

InsideOut

activate performing arts

We start our walk by the Quay to explore Jason's family connection to Poole. Jason can trace his lineage in Poole back to the 14th Century. His family has a deep maritime connection, including sea captains, fisherman, smugglers, and RNLI boatmen. He remembers a tale of his great-grandfather, who dived into Poole Quay to rescue a boy from drowning. He received a commendation and fob watch which Jason still has to this day.

We continue our walk along the Quay, stopping by the Fisherman's Dock. Helen and her family loved fishing and crabbing by the Quay. The kids' favourite thing to do was to go out on their father's boat and fish in the harbour.

From the Quay, follow the road round to the left adjacent to the Lifeboat Museum. Cross the roundabout and walk down Stanley Road stopping at the junction of Stanley Road and Green Road. Here we encounter Janet's memory. Janet recalls one Friday night over 60 years ago. After leaving a film show at South Road School, she came out of the hall and the whole road was flooded. Janet and her friends tried to walk home but Green Road and Stanley Road were also flooded. They had to wait for men to carry them home as the water was so deep. They all thought it was great fun.

Turn right down Green Road and follow the road towards Baiter Park. Leave the path and walk down to the water. If you look carefully you should be able to see the foundations of the old sea water swimming pool. One resident remembers learning to swim in the pool when they were a child and wishes it was still around today. Return to the path and continue walking, before making a left turn onto Catalina Drive. Near the end of the road enter the subway on the left. Continue along the subway and then take a right turn into Park Lane Road.

We once again remember a swimming pool: the old outdoor pool in Poole Park. One resident remembers going to the old swimming pool with her friends in the 1950s. The locker rooms were rubbish and the water was as freezing as the sea. Even so, they always had fun and loved going.

Continue walking along Park Lane Road and take a left turn onto Kingland Road. Walk along the road stopping adjacent to the Leisure Centre. George and Naomi are best friends who grew up in Poole during the 90s. They have many fond memories of Poole including going to the Leisure Centre and would head to the shops after. They always bought ginger nut biscuits as well as visiting the video game store.

Turn right onto Poole Park and continue into the park until you reach the car park. Here we remember an unusual incident that happened to Brian and his grandson a few years ago. After spending a lovely day at the park Brian and his grandson went to leave, only to find their car blocked by a swan. Despite trying to back out the car park a few times the swan would not get out of the way. Eventually, Brian had to use a shirt to shoo it away from the car.

Follow the path through the park. Lucie loved coming to the park with her family. Their favourite thing to do was riding the miniature train which her children found exciting. The train only recently stopped running and the tracks are still visible.

Keep walking through the park stopping by the small carpark and cycling route. This was where the old zoo was situated and where we reminisce with one resident. Mrs Ross loved going to Poole Park Zoo in the 80s, when she was a child, and seeing all the animals. She was going through an uncertain time and going to the zoo with her brother was a welcome distraction.

Turn off the path to the right and walk towards Cops Close which is where Sarah and her family would go for football training. It was one of the only things they could do in lockdown and it was a great way for them to get outside. It became their favourite thing to do.

Walk back towards the path and follow the lake round. If it is dry and safe to do, follow the concrete footway onto the lake where we encounter Judy's memory from her childhood in the 1960s. Judy remembers ice skating on the lake with her friends when it used to freeze over in winter. It was always great fun. However, it was dangerous so the police would come and kick them off and they would have to run away.

Continue along the footway and then turn left towards Whitecliff Road. Walk along Whitecliff Road and then turn right towards Harbourside walk. Looking out to the water we encounter Nick's memory from 1963. Nick remembers that before Whitecliff was reclaimed there was a small beach below the cliffs. There were caves there which Nick and his friends could crawl in on their hands and knees. There was total darkness for about 30 metres, but it always felt much longer.

Follow Harbourside Walk stopping halfway. Again, look out across the water, towards Brownsea Island. One visitor recalls travelling to Poole all the way from London to visit Brownsea Island. She and her family were so excited to see the red squirrels. However, when they arrived the squirrels all seemed to be hiding and they didn't see one.

Thank you for taking part in The Collective Memory Archive and following this walk. This project was commisioned by Activate for Inside Out Festival and is by artist Izzie Jobbins. You can find out more about The Collective Memory Archive and the artist at izziejobbins.com.