

# WHAT HAPPENED IN 1962

**DE HAVILLANDS left in September, and in their wake came a stream of problems. As in the previous year, these problems occupied many of the big headlines in 1962, even before the firm left**

The most hopeful of all the suspected take-overs of the factory was that by the Beagle Aircraft Company in the early months; the most useful was the Council's offer to operate the 400,000 square feet of factory space as a trading estate if no one else would have it.

But the worst problem of all—2,000 redundant personnel, many of them skilled operatives—was no more solved by the close of the year than the unemployment level remaining below three per cent. glosses over. Some of the men took jobs in Holland; some went to other parts of the country; but many remained under-employed in the area.

The coming year promises the results of the many steps taken in 1962 in the industrial field. The planning authority must give some final decision on Brush Crystal's application for a Somerford Road factory site. The Minister of Housing and Local Government's decision on the Town Map inquiry is also due.

Not without misgivings will the householders of Christchurch await the local budget in March, for at the end of December came the new rating valuations which had worried everyone for almost the whole year.

This had alone managed to unite the local ratepayer associations, but their Liaison Committee produced no result of its deliberations about rates. Perhaps the New Year will see something of this.

## JANUARY

The de Havilland problem with all its frustrations bounced in with the New Year revelation that the Beagle Aircraft Co. were interested in the factory. It appeared later that Beagles weren't interested and that they were but one of a series of "interested" firms. The first of the deputations to the Board of Trade and the Ministries of Aviation and Labour about the factory came and went with optimism but no results. After their third deputation, the Council were told by the Board of Trade that few deputations were so persevering.

"Mr. Pastry", Richard Hearne, launched an appeal for £5,000 to provide a swimming pool for spastics in the district

Highcliffe Citizens' Association invited the other ratepayer associations in the borough to join forces to form a joint advisory committee which would inquire into the implications of the Rating and Valuation Act. Unlike the C.R.A.'s similar suggestion the previous year, it was accepted by the others.

Christchurch M.o.H., Dr. D. J. N. McNab, recommended the value of attending mobile X-ray units, particularly for men over 45.

On a sad note, ex-Ald. E. J. Slinn, former headmaster, Mayor, Freeman, J.P., churchman and devoted servant of the public in very many directions, died at his home in Christchurch on January 10 at the age of 82.

January also saw the beginning of what was very much a year for younger blood. To start the ball rolling, Mr. Sydney Maxwell was enrolled as the youngest-ever president of Christchurch Chamber of Trade. Then members of Christchurch Youth Club organised a 1,000-name petition for more recreational activities, especially for young people, and the Youth Committee decided that a town the size of Christchurch should have a Youth Centre.

Mentioned in the New Year's Honours List were Sqdn-Ldrs. Raymond Clive Tear and Herbert G. Baker. Major (Quartermaster), Ronald George Lambert, and Capt. William Richard Meadows, all of whom received the M.B.E.

## FEBRUARY

The salmon season began with a big worry for the Mundeford nets-men, for they believed that the River Board's plan to limit night netting at the Run was a serious threat to their livelihood. The plan, together with restrictions for the rods-men, was to be the subject of a local inquiry later in the year, and the fishermen put forward strenuous protests. The big fish, however, did not get away at the start of the season. The first to be caught weighed 25 lbs.

Under the shadow of redundancy, 200 "white collar" workers threatened strike action at de Havillands unless the management did something about a dozen or so former manual workers who were getting up to £5 a week more than their older clerical colleagues. Meanwhile, Fokkers, the Amsterdam aircraft firm, offered to negotiate for redundant de Havilland skilled engineers, and on a lighter note, Ringwood R.D.C. decided to give their employees a five-day week.

Pubs came into the news at the time of the Licensing Sessions at the middle of the month, when Police Supt. C. J. Grimble asked Ringwood licensees to take "strict regard" of the ages of their customers. He said there were quite a number of the younger teenagers resorting to public houses.

The first intimation of the Shelley Park, Highcliffe, flats scheme which brought strong protests from the H.C.A. two months later came when Christchurch Planning Committee deferred a decision for further information about the development. The Planning Committee also agreed to allow Mr. Harry Stiller, proprietor of Tuckton Golf Course, to build his £10,000 swimming pool at the course. Work on the pool would start in a year's time, and it is to be the first public one in the borough.

The smallpox emergency earlier brought the formation of a local voluntary motor cycle corps to take emergency drugs supplies to hospitals in Hants and Dorset.

Highcliffe Community Association decided to end their tenancy of the ground floor of the Seaborough Hotel, their centre, for which they had been paying a weekly rental of £5 plus rates. The secretary, Mrs. G. R. Leather, had reported "almost complete apathy" about the centre earlier, and shortly before this, the treasurer, Mr. T. Nolan, prophesied the association would be £300 in the red by the end of the year. In contrast, the C.R.A. achieved its 1000 membership target the week before the decision to close the centre.

Another youngest-ever record came at the Council meeting, when Coun. Barrington Myers was elected Mayor at the age of 34. At the same meeting, Coun. K. L. Smith, Finance Committee chairman, announced a rate increase of 1s. (County 6d., local 6d.). He thought this was a reasonable increase under the circumstances, and the Council adopted a general rate of 21s. 8d.

Cold weather did not daunt the parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Somerford, from attending special services at the church on February 25th to mark the eighth anniversary of the church's consecration.

## MARCH

At the beginning of the month came the news of the completion of Somerford Estate with the adoption by the Council of the 1962 house building programme of 30 dwellings.

Coun. Albert Ernest Toombs, Mudeford Ward representative on the Council for the past nine years, announced his resignation and Mr. W. A. Bridge, chairman of Mudeford and Stanpit Residents' Association, said he would stand as an independent candidate for the ward.

New hope came to the men to be made redundant at the de Havilland factory with the news that representatives of the Fokker Aircraft Company were looking for between 40 and 60 skilled men.

Same week a spokesman at the factory denied that the sacking of about 12 manual workers attached to clerical sections was a result of pressure by the 200 strong Clerical Workers' Union.

The Civic Trust's scheme for High Street was started and first in the field were two adjacent shops —J. & W. Baxter Ltd., and Lewis Jenkins.

The local St. John Ambulance Sea, Cliff and Mountain Rescue Unit announced a plan to safeguard beachgoers during the summer. The unit, manned by volunteers, planned to ensure the safety of holidaymakers swimming and boating off the beaches.

Outline plans for the Shelley Park Estate, one of the biggest housing developments yet to be seen in Christchurch, were approved. Chairman of the Planning Committee, Coun. W. E. Tucker, told the C.T. that the development could be the foundation stone for Christchurch as a residential resort. He described the scheme as "amazing."

At the end of the month, he told the Council that the estimated additional rateable value through the estate on current valuation list basis would be about £14,000 and on the new valuation list basis about £50,000.

Christchurch Debating Society decided they wanted Britain to join the Common Market, while the liberals in the constituency decided they wanted Coun. Peter Hughes as their next Parliamentary candidate.

It was reported that redundancies at de Havillands since the rundown started two months ago had reached 63 staff and 101 manual workers.

The C.T. also announced the 101st birthday of Miss Jessie Osman, a former Christchurch resident, and the 100th birthday of Miss Fanny Bell, of Sunnyholm Old People's Home.

News was circulated that the Beagle Aircraft Company was definitely coming to Christchurch at the end of September and they hoped to have a labour force of 2000 in two years' time. Meanwhile, two representatives of Fokkers were offering about 60 skilled men jobs in Amsterdam on what has been described as the best terms anyone had put forward for the D.H. men since the redundancies started.

A forecast was made at Christchurch Court that at least 240,000 passengers would be using Hurn Airport this year when the magistrates were asked to approve plans for extensions to the terminal buildings.

Christchurch parishioners were delighted with the announcement that the Rev. Leslie Henry Yorke had been appointed Vicar of Christchurch.

The New Forest pony with the nearly white teeth "Brookley Katrine," which the New Forest Pony and Cattle Society found for the King of Nepal's son last year, was reported to be extremely fit and well cared for. The society were able to report increasing popularity of the New Forest pony abroad and in this country the breed was more and more in demand where children's riding ponies were wanted.

Mr. G. Lowe, chairman of Christchurch Harbour and Rivers Association, hoped that councillors would be "big enough" to allow the harbour to be run by people with a specialised knowledge of it and with a practical experience in boating affairs.

The month ended with the controversial decision by the Council to ban circuses which included performing animals on land under the Council's control.

## APRIL

With spring in the air, thoughts turned to the harbour and at a meeting of Christchurch Joint Committee Bournemouth Corporation came in for criticism for their disapproval of the suggested employment of a harbour patrol for the purpose of enforcing byelaws.

Both Corporations had been asked for their views on a harbour patrol at weekends and Bank Holidays during the summer. Christchurch agreed, but Bournemouth did not consider the appointment of a paid officer to be opportune.

Christchurch was on the air once again, this time in the B.B.C's "Down Your Way" programme. A good cross-section of the community came to the microphone and many sets were tuned in to this very interesting programme.

This month saw a new chapter in the life of Mudeford—the opening of Stanpit's £10,600 village hall, while at Bransgore the liberals rallied and formed themselves into a branch of the New Forest Liberal Association.

The annual report of Christchurch Old People's Welfare and Housing Society stated that the first two blocks of flats at "Homelands," King's Avenue, were completed and Highcliffe Old People's Club was opened during an eventful and progressive year.

Residents in the vicinity of Christchurch Airfield reported that their chances of relaxation, particularly at weekends, were very slight and the reason was the noise of low-flying aircraft. A letter was promptly posted to the Ministry of Aviation by Mudeford and Stanpit Residents' Association. Soon they will be able to relax, for it is expected that all flying will cease from the airfield, there being other plans for this wide open space.

It was announced that although Christchurch would be without a carnival this year, the townspeople would see a new event—a Youth Festival—on July 28th.

Highcliffe Citizens' Association hit the headlines when members protested against Council approval of a plan for Shelley Park flats. They objected to high level flats.

Probably one of the most devastating announcements was the one which read: "Beagles are NOT Coming—Official." That was that. But then came a cry from the unions for a crisis conference. That was held at the Town Hall on the first Tuesday in May.

Meanwhile, ex-de Havilland men waved goodbye to relatives and friends as they boarded a 'plane at Hurn Airport bound for Amsterdam and work at the Fokker Aircraft Company.

At the annual meeting of the Priory Church Parochial Church Council, treasurer Mr. D. Gittins: reported a much brighter year financially and the Rev. David Shearlock, who had been in charge of the Priory Church between the Dean of Hereford's departure and the arrival of the new Vicar, reported a "glorious Easter." People queued to attend Matins.

Miss Mary Bradbrook, of North Ripley, celebrated her 100th birthday on Good Friday.

*In more ways than one, last year went out with a shiver. With the first snow of the winter came the publication at the Town Hall of new valuation lists. On average, the rateable values trebled — an icy blast if ever there was one. The cold draught sweeping through the whole country was felt by the 603 unemployed in Christchurch — almost double the previous December's number — and Christmas in the town was the coldest for 11 years. The 1962 review continues from last week . . .*

## MAY

The big news about de Havillands came on the second day of the month, when it was announced that the factory and the airfield were for sale. A delegation from the factory's joint consultative committee returned from a meeting with Ministry of Aviation officials with this news "much happier men." satisfied that everything was being done by the Ministry to ensure that the factory would be taken over with the least possible delay.

The Ministry officials did not anticipate any difficulty in selling the factory, and would bear in mind the needs of the redundant labour force when selling it. All this, of course, was before the Board of Trade stepped in and before the second and third deputations from the local Council.

Christchurch Football Club were faced with the prospect of relegation to Division III of the Hampshire League after losing a match against Winchester, their last hope of survival in the second division; However, they were determined this would not be for more than a year.

## EQUALLY DETERMINED

Equally determined, but in a different direction, was the local Council's second deputation to the Ministry of Aviation. They returned with a request from the Ministry for their views on the Airfield, and the recognition that there would be a gap in the continuity of employment at the factory; they entertained the hope, however, that this gap would be the minimum possible.

Vickers Armstrong, Hurn, started working on the new B.A.C. One-Eleven twin-jet successor to the Viscount, but it was no answer for the employment problem facing de Havilland employees. Vickers said that if they had a promising order book, they would be able to take on 300 to 400 more production men during the next two or three years, but at the time they could see little chance of taking on more than a few men. The Employment Exchange did not anticipate too bad a position over the de Havilland rundown, then five weeks from the end. They expected a good number of the 1,000 men left at the factory would have been fixed up with jobs before the factory closed. Secretary of the joint consultative committee, Mr. A. G. Neal, was busy with his last-ditch hope of getting someone to buy the factory. The five motor firms, he wrote to, however, said they wouldn't come.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

The local elections brought two new councillors to the Borough Council, Coun. W. A. Bridge chairman of Mudeford and Stanpit Residents Association, who contested the seat in Mudeford ward with Major Vyner Thorndyke (Cons.), took one of them, and the other was gained from Labour councillor Don. Stacey by Christchurch trader, Coun. Arthur Griffiths.

Highcliffe Methodists began work on their £30,000 new church and hall. The Council, however, were not so successful with their building schemes. The Ministry of Housing caused some disappointment among councillors when they decided not to allow their council to build 30 dwellings, which would have virtually completed the Somerford estate this year.

Better public relations was to be one of the main ambitions during his year of office, the new Mayor, Coun. Barrington Myers, told a packed Town Hall at the Mayor making ceremony. He said he hoped to remedy the lack of information about the work of the Council that the public had, and thus get rid of some of the confusion and dismay in the minds of the critics of the Council.

It was announced in May that Sir Donald Bailey, Director of M.E.X.E., would be leaving to take up a new appointment as Dean of the Royal Military College, of Science, Shrivenham, Berkshire. Sir Donald

first came to Christchurch to work for the Bridging Establishment, as it was then called, in 1929, and it was here that he invented the Bailey Bridge.

## FESTIVAL QUEEN

The Christchurch Times, in conjunction with the Youth Festival Committee, launched the Youth Festival Queen contest, the winner of which was to be picked at a dance at the Town Hall the following month. Bransgore chose Miss Wendy Cherrett, of The Shanty, Poplar Lane, Bransgore, as Carnival Queen, and her attendants were Miss Pamela Hooper and Miss Margaret Crabb.

The civic pride in the opening of High Street civic trust face-lift scheme at the middle of the month was marred a little by the vandalism among the Druiitt Gardens' flower beds later. The Mayor, also chairman of the Municipal Committee, appealed to the public to report any such incidents of vandalism they might see "with a view to this disgraceful action being stamped out once and for all."

And while Lady Montagu, who opened the civic trust scheme, and the rest of the civic party paraded the High Street—with a vintage car thrown in for good luck—there was a weeping willow and a "Ban the waste on rates" placard in the window of Smiths Showrooms, a grand finale to ex-Coun. Smith's campaign to stop the £700 architect's fees being charged to the rate, and all to no avail.

A dozen members of Christchurch Harbour and Rivers Association, equipped with a tractor, a landrover, winches, crowbars and lots of energy, made an all-out effort to clear the harbour of wrecks and other hazards to boating. They had waited for four years in vain for the local authorities to do the job.

The Rev. B. L. Cottrell, priest-in-charge of All Saints', Mudeford, was rowed out to the middle of the Run at Mudeford for the traditional blessing of the waters ceremony. He was rowed by Mr. Ralph Derham.

Ald. P. G. Templeman, chairman of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board, and chairman of the local hospital management committee, said the Board was spending £30,000 for additional accommodation for the nurses at the hospital and £52,000 on extensions to the group laundry at Christchurch Hospital. He said the reputation of the hospital was very high, and was increasing every year.

## JUNE

Disturbing news reached the borough that eight of the 25 former de Havilland workers who took jobs with Fokkers had decided not to return to Holland after spending Whitsun in Christchurch with their families. They said they were dissatisfied with the conditions of employment.

A Sea Vixen which took off from the de Havilland airfield returned almost immediately to the airstrip when the test pilot heard a "bang." On landing it was found that it had split at a seam in the fuselage and it was believed that part of the wing was also slightly affected.

Highcliffe Silver Prize Band organised a jumble sale which raised £50 with which they bought two new instruments, a trombone and a tenor horn to begin their bid to replace all the 25 instruments in the band, some of which have been described by the conductor Mr. Ben Bacon as "falling to pieces."

A former Christchurch practitioner, Dr. Alexander Whyte Davidson was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the birthday Honours List. And Wing Commander K. R. Manns, who is serving in the Royal Air Force received the same honour—his mother lives at 14 Sydney Road, Christchurch.

Christchurch got its first Night Club when the Regency Club in the High Street was granted a Club licence, a Music and Dancing licence and a special hours certificate by Christchurch Licensing Justices

## RETIREMENT

Dr. N. S. Deane, St. Albans, Avenue Road, Christchurch, retired after completing 50 years as a qualified doctor, 43 of them spent as a general practitioner in Christchurch.

Wingfields, the de Havilland sports and social club, was put on the market, and prices ranging from £60,000 to £80,000 were mentioned for the sale.

Whit weekend was a busy one for Christchurch. The fourth Highcliffe Festival was a three-day event and proved a big holiday attraction. It had a strong home-grown flavour and could be described as a "do-it-yourself" festival with more items than ever before staged by local people.

Meanwhile, down the road from the Highcliffe Recreation Ground, 200 scouts and wolf cubs were holding their eighth annual Whitsun Camp at S.R.D.E. together with members of the Christchurch Red Cross Boys.

The Priory Church was broken into in the early hours of one morning in June and the contents were stolen from the poor box, the missionary box and the organ fund box.

The Borough Council's Street Scene Improvement committee decided that preliminary inquiries were to be made of owners and occupiers of premises in Church Street and Lymington Road, Highcliffe as to whether they would be prepared to co-operate in a coordinated scheme similar to the one carried out in High Street.

The local planning committee refused an application for a public house in Friars Cliff.

## DISAPPOINTMENT

A disappointment was that in spite of a brilliant sun and cloudless sky, Bransgore's Village Fair was not very well supported, the attendance of only 500 brought in gate receipts of £47.

In June the Hinton Women's Institute celebrated its 21st birthday. A party was held on the lawn at Hinton Admiral at the invitation of Sir George and Lady Meyrick.

Christchurch Magistrate, Mr. M. L. T. Williams told the borough's Road Safety committee that road signs should be kept to a minimum. "The more signs we put up the worse the position becomes. I think we should cut out as many as we can so that the motorists are not distracted by too many signs," he said.

Fair-haired and blue-eyed Ann Veronica Skipper, an 18-year-old typist of The Court House, Princess Avenue, Christchurch, was elected Christchurch's first Youth Festival Queen at a Youth Festival Ball in the Town Hall. Her attendants were 19-year-old Miss Elizabeth Stokes, Lilac Lodge, Smugglers Lane, Highcliffe and 18-year-old Miss Theresa Nelson, 8 Freda Road. Christchurch.

Alderman Mrs. Dorothy Baker put forward a very strong case on behalf of the Mudeford fisherman against the proposal of the Avon and Dorset River Board to further limit the netting of salmon in the Run at Mudeford at the monthly Council meeting.

She thought: "The dice is already very much loaded against the fishermen." She unsuccessfully proposed a notice of motion that "in the opinion of this Council the proposals of the Avon and Dorset River Board for further limitation of the netting of salmon in the Run at Mudeford are detrimental to the interest of the borough and should be opposed."

## PROPOSALS

The Board's proposals which were to be put before a public inquiry on July 23rd and 24th, were to prohibit netting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next morning, in addition to the present prohibition from 6 a.m. Saturdays to 6 a.m. Mondays. They also proposed to restore the limit to the number of licences granted in the Run.

Back into its rightful place month, accommodating the Mayor in the Council Chamber, went a very tall and impressive looking mahogany chair, bought by the Council 215 years ago for seven guineas.

Celebrations were held during the month at the Westover Cinema to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the cinema by the Earl of Malmesbury on June 19, 1937.

A record sum of well over £120 was raised by St. Mary's Church, Somerford, at the annual fete in aid of church funds. This was opened by the Christchurch Festival Queen, Miss Ann Skipper, carrying out her first official engagement.

It was noted at the end of the month that the last redundancies to be issued at de Havillands would be going out within a week when about 200 men were expected to get their notices.

On a brighter note, the Christchurch Military Tattoo on Bernards Mead Recreation Ground attracted a large crowd; it was organised by the Christchurch branch of N.A.L.G.O.

## JULY

After several months without a Vicar, parishioners filled the Priory Church for the installation and induction of the new Vicar, the Rev. Leslie Henry Yorke. He was installed by the Lord Bishop of

Winchester. Dr. S. Faulkner Allison, and the induction ceremony was performed by the Rural Dean, Canon C. D. Kirkham.

The following week, the headmaster of the Priory School, Mr. C. J. Adcock, announced a modernisation plan for the school, estimated to cost £25,000. This refuted rumours that the school was going to close.

Another installation in July was that of the new Vicar of Burley, the Rev. John George Russell Blackwall, who succeeded the Rev. Edmund J. A. Easten, who left the year before to accept a living in Norfolk.

July saw the inauguration in Christchurch of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign, a few weeks after the campaign's inauguration nationally. A meeting at the Town Hall was attended by about 130 representatives of various organisations in the borough.

## WINGFIELDS

The Council started negotiations for the purchase of Wingfields, the former de Havilland Sports and Social Club, and decided to apply for a loan to cover the £66,000 cost of the 17-acre sports centre.

Acts of vandalism in the Rec. and the Druitt Gardens decided the Borough Council to ban cyclists there. Previously, cyclists had been allowed to push their machines through the avenue of trees because of the distance involved in riding around the roundabout. It was thought that cyclists were responsible for some of the damage.

The C.T. published its first full page of colour in an advertisement for the Southern Gas Board.

Mudford residents received their shock of the year when the County Planning Authority produced a comprehensive re-development plan for a large part of the land between Mudford Road and the waterfront. The Council adopted the plan by 12 votes to five, watched by a large number of Mudford residents at a Council meeting held in the public hall to enable all interested members of the public to attend.

## ON VIEW

On view at the meeting was a model of the plan, which covers 28 acres in three sections, providing all types of accommodation, from one-storey patios to five storey flats. A density of 10 dwellings to the acre was envisaged in the plan, which had a total of 494 dwellings. None of the land covered in the plan is owned by the local authority, and the county planners hoped to get the co-operation of the developers.

Mudford residents showed themselves to be very much against the county's plan at their association's meeting the following week. The following month they were legally represented when they objected at the Town Map inquiry.

The end of July brought a landmark in the work of youth organisations in the town: The first Christchurch Youth Festival. The event, which the Mayor, Coun. Barrington Myers, termed the start of a new era, was a wonderful display of team work and co-operation between local youth organisations. It replaced the Carnival, which was not held 1962, but it seems that the end of one tradition was marked by the start of another.

## AUGUST

August Bank Holiday will stand out in many memories. Not, unfortunately, because of the good weather, but because of the bad. It was described as the worst on record. From 9 a.m. on Monday until 9 a.m. the following day there was a rain fall of 1.04 inches.

The appalling weather made a great difference to the success of the New Forest Breeding and Cattle Society's annual show in Burley Manor Park. Gate takings on Monday were down by £200.

Christchurch Rowing Club were also victims of the weather, but battled on to take two-thirds of their usual takings at their annual fete.

Vying with the weather for a gloomy start to the month was the news that the British Oxygen Company would not be coming to Christchurch. This was believed to have been one of the most serious of enquiries concerning the de Havilland factory.

## YACHT MARINA

Two Christchurch men, Mr. Kim Lander and Mr. John Macklin announced a scheme for a yacht marina for the Bournemouth side of Christchurch Harbour at Hengistbury Head. The project was estimated to cost £100,000.

Six scouts from Milwaukee arrived to spend a week's holiday at homes of local scouts. The visit was part of an exchange scheme with British scouts.

Mr. Ken Derham, of Avon Beach, with his life-saving crew of four local fishermen, was one of the first to be enrolled in a life-saving scheme for inshore rescue, put into operation by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The R.N.L.I. in liaison with the Ministry of Transport launched this pilot scheme along the south coast and local boat owners were asked to supplement the lifeboat service.

## PUBLIC INQUIRY

Three days of the month were taken up by the public inquiry into the Christchurch Town Map. The inquiry was held at the Town Hall and there were more than 30 objectors to various parts of the amendments to the map.

It was announced that Avon Castle, near Ringwood, the former seat of the Earls of Egmont, was to be put on the market.

Eleven and twelve-year-olds at Mudeford caused quite a stir at the Town Hall when they requested more swings, roundabouts and seesaws for their recreation ground. They formed themselves into a committee to fight for what they wanted. They were rewarded later in the year with extra equipment including a shute.



The end of an era. This was the last Sea Vixen to be built at Christchurch. Most of the men in the picture were flight shed personnel who left with the aircraft at the end of August.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month the last Christchurch built Sea Vixen flew off from the airfield, thus ending 23 years of direct association with the aircraft industry.

Hundreds attended Mudeford's annual Carnival which was described by the Mayor as a supreme example of community spirit. At Bransgore on the same day there was a wonderful response at the Horticultural Society's annual show.

## NEW RECORD

A new record was set up by Christchurch Rowing Club when at Bournemouth Regatta Paddy Lanary and Mike Green rowed over the finishing line in first place to win the "A.C. Meader Cup" for senior pairs. The senior "A" pair, which won all seven of the Hants and Dorset A.R.A 1962 pairs races, became the undefeated champions—a performance that will be remembered for many years to come.

## SEPTEMBER

Christchurch's 54th regatta was marred by acts of vandalism discovered at the Quay in the early hours of the following morning, but the day's events had proved as successful as ever. They attracted a big crowd and there was fun for all in the attractive programme.

The first meeting of the local committee of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign met at the Town Hall and set a target of £4,000. It was hoped this target might be reached within 12 months.



The District Valuer completed negotiations on behalf of the Borough Council for the purchase of Wingfields at the price of £66,000.

Wingfields had been described as a ready-made sports and social centre, but a number of Christchurch Ratepayers had other ideas. They put forward a scheme for using Christchurch Airfield as a sports and recreational centre and this was described in detail in the C.T. Later in the year one of the initiators of the scheme, Mr. C.R. Walker was invited by Christchurch Ratepayers Association to sit on a panel at their January meeting to discuss the airfield.

The War office announced that Brig. H.A.T. Jarrett-Kerr, O.B.E., would take over the appointment of Director of M.E.X.E. to succeed Sir Donald Bailey.

### RINGWOOD CARNIVAL

One of the biggest events in September is the Ringwood Carnival which starts on one Saturday and reaches a climax the following Saturday with big attractions in the town each day of the week. The Carnival this year got off to a colourful start on the eighth of the month when 17-year-old Helen Burchell was crowned "Queen" in the market place. Crowds gathered for the occasion and there were also many visitors to the town for the big day the following Saturday.

An alarming report came from Friars Cliff where it was stated that residents were afraid to lay charges against "young hooligans" who damaged their property because they feared reprisals. This was reported at a meeting of Friars Cliff Residents Association when members related incidents in which gates had been torn down and thrown into the road on gardens and in ditches.

Mr. R. W. Arnold's resignation as chairman of Christchurch Ratepayers' Association was accepted by the Executive Committee as also was that of Mrs. G. Smith, secretary. Later in the year the Executive accepted with "very deep regret" Mr. Arnold's resignation from the association.

### GRAVE CONCERN

Wanton damage to public and private property was again in the news. This time the Council expressed concern at damage reported in the borough particularly in the Mudeford and Friars Cliff areas. They decided to request the Chief Constable to take immediate action and to provide any necessary additional personnel to stamp out the hooliganism which, it was stated, "has so intimidated local residents that they have a genuine fear of reprisals which might follow any action taken by them personally".

In his annual report the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. J. N. McNab) again referred to lung cancer. He reported that 18 deaths occurred from lung cancer in Christchurch during 1961 and this was the greatest number of deaths from this cause which had been recorded in the borough in any one year, and continued the rising toll of death from a disease which was now believed to be preventable and largely self-inflicted.

The chances of dying from lung cancer, he said, had increased by more than two-and-a-half times in 16 years and the increase had taken place almost entirely in the ranks of cigarette smokers.

### ONE OF THE BEST

Christchurch Horticultural Society attracted a good entry for their annual autumn show. It was voted by the judges as one of the best staged by the society and there was keen competition.

Food premises in Christchurch and Highcliffe were described by Mr. F. le V. Friend, Public Health Inspector, as a credit to the borough. The standard, he said, in his annual report, was second to none.

Avon Castle was sold by auction for £25,250 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Winchurch of Hailsham. It would enable their 18-year-old daughter Kay, a polio victim, to live in the countryside she is so fond of said her mother after the sale.

There was a big occasion at the end of the month at Hinton when Sir George Meyrick invited tenants, employees and friends to a dinner party to celebrate the coming-of-age of his son, Mr George Christopher Cadafael Meyrick.

## OCTOBER

Industry came to the forefront again in October. Christchurch Ratepayers' Association, after hearing that the South West Area Planning Committee had refused an application for Brush Crystal Co. Ltd., to build a factory on land between Stony Lane and Burton Road, asked the Council to make its policy on light industry clear.

The particular piece of land in question was that which the Council had, in opposition to the County Council, asked to be made available for industry at the Town Map inquiry in August, and the C.R.A. were perturbed because the local planning committee passed Brush Crystal's application to the South West Area Planning Committee (a higher body) without comment.

The Council's answer to the C.R.A. was that their policy on light industry was made clear at the Town Map inquiry, when they asked for the 30 acres of land between Stony Lane and Burton Road to be allocated for industry.

Another attempt to bring industry to the town came when the Council decided to send another deputation—their third—to the Ministers of Aviation and Labour and the President of the Board of Trade to discover what progress had been made in finding a buyer for the de Havilland factory and to press for more urgent negotiations to bring one.

## DOWN TO BUSINESS

Christchurch Freedom from Hunger Campaign Committee got down to business at the beginning of the month. They decided on a house-to-house collection once a month—they called it a "monthly pledge scheme"—during the New Year. They also decided that their efforts in the campaign would be for part of the money for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation and U.N.I.C.E.F. to provide safe milk for the Hyderabad area of India.

A few weeks later, the Campaign Committee opened a shop, Retomba, in the High Street, as a sort of permanent "bring and buy" sale. The premises were offered to them by the owners until they were needed.

Marking almost the end of another appeal—one for £30,000 for a new church and hall for Highcliffe Methodists—came when the new hall was opened, and the last service took place in the old church. Until the new church is built, all services are being conducted at the hall. The demolition of the church began the following day.

The Vicar of Christchurch, the Rev. L. H. Yorke, opened an appeal for £500 to repair and improve the Priory Church clock, which had taken to a "stop-go" policy for the previous few months. The Priory P.C.C. decided not to demolish the Vicarage, but to repair and renovate it.

Highcliffe traders gave "quite outstanding support" for a preliminary enquiry to see whether they would be interested in a civic trust scheme for Lymington Road.

The County Council decided to withdraw their comprehensive redevelopment plan for Mundeford pending a report by consultants on the flooding of the area, and how it would affect their plan.

## THEIR OWN PLAN

Mundeford Residents' Association jumped at this chance, and produced their own plan of how Mundeford should look in the future, calling it "The Defence of Mundeford Plan". It envisaged plenty of open space between development, and instead of the county's 30 people to the acre, the Residents planned for a density of 20 people.

Coun. W.A. Bridge, chairman of the association, said that main object for which association had been formed was then realised—to object to high-density development near the harbour.

Ex-Coun. A.E. Toombs took over the chairmanship of the C.R.A. from Mr. R.W. Arnold.

Highcliffe County Junior School decided to have its own swimming pool, and started an appeal for money to pay for it. A vital meeting of Highcliffe Community Association decided by 50 votes to four that the association should continue. A public meeting later to decide on how it should be run was only attended by a dozen or so people.

Pontoons at Tuckton came under fire when Tuckton Riverside Services objected to enforcement notices served on them by the Council to remove pontoons at a local enquiry.

Christchurch Aero Club, who were told they must leave the Airfield by the end of the year, reported that they were negotiating for another airfield about 80 miles away.

The Mayor told the Chamber of Trade that he did not consider the time was opportune to call a town meeting to discuss what could be done to get a new purchaser for the de Havilland factory. The Chamber, who had asked the Mayor to convene the meeting, were thanked for their support.

## NOVEMBER

The Avon and Dorset River Board's fishery bye-laws which brought fierce protests from Mudeford netsmen and the rodsmen upstream at the public inquiry earlier in the year were approved by the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food at the beginning of the month.

All the bye-laws will come into force next year.

An exhibition at the Red House Museum marked the centenary of the coming to Christchurch of the first railway line. It remained open until the end of the month.

Members of Christchurch branch of the British Legion honoured Mr. A. W. Hornby, their president for 16 years, when he was presented with the British Legion's Gold Badge. Mr. Hornby joined the Legion in 1929.

Work started on the first swimming pool in the borough — at Christchurch Junior School, Clarendon Road. Costing £2,275, the pool was expected to be completed within two months and children will use it from the beginning of the summer term.

## M.P.'s HELP

Mr. John Cordle, M.P., announced that he would see the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Sir Keith Joseph, in an effort to help the Highcliffe Citizens' Association to lower to four storeys the height of the planned 12-storey blocks of flats planned at Shelley Hill, Highcliffe.

Good news came from the Vicar of Christchurch, the Rev. L. H. Yorke, when he announced that the Rev. Douglas Christian Hilton was to be the new priest-in-charge of St. George's Church, Jumpers, and the new priest-in-charge of St. Mary's would be the Rev. Ben Williams. Mr. Williams will succeed the Rev. C. G. Payne, who becomes Vicar of Otterbourne early in the new year.

Bournemouth East and Christchurch Liberals voted 56-year-old Ald. Wm. John Wareham as their prospective parliamentary candidate for the division.

The Borough Council announced that they were to seek a fourth deputation to London on the subject of the ex-de Havilland factory. This was decided after the Council had been told that their third deputation to the Board of Trade had been "very disappointing".

In the scientific field, S.R.D.E. gave details of radio installations at Steamer Point to explore the possibilities of radio communications via the moon and artificial earth satellites, while at Hurn Airport the most advanced equipment designed for guiding aircraft during the critical final stages of automatic landings was demonstrated by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.

## MISSING

Missing from the band of Poppy Day sellers in Ringwood this month was Mrs. G. Frampton, of 12, Meeting House Lane, one of the town's best known residents who will be 88 in January. "I really thought it was time that I gave up, especially with the weather at this time of the year", she explained.

The C.R.A. wrote to the Prime Minister calling attention to the loss of revenue by the continued vacancy of the de Havilland factory and the resulting unemployment in the area. They asked other ratepayer associations in the borough to write similar letters to Mr. Macmillan.

After a lengthy Council discussion it was decided that when the three Dutch cottages on Mudeford Quay become vacant they be furnished and let as holiday accommodation. This was after an unsuccessful amendment by Ald. Mrs. Dorothy Baker that the cottages be offered to people on the Council's housing list.

With holidaymakers, and particularly honeymooners in mind, Mr. John Smith suggested to the C.R.A. that they ask the Council to re-instate the old horse trough as near as possible to its original position in the old Pound Lane. It would be very photogenic and a big attraction, said Mr. Smith. This suggestion was forwarded to the Council.

Towards the end of the month there was a shock for artist-barber Mr. Jack Wallace, who discovered that his latest masterpiece was too good—his water colour of a £1 note exhibited in his Bargates studio-shop was confiscated by the police.

## PARKING

The Mayor revealed to Friars Cliff Residents' Association a proposal to have unilateral parking in all roads in Friars Cliff, and went on to say that negotiations were in progress for use of the Airfield, fronting Bure Lane, for parking and there would be "no waiting" orders for all roads in the area, when additional parking space came available.

Further extensions to Twynham County Secondary School, including a new assembly hall, a gymnasium, and practical blocks—for metal work, woodwork, needlework and domestic science—were announced at the school's annual prize giving. They were to take place in the near future.

A welcome gift was received by Stanpit Village Hall Management Committee—a cheque for £555, the proceeds from the Carnival and various other functions during the year.

## DECEMBER

Just before Christmas came the brightest news of the year about the Somerford factory. Christchurch Council agreed in principle to take over the premises and operating them as a trading estate should the Minister of Aviation be unable to dispose of the factory within a reasonable time.

The Council's fourth deputation on the subject put this proposal before the Minister, and he said that it would be acceptable to himself and the Board of Trade.

Not so bright was the news from the Ministry of Labour that Christchurch had reached its highest unemployment figure for many years—603. For the same period last year the figure was 377. During the year more than 1,500 people were found jobs and about 95 per cent, in the local area.

Still on the industrial front, Brush Crystal Company's application for planning permission to build a factory in Somerford Road was recommended for County planning approval by the local planning committee.

Thoughts turned to summer and the holidays when it was announced that Pontins Ltd. were to spend about £200,000 on the reconstruction of Wick Ferry Holiday Camp.



*Dominique Baudeigne recorded the 302nd year of Free Church worship in Christchurch with this picture of the Congregational Church in Millhams Street. This was marked by special thanksgiving services in April, when also celebrated was the tercentenary of the Congregational Denomination. The present church was opened for worship on Good Friday (April 19) 1867, but Nonconformists have met for worship on this site since 1660.*

## CHURCH PUBLICITY

The Vicar of Christchurch, the Rev. Leslie Yorke, launched a campaign to give the Church more publicity. In a forthright sermon he told the Priory Church congregation that the Church of England needed highly trained publicity agents who could hand out the same kind of compelling slogans as the detergent firms.

Writing in the January issue of the Parish Newsletter, published in the last week of December, his curate, the Rev. David Shearlock continued the campaign. He wrote that he would like to see each member of the parish a "publicity agent" for the Church, each one a "salesman" in the best sense of the word.

The month saw two 102nd birthdays celebrated in the area. The first was by Miss Agnes Tieman, in ward B1 at Christchurch Hospital on December 13 and the other was by Mrs. Henrietta Moser, of 10a, Grand Avenue, Southbourne, on Christmas Eve.

Christmas in Christchurch was the coldest for at least 11 years, but it did not snow until the day after Boxing Day.