

Beaulieu History Society AGM 24 February 2017

Chairman's Statement

Thank you Gillian. First I would like to thank all 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 Mary Montagu-Scott for help with planning the talks. I would also like to thank the shadow committee of spouses for their hard work, particularly our former chair, John Coles.

We are very grateful for the speakers' excellent talks during the year. The first meeting on 19th February was the talk by art expert, David Moore-Gwyn, entitled **History Seen Through Paintings: The Collection at Palace House**. David admirably conveyed his knowledge of the important collection of paintings at Palace House in Beaulieu.

In April, Christina Dykes, Kath Walker and I represented the Society at an inaugural meeting of the **New Forest Community Heritage Forum**. This forum is designed to help local heritage societies share their research and interests. John Pemberton then kindly hosted the second meeting of this group on behalf of the Society in the Abbey Church on 23rd November.

On 20th May Tony Norris gave a talk on **The History of Beaulieu Abbey Church**. Tony has undertaken in-depth research on the church, its interior fixtures and its graveyard. The talk revealed aspects of the building which many of us were completely unaware of. We would also like to thank Father John for allowing us to hold the meeting in the abbey.

On 9th September the society made a **Visit to Newtown Park** near Lymington. The talk, focusing on the early history of the estate from medieval times, was given by Richard Reeves. Richard's exhaustive approach to historic research and consummate knowledge of the New Forest threw up an almost continuous record of the holders of this estate from the 13th century. We would like to thank Charles Burnett for inviting us to hold our talk in his house.

On Friday, 4th November Andrew Duncan gave a talk on the history of the Beaulieu River Sailing Club and some of its more notable and notorious members. This was followed by dinner at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club.

I know that not everyone is able to come to the meetings and we do need to find some larger venues. However, the web site www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk contains archives of all newsletters, presentations and photo galleries. It also now contains audio recordings of several talks given to meetings of the society.

For those of us who are less able to access materials online, the society has now published a book on the **Older Houses of Beaulieu**. This documents the talks on the houses of Beaulieu given to the society over the years. The history of several houses stretches back to medieval times and a number of interesting people have lived in them. The chapters were written by those who gave the talks, the whole has been collated by John Coles who had the original

idea, and the book published by Gillian and Ian Strathcarron. We are very grateful to all of them.

Work is now well underway on the next publication, **Beaulieu in Tudor and Stuart Times**. This work has been partly funded by a contribution from the Beaulieu Common Good Trust of £350, for which we are grateful. This will be launched at a talk later this year.

Our next meeting will take place on Friday 12 May and will be hosted by Julian and Holly Chichester at Gins Farm. Research for this talk has been carried out by John and Anne Coles and promises to be fascinating.