drowns in a mass suicide. It is also mentioned in Roald Dahl's *The Witches*.

The Grave of writer **Mary Shelley** is in Bournemouth as is the heart of husband Percy Bysshe Shelley.

**J.R.R. Tolkien** spent 30 years taking holidays in Bournemouth and eventually retired to the area.

**Oscar Wilde** and **Paul Verlaine** both taught at Bournemouth prep schools. **Edward VII** is said to have had his secret meetings with **Lillie Langtry** here.

**Robert Louis Stevenson** wrote most of his novel "Kidnapped" from his house "Skerryvore" on the west cliff, after coming to Bournemouth because of its health resort reputation.

**Tony Hancock** and **Stuart Granger** lived in Bournemouth. Popular local legend also notes that a

small Russian colony at Southbourne meant that several well-known Russian authors passed through the town, notably **Tolstoy**.

## Shopping

The town's main shopping is centred around Bournemouth's gardens and spreads in several directions, either side of the small Bourne river. Full of many national brands, such as Argos, Beales, BHS, Boots, Borders, Debenhams, Dingles, Habitat, Marks and Spencer and WHSmith, Bournemouth also has numerous smaller shops, offering some of the best shopping in this area.

There are several modern shopping malls, galleries and Victorian arcades.

The shopping streets in Bournemouth are mainly pedestrianised and, close to the town centre, the district of Westbourne provides an excellent selection of designer clothes and interior design shops.

Nearby Boscombe has an enormous shopping street and this includes many national brands and smaller shops, antiques shops and fashion boutiques.



## Some wifi hotspots In Bournemouth

- Edwards 19-21 Exeter Road  
 Inferno 38 Holdenhurst Road  
 Malt & Hops 147 Parkwood Road  
 Hilton - Bournemouth Westover Road  
 Litten Tree Old Christchurch Road  
 Brasshouse 8-9 Westover Road  
 Dolphin Hotel 316 Holdenhurst Road  
 Cransley Hotel 11 Knyveton Road  
 Moon In The Square 4/6 Exeter Road  
 Cooper Dean Arms Castle Lane East  
 O'Neills 227-229 Old Christchurch Road  
 Sir Percy Florence Shelley 673/675 Christchurch Road  
 Spyglass & Kettle 25-27 Stourwood Avenue  
 Bar Vin 165 Old Christchurch
- (( myHotspots ))  
 Cricketers Arms 41 Windham Road  
 Jumpin Jaks The Waterfront  
 Tapp & Hobbit 23/27 Bourne Avenue  
 Branksome Arms 152-154 Commercial Road  
 Gulliver's 1492 Wimbourne Road  
 Sharkies 215A Old Christchurch Road  
 Pines 475 Wimborne Road  
 The Athelstan 137-139 Cranleigh Road  
 Crown & Sceptre Broadhurst Avenue  
 Fiveways Hotel 423 Charminster Road  
 The Bell 915 Christchurch Road  
 Portman Hotel 97 Ashley Road Bournemouth  
 UK\_Texaco Service Station Holdenhurst Road Star Sstn, 341-345 Holdenhurst Rd

