



## BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

### MINUTES OF THE AGM

**Held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in the Village Hall**

The Chairman, Emma Page, opened the meeting and welcomed a full house. She asked the Hon. Secretary to conduct the formal business of the meeting. The Hon. Secretary, Gillian Strathcarron said there were apologies from Richard and Glenda Lynes and Tony and Laura Barber.

Two members of the society had been nominated for election to the committee. Mary Montagu-Scott was proposed by Anne Coles and seconded by Christina Dykes. Ken Robinson was proposed by Emma Page and seconded by Roger Bamford. Both were elected unanimously.

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

#### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked the committee members for their hard work and support during the year – Gillian Strathcarron as secretary, Peter Marling-Roberts as treasurer, John Pemberton as editor of the newsletter, Christina Dykes as the event organizer and Anne Coles and Ralph Montagu for their research. She also thanked those members who had hosted visits and Tony Norris who had regularly written articles for the excellent newsletter.

Thanks to the above 2015 was an interesting and varied year, starting with 'The Recollections of Belinda Montagu', a film created by Ralph Montagu with the help of Gill Hawkins and Rosemary Johnson and followed by a conversation between Ralph and his mother.

In May, Catherina van der Vorm very kindly invited the Society to her house at Sowley where she and Emma gave a talk about the house's history including the iron works. Members were also able to enjoy her beautiful garden.

In September there was a supper at the Master Builder's Hotel followed by a fascinating and lavishly illustrated talk given by Ken Robinson and Mary Montagu-Scott on 'Pearl's Cowes Weeks'.

In November there was a talk on heraldry and the history and workings of the College of Arms presented by the Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, Tim Duke.

In addition to the talks and newsletters, the website is going from strength to strength, ably organized by our treasurer, Peter Marling-Roberts.

Over the next two years the society will be publishing two books and she asked Gillian to bring the members up to date on this.

Finally the Chairman expressed the sadness of the society that one of the most loyal and supportive members, Edward Montagu had died and would be greatly missed. She explained that Ralph Montagu was stepping down from the committee but she was pleased that Mary Montagu-Scott had agreed to join.

### **Hon. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary agreed with the appreciation for the support of the late Lord Montagu and reported that sadly two other loyal members had also died Lady Ross of Moonhills Gate and Mrs Jan Blythe of Arnwood House.

The membership was still growing and had reached 200. Fortunately because everyone had paid their fees we were able to keep the membership subscription at £5 per head per year.

The publication of the History Society's first book, 'The Older Houses of Beaulieu' would take place during 2016. It was a history of nine houses in the Beaulieu area and a history of the village high street. The chapters were written by the house owners and many of them had hosted the society's visit to their houses. Assistance was given to everybody by John and Anne Coles of the Beaulieu History Society, who wrote the high street chapter as well as the history of their house in Dock Lane. We should also thank Susan Tomkins, Estate Archivist and Richard Reeves, formerly of Lyndhurst Museum for their invaluable help.

Following what we hope will be the successful publication of 'The Older Houses of Beaulieu', work will begin on the publication of an academic history book 'Beaulieu in Tudor and Stuart Times'. This was written by Alan Bartlett, Estate Archivist in the 1960s and 70s. The late Lord Montagu commissioned the book which was finished in 1973 but it has not so far been published. Copies are held in the Estate Archive and the Lyndhurst Museum which can be read on site and the text has proved so useful to researchers into the history of their houses, that the committee have been given the kind permission of Lord Montagu to publish the book and make it available to a wider audience. The Society has also received financial help from the Beaulieu Common Good Fund. The book will go on sale and it is hoped that the sale will help pay the costs of publishing the book, as will also be the case with 'The Older Houses of Beaulieu'.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Peter Marling-Roberts, reported that the financial situation of the Beaulieu History Society continued to be very sound. On behalf of the committee he thanked Michael Page for his assistance with the accounts and Adam Mills for his successful audit. The financial report was published on the History Society's website and circulated in the hall. Peter drew the members' attention to the website which was updated regularly.

### **Talk**

The Chairman concluded the meeting by introducing David Moore-Gwyn, formerly Head of the Early British Paintings Department and UK Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's who would be giving an illustrated talk about the collection of paintings in Palace House.