

3Quarters and "Castleman's Corkscrew"

When we were nearing completion of the refurbishment of 164 Kings Road West we began to seek a name for the property. Three Quarters was the name that eventually won the day – presented as 3Quarters.

Why 3Quarters?

Was this name selected perhaps because the property was part bungalow and part house, sort of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a house?



Was it perhaps that we are roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the sea front (as a seagull might fly)?

Or was it down to a gentleman by the name of Charles Castleman?

Charles Castleman was a Wimborne solicitor who, during the 1840's, promoted a railway line between Southampton and Dorchester. This line wound a sinuous way westward partly to meet the Woods and Forests Commissioners insistence that it should not pass through the wooded areas of the New Forest (shades of HS2 and the Chilterns there) and partly to ensure that it served as many sizeable places as possible.

Bournemouth at this time was a small winter health resort and it was thought that there were richer pickings to be had at Ringwood and Wimborne. The resultant railway quickly earned itself the nickname of "Castleman's Corkscrew".



When the Swanage branch was opened from Wareham in 1885, as was the norm, mileages on the branch were marked as being from London Waterloo. These mileages were calculated via the original Southampton terminus station and "Castleman's Corkscrew". Thus the $\frac{3}{4}$ milepost at the bottom of our garden records a distance of 135 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from London. The actual mileage that would now be traversed is less by around 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles because a more direct line was opened from Brockenhurst to Bournemouth which by-passed a portion of "Castleman's Corkscrew" and contributed to that part of the corkscrew line's eventual closure.

London and South Western Railway – Swanage Branch mileages

125miles 23chains (120m 70c) Wareham

131m 28c (126m 75c) Corfe Castle

135m 60c **3Quarters**

136m 27c (131m74c) Swanage

Revised mileages (shown in brackets) were proposed for the branch in 1931 but never implemented.

Note, for those who may not be aware:

1 chain is 22 yards (the length of a cricket pitch) therefore 80 chains = 1 mile.