MOORDOWN, BOURNEMOUTH and the development of HILLCREST ROAD.

(Apparently Old English/ Middle English 'moor valley' or 'moor hill'. Possibly 'moor(e) = tree stump."

A large area including that which is now occupied by Bournemouth, was originally the Royal Demesne of Edward the Confessor whose arms are now incorporated in the Bournemouth coat of arms. The whole area became part of the Liberty of Westover which itself was part of the Manor of Christchurch. Westover means west bank or boundary indicating the region between the west bank of the Stour, at Redhill, and the sea. The old county boundary ran from Riddlesford at Redhill, south to the coast just west of Alum Chine. Westover was divided into the tithings of Muscliffe, Muccleshell, Throop, and Holdenhurst - all divided within the Chapelry of Holdenhurst.

In 1802, under the Christchurch Enclosure Act, Commissioners were given the task of allotting and enclosing certain common lands within the parish of Holdenhurst. Many parcels of land were sold to several, now well known, owners. The Winton and Moor Down areas were purchased chiefly by the Earl of Malmesbury and William Driver, a speculator. The Malmesbury Estate was interested in it as farm land, but William Driver sold again to the Reverend George Bruce, who was also concerned with farming. Five pieces of land, however, were held over and later sold under easy terms, and with conditions to the local authority: Redhill was one of these parcels. Owing to the enclosure of common lands the people of the liberty of Westover were in danger of losing privileges, one of which was the ancient right of turbary - turf cutting for fuel. Led by farmer William West, of Muscliffe Farm, they drew up a petition to be presented to the Enclosure Commissioners which resulted in 425 acres, not in one piece, being saved, and which form the basis of the present day parks in the town. Landowners, yeoman farmers, and shareholders were granted and as compensation for loss of common rights, the owners of Moor Down Farm were given 87.5 acres adjacent to their farm.

Roads began to develop, the route bearing the name Wimborne Road in the early 19th century was that which led from Iford to Redhill and on to Wimborne. At this time of road building much gravel was needed and land was set aside to provide this material at places including the present day Malvern Road recreation ground.

MUSCLIFF and MUCCLESHELL.

Two very much older communities, adjoining those of Winton and Moor Down, were Muscliffe and Muccleshell, both recorded in the Hundred Court Rolls of 1560. Muscliff (o.e Mus - mouse and clif-cliff) in 1805 was a detached village of old cottages. Part of one with the date 1729 over its door is said to be the dwelling of William West the farmer. Brick kilns were worked at Muccleshell. There were just a few cottages at Srouden Green with Moor Down Farm to the west and a few cottages nearby, one of which, Moorside, remains. The nearest community was a small hamlet at the bottom of Red Hill.

BURTS FARM.

In 1810 Lewis Tregonwell, Bournemouth's founder, bought land to the north of Winton on the east side of the main road (opposite Ensbury Park Road). There he built a modest house of cob with an open hearth fire and a thatched roof It late became Burt's Farm with David Burt, Farmer, in possession in 1878.

FIRST CHURCH and SCHOOL

Until 1845 the whole of what is now known as Bournemouth (with the exception of the land north and west of Redhill added in 1931) was part of the Parish of Holdenhurst. In 1845 St. Peters Bournemouth was consecrated and Rev Alexander Morden Bennett acquired a plot of land at Wimborne Road, Moordown, and built a school-chapel there with the first stone laid in May 1853. The building was in the form of a hall with a steep pitched roof topped by a very small bell tower. The windows were very plain lancets with a simple large, east window. The interior was plain to the point of poverty. It was dedicated to St. John in the Wilderness. From 1878 the school was for boys only. This little church survived firstly as Willis, the builders showroom, and is today incorporated as part of a housing scheme.

FIRST DWELLINGS.

There were still very few places of habitation in what is now Winton. The Misses Talbot, Georgina and Mary, having set in motion a building scheme on their own estate, turned their attentions to the east, purchased land along the main road and proceeded to build small, four-square artisans' cottages and to provide public wells for the supply of water. (In the future two wells were to come to light during excavations in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist). The Talbots were of Scottish descent and proud of it, naming roads on their estate after Scottish towns and giving them the name of their kinsman, the Earl of Winton to the new settlement.
MOORDOWN AND HILLCREST ROAD

Meanwhile the population of Moordown was beginning to increase, and around 1865 land on the brow of the hill overlooking Moordown Farm belonging to the Earl of Malmesbury, was divided into plots and built upon. These cottages survive in Rose Gardens, Malvern Road (Victoria Road) and Nursery Roads.

Moordown, which now merges, with Winton was then a small hamlet comprised of these new cottages, a chapel, the inn and a few older cottages scattered on the slopes around its farm. Oswald Road (then Osburn Road) led to Redhill Common land where there were two further excavations for clay and a brickfield with two kilns. The two inns, the Horse and Jockey (Robert Maidment, victualler), and the Hollies Inn (Walter Philip, victualler) were established at this time at Redhill and at Moordown.

NEW CHURCH

A new church was now proposed for Winton and Moordown. Rev. W.W. Henington, in 1872, purchased the land on which St John the Baptist now stands. On 6th August 1873 the foundation stone was laid by the Earl of Malmesbury, and the church was consecrated in April 1874 by the Bishop of Winchester. The church, 13th century in style, was designed by G.E. Street, RA, the architect of St. Peters, Bournemouth. Steps were taken to form the new parish of Moordown, Winton, Redhill and Muscliife.

At the end of the century Winton was a compact community separated from Moordown and Bournemouth by open land. The 1894 Directory described Winton as being in the parish of Moordown but by 1899 the positions were reversed and Moordown was designated 'a hamlet in Winton parish'. Family names, which occur frequently in records, and are common today are: Watton, Tiller, Rose, Troke, Loader, Hunt, Tuck, and Amey.

The Bournemouth Town Council of 1892 voted in favour of the inclusion of Winton within the Borough of Bournemouth, and this applied to Moordown as from November 1901.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

The telephone was now available to inhabitants, and the more progressive houses had electricity installed. Rates in 1901 were 1/ld in the pound in the lighted areas, and 10d. in the unlit. Footpaths were provided along major roads, a road watering wagon was provided, and there was a regular refuse collection. Horse drawn omnibuses were used until the century's end, when they were replaced in 1902 with the tram service extended from Bournemouth to Winton and Moordown, where a Corporation Tram Depot was built in 1906. A single track ran through the middle of the main road, opening out to provide passing places.

NEW SCHOOL

The new Winton Council School was opened in 1911 at Coronation Avenue. It held 1250 children of all ages, and both sexes, and was the largest in the borough. The Coronation commemorated was that of George V. It was still possible to look across the gravel road, pot-holed lanes and heaths, to see St Catherine's Hill from the playground. School leavers, in 1911, were still required locally for farm and domestic work. The Golden Jubilee of St John the Baptist, Moordown, took place in 1923, by which time the church's dumpy tower had been heightened into the clock tower we see today.

Extracts from 'The Growth of Winton', by S.J.Lands (Bournemouth Local Studies Publication 1978)
MOORDOWN AND HILLCREST ROAD

THE NEW ESTATES

Between 1924 and 1933 new housing estates were developed in Moordown, flanked by rows of shops on the main Wimborne Road. Mayfield Park Estate, including the existing 'Royal' Avenues (Queen Mary, King George, King Edward) were developed on the east side, with a shopping parade named Mayfield Park Buildings, and on the west with roads bearing literary names such as Cowper (built prior to 1918), and joined later by Tennyson and Barrie, amongst others, with shopping parades named Tennyson Buildings and the Strand. Bloomfield Avenue opposite was named after Rev. Herbert Bloomfield, for many years Vicar of St. John the Baptist. A.J. Abbott, Estate Agents, on the corner of Coronation Avenue, were agents for some of these developments. Some roads were renamed such as Elmes Road (originally Windsor Road), and Lawford Road (originally Old Wimborne Road).

By 1933 Moordown was a thriving suburb of Bournemouth, with houses stretching back on the west side to Redhill Park with The Grove and The Avenue, and the Royal Avenues and Priory View Road and including Valette, Nursery, Redbreast, Cobham and Lindbergh Rd, (named after the air pioneer - later renamed Franklin Rd), all sloping down to Castle Lane and Muscliffe. Moordown Congregational Church was built in 1930 (the site is now used as a Brethren Meeting Hall) on the brow of Priory View Road, and opposite this a new unadopted cul-de-sac was in the process of being developed.

HILLCREST ROAD

In his book 'The Story of Bournemouth', David S. Young writes the following: -

'In December 1873, ninety-seven urns containing fragments of burnt bone were unearthed at Redbreast Hill, Moordown, indicating a late Bronze Age cemetery of considerable dimensions. Five more urns were taken from the same site in 1923.'

Undoubtedly Redbreast Hill became the site of the new Hillcrest Road in a high region of Moordown, commanding excellent views towards Muscliffe, Holdenhurst and Parley.

In an Abstract of Title taken from a Conveyance dated 11th January 1886 is shown the following: -

All that allotment piece or parcel of land situate at Moordown in the tithing of Muccleshell in the parish of Holdenhurst in the county of Southampton awarded to Sir James Mansfield by the Commissioners acting under the Enclosures Act of 1802 George the Third, and in the Map and Award of such Commissioners numbered 199 and therein to contain 14 acres and 12 perches which said piece of land is numbered in the Ordnance Survey of the parish of Holdenhurst 53 and therein stated to contain 14 acres 1 rood 27 perches together with the houses erected and built thereon'.

This same Abstract of Title of Viscount Ebrington and Wynne Albert Bankes to Freehold land at Moordown quotes the following information: -

24th June 1875 By Indenture conveyance between Elias Lane of Christchurch (Grocer) and George Gollop of Poole (Accountant) and Martin Watts of Claremont Villas, Pelatt Road, Dulwich (Gentleman) of the first part - and Frederic Fane of Moyles Court, Ringwood, of the second part - and John Hiley-Austen of Ensbury (Clerk in Holy Orders) of the third part.

Reciting an Indenture dated 24th November 1859 between Georgina Talbot (spinster); David Tuck (builder); and Martin Kemp-Welch (gentleman), the piece of land afore-mentioned.

6th June 1860. Death of David Tuck (probate 22nd August 1860). Bequeathed land to Elias Lane, George Gollop, and Martin Watts.

11th January 1886. Conveyance between F.Fane, Lilla Gertude Fane (daughter), and the Hon. Arthur Grenville Fortescue of Castle Hill, Devon, and the Hon. Hugh F ortescue (Viscount Ebrington), and Wynne Albert Bankes of Wolferton House, Dorchester. (this indicated the intended marriage of Lilla Fane and Arthur Fortescue).


(Charles Albert Duke George was born in the Wimborne area in 1842. He teamed up with Henry Harding in 1867 and they became equal partners in 1883. After early poor health he prospered and survived to the age of 93 years. George was one of the original Town Commissioners (later an Alderman) who supervised the development of the town and their firm was and is especially involved with the Cooper Dean Estate).
HILLCREST RD

Hillcrest Road is first shown in the Bournemouth Kelly's Directory with two existing properties in 1927. These are 'Mentone' occupied by a Mrs. Cooke (in what later became part of Hillcrest Close next to the yet to be built Congregational Church), and 'Hillcrest' further down on the east side, then occupied by one Charles D. Cumber.

An extract from 'The Growth of Winton' quotes: - 'Another popular shop (in Winton) of the time was that of C.D. Cumber, the Chemist. From this gentleman at least three generations of Wintonians have gained advice and comfort. He made up his remedies, and to the writer 'Cumberslinctus' was as one word, and winter had not started until there was a bottle on the shelf . Before the dental surgeon set up in practice, Mr. Cumber would pull teeth - a shilling a go!

By 1933 there are seven properties listed in addition to the newly built church: -

Congregational Manse occupied by Rev. Leonard Munday
'Mentone' -- Miss Blackley

'Oakdene' – Albert Rt. Wllm. Rose
'Sandford'-- Lewis Hatting
'Hillcrest'-- Chas. D. Cumber

" -- Percival Chas. Cumber - Med. Officer No.5 District Bmth. Public Services Committee.
'Island View'- Mrs. J.B. Pewtress
'Arford'- Mr. Arthur Nicklen

1939 Kelly's Directory: -
Hillcrest Road (from 1039 Wimbome Road). No thoroughfare.

East side
'The Manse'
'Mentone'

~here is Priory View Road -

'Pendowr' -- Chas. Pott
'Lawshall' -- Geo. Ransom
'Sandford' -- Lewis Hatting
'St.Catherines'-- Raymond T. Hirons
'Hillcrest'-- Chas. D. Cumber
'Ridgemount'-- Frank Moorman
'Arford'-- Arthur Nicklen

West Side

'Sherwood' – Misses Hastings
'Mount Joy' -Herbert Trebilcock
'Allendale' -- Wllm. T Allen
'Oakdene' – Hry Snudden
F.Murial Snudden (teacher of music)
'Sylvestre' – Miss R.M.Taylor
'The Crest'--Mrs.E.M. Erasmus
'Melcroft' – Hry.Geo. Reynolds
'Sunway' – LewisGeorge Rickard
'Rossdale' – Stanley Alb. Dalton

Of the new properties on the west side three ('The Crest'; 'Melcroft'; and 'Sunway') are believed built around 1937 by a builder named Holly (there was one Albert Holly (builder) listed at 14-16 TruscottAvenue, Winton).

Frank Moorman who lived at 'Ridgemount' built 'Rossdale' during the latter pan of 1937 for newly married Joyce and Stanley Dalton.

Frank Moorman had a building and joinery works for many years in Bloomfield Avenue, and lived at 'De Doorns' 4 Bloomfield Ave, prior to moving to Hillcrest Road.
HILLCREST RD

1955 Kelly’s Directory: -

East side.
4 ‘The Pips’
6 ‘Clifton’
8 ‘Sawley’

--here is Hillcrest Close--
1 ‘Edgeworth’ - Chas. Whyborn
2 ‘Green Gates’ - G. Whalley
3 ‘The Manse’ - Rev. Wm. Martin
4 ‘-’ - Eric Chessher
5 ‘-’ - Leonard II Rose
6 ‘-’ - Mrs. L.H. Hall
7 ‘Mentone’ - George H. Cave

---here is Priory View Road---
12
14
16 ‘Alberta’
18 ‘Pendowr’ - Chas. Potts
20 ‘Lawshall’
24 ‘Sandford’ - Miss D.C. Shalders
28 ‘St.Catherines’ - Raymond T.Hirons
30 ‘Hillcrest’ - Capt. Engert Brand
32 ‘Island View’ - Will. Hann
32 ‘-’ - Clement Dixon-Davis
34 ‘Ridgemount’ - Frank Moorman
36 ‘Arford’ - Arthur Nicklen

West side.
7 ‘Highmount’ - Appleton
9 -----
13-----
15 ‘Sunnyholme’ - Mrs. Sellick
17 ‘Edmondsham Hse’ - Searle
19 ‘Ridgeway’ - Percy Watford
21 ‘-’ - Miss Blenkhorne
23 ‘Sylvestre’ - H.P. Greenwood
25 ‘Oakdene’ - C. Smailes
27 ‘The Crest’ - Regld.N. Butcher
29 ‘Melcroft’ - Mrs. E.B. Reynolds
31 ‘Sunway’ - Lewis G. Rickard
33 ‘Cyrena’ - Cyril M. Marshall
teacher of music
35 ‘Rossdale’ - Stanley Alb. Dalton
37 ‘-’ - Reginald Hoar
37 ‘-’ - Miss Easterbrook
43 ‘Tudor House’ - Raymond E.Cresswell
45 ‘-’ - ---Ernest Sturgess

1955 Kelly’s Directory for Wimbome Road, Moordown,
Shopping parade between Hillcrest Road and Meadow Court flats

1045 Wimborne Road --- Dorothy Worton --Drapers
1043 ‘-’ --- L. Abbott M.P.S.-- Chemist
1041 ‘-’ --- V. S. Mann -- Hardware
1039 ‘-’ --- R. Phipp --- Fruiterer
1037 ‘-’ --- Mrs. J_ Webster -- Confectioner

On comer of Hillcrest Road --
1053 Wimborne Road --- Wing Motors ---- Motor Engineers
1055 ‘-’ --- Wing Gates --- Iron Gate Manufacturer
1073 ‘-’ --- S.C.A.T.S. --- Agricultural merchants

--then Lawford Rise--
3 Lawford Rise --- G.V.Ford
---then Lawford Road--
‘Little Stretton’, Lawford Road --- Albert Edward Dalton

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And my interest in this area? ----- --
I was born, Howard John Dalton, to Joyce and Stanley Dalton of ‘Rossdale’, 35 Hillcrest Road, Moordown
In 1947, and grew up with childhood friends Margaret Bell (granddaughter of Mrs.Reynolds); Sylvria
Marshall; Ainsley Brand; John Butcher; John Cresswell; and John & Rosemary Greenwood.
My Grandparents, Albert and Rose Dalton lived adjacent to the rear of ‘Rossdale’ at ‘Little Stretton’ and
we moved from ‘Rossdale’ to the ground floor of ‘Little Stretton’ in 1955.