

Bournemouth Mayors with Moordown connections:

James McWilliam (1824-1897):

James McWilliam (Provisional Mayor 1890, but disqualified - *see below*) was involved in the development of Winton and Moordown and he was the local advisor to the Talbot Estate, building Saint Mark's Church in Talbot Village and several lodge cottages in Wimborne Road for Miss Talbot. He also built additions to Miss Talbot's East Cliff home - Hinton Wood House - in 1878, made additions to Mont Dore (now the Town Hall) and undertook a variety of contracts on the West Cliff. His name is immortalised in McWilliam Road, Moordown (previously Portman Road, but renamed to avoid confusion with Portman Road, Boscombe).

When Bournemouth became a borough in 1890, McWilliam was named in its Charter as Provisional Mayor; however, to public dismay he was disqualified from office, as he had supervised the election of the first councillors.

Charles Hunt (1849-1920) (Mayor: 9.11.1910 - 9.11.1911):

Charles Hunt was well known for his activities on behalf of Wintonians; he was elected to the short-lived Winton Urban District Council, and succeeded Charles Frampton as its chairman. When Bournemouth was extended to include the area in 1901, Hunt represented the Winton and Moordown Ward on the town Council until his death. He was also an Alderman 1910-1916. He was a quiet and unobtrusive chairman of the Roads Committee, and vice chairman of Finance and General Purposes.

Mrs. Bessie Bicknell OBE (1911-1990) (Mayor: 30.5.1960 - 26.5.1961):

Bessie married Andrew Keith Bicknell in 1938 and came to Bournemouth. The Bicknells lived first at 31 Huntfield Road, Moordown, but soon moved to the Crohamhurst Hotel, 9 Durley Road, as joint proprietors. Keith became a director of Bournemouth Football club, whilst Bessie – keenly political – became president of the Young Conservatives Association. A Justice of the Peace from 1950; she represented Westbourne Ward on the Council, 1953-1965, where she chaired the Children's Committee and the secondary school governors.

Alban Ernest James Adams (1909 - 2000) (Mayor: 25.5.1962 - 24.5.1963):

Alban Adams was one of five children of Alfred James Adams, forming the third generation of a Bournemouth family and living at 232 Malmesbury Park Road. He entered his father's carpentry and building business in 1924; starting his own business in 1930 and progressing to the directorship of four subsidiary companies. Living at Smada, 9 Homeside Road, Moordown, he worked from 29 Somerley Road, Winton.

In 1951, he became a Councillor for Moordown North Ward. Committee chairman of Baths and Highways & Works, and vice-chairman of Welfare Services and Cliffs Protection, Adams was said to express decisive, carefully weighed opinions. Installed as Mayor at the Town Hall, he appointed the Rev. K.E.H. Parkinson as his chaplain. Alderman Whitelock, proposing him for the mayoralty, mentioned Adam's choral skills, joking that there were few chances for mayors to sing, outside football grounds.

George Henry Masters (born 1915) (Mayor: 23.5.1975 - 28.5.1976):

George Masters was born in Bridport, Dorset on September 1st 1915, but spent all his life in Bournemouth, where his family were local builders and he was Managing Director of the business, which worked extensively in the Redhill area. He was a founder member and Deacon for over 25 years of the Moordown Baptist Church. During the 1939/1945 War he served with the Royal Artillery in Norway, Egypt and Crete. In the Battle of Crete, May 1941, he was taken Prisoner of War and kept prisoner for over four years. As a POW in Germany and Poland he served as acting Padre to the men in the working camps.

Installed as Mayor at the Town Hall, Masters appointed the Rev. Robert Amess, minister of Moordown Baptist Church' as his chaplain.

Masters and his wife Doris lived at 22 Hillcrest Road, Moordown. When the news that he was to be Mayor broke, the telephone did not stop ringing, as friends phoned up with congratulations. Doris, a housewife, mother of Elaine, and grandmother to two boys, was thankful to outgoing Mayoress Enrina Turner for offering to show her the ropes.

Masters was a Governor of the St John's First School, at Moordown and also served on the Bournemouth and Regional Sports Councils. He was a founder member of the Bournemouth Lifeguards and their first chairman and president, having faced considerable opposition when establishing them on the sea front. Masters' interests include swimming (holding the Bronze Medal and Bar of the Royal Life Saving Society and a commendation certificate from the R.L.S.S. for work in forming the Bournemouth Life guards) cycling, tennis, river fishing, gardening, car maintenance, music and debating.

Mrs. Sheila Elizabeth McQueen (1930 - 2015) (Mayor: 28.5.1982 - 27.5.1983):

Born in Surrey, educated at Wimbledon Grammar School and Homerton College, Cambridge, Sheila E. Ford came to Bournemouth in 1952, as a youth club leader and teacher at the infants' school at East Howe. Sheila married (Peter) Ian McQueen and had four children, Peter, Janet, Donald and Alexander and then, with Ian's encouragement, she was elected to the Council in 1967, representing Moordown North Ward, later Muscliff. For eight years Sheila was also a Dorset county Councillor, but she lost her Dorset seat following her vociferous support for the building of Bournemouth International Centre!

See here:

http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/features/obituaries/13497311.Former_Mayor_of_Bournemouth_Sheila_McQueen/

Ronald Whittaker (1944-2015) (Mayor: 28.5.1993 - 27.5.1994):

Because of his interest in politics and as a member of the Labour Party Ron stood, unsuccessfully, in the very late 1960's in Redhill Park, and Moordown North. In 1971, he won the election for Moordown North Ward (later renamed Muscliff). Ron held very strong views on certain matters, especially Education, and in 1976 he was expelled from the Labour Party for having a number of differing views, opposing policy issues and taking an independent stand on local issues. He has stood successfully at every election since then as an Independent, gaining the highest personal vote of all elected councillors. He also served as a County Councillor 1973-1997.

http://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/13714458.Former_Bournemouth_councillor_Ron_Whittaker_dies/

Jean Elizabeth Moore: (Mayor: 24.5.1996 - 30.5.1997):

Jean's grandfather was a staunch Conservative and her mother was a Labour supporter. Jean discovered that the Liberal Democrats best matched her own political ideals and she became the first woman Liberal Democrat County Councillor to represent Bournemouth in Dorset, in 1981. She became a Bournemouth Councillor in 1983, representing the Moordown Ward.

In her acceptance speech Mayor Moore said that she would make young people the focus of her year in office, attempting to visit as many schools and youth organisations as possible. She hoped to involve young people in planning the future of Bournemouth. She also said 'I just thank the people of Moordown, without whom I would never have this honour.'