

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE AGM Held on Friday 24th February 2017 in the Village Hall

The Chairman, Emma Page opened the meeting and welcomed the members. She asked the secretary, Gillian Strathcarron, to make the formal announcements.

Gillian reported that there were apologies from John & Gill Hawkins, Billy & Heather Howard and Anthony & Angie Lewis. Gillian also said the Society was very sorry to announce the death last weekend of Maldwin Drummond, a supporter of the Society since it began.

The Chairman said the Minutes of the AGM in 2016 had been published on the website and circulated to members. She then asked for them to be adopted as a correct record of the meeting. The adoption was proposed by Ken Robinson and seconded by Gerry Marling-Roberts.

Chairman's Report:

Emma thanked Gillian and then thanked all the committee members for their hard work and support during the year. She also thanked the shadow committee of spouses for their hard work, especially the former chair, John Coles.

The chairman read a review of the activities during 2016, beginning with a fascinating and erudite talk by David Moore-Gwyn entitled **History Seen Through Paintings: The Collection at Palace House** about the important collection of paintings at Palace House, which followed the AGM on 19th February 2016.

In April the Society were represented by Emma, Christina Dykes and Kath Walker at the **New Forest Community Heritage Forum**. The second meeting of this group, created to help local heritage societies share their research and interests, was kindly hosted by John Pemberton on behalf of the Society in the Abbey Church on 23rd November.

On 20th May Tony Norris gave a very well-attended talk on **The History of Beaulieu Abbey Church**, informed by Tony's in depth knowledge of the history and furnishing of the church. Emma thanked the vicar, Father John for allowing the meeting to be held in the Church.

On 9th September, the society made a **Visit to Newton Park** near Lymington. There was a full house to hear local historian Richard Reeves's talk about the history of the estate from medieval times, with a record of owners from the 13th century. Emma expressed the thanks of the society to Charles Burnett who invited the society to hold the talk in his house.

On 4th November Andrew Duncan gave an entertaining 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.

Emma referred to the society's website at www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk which contains archives of all newsletters, presentations and photo galleries, also audio recordings of several talks. Members unable to attend meetings could find useful information there. The society is looking for some larger venues for future meetings.

The book, *The Older Houses of Beaulieu*, is the first publication of the history society. It documents talks on the houses of Beaulieu given by the house owners to the society over several years. The chapters were mostly written by the house owners and the whole was collated by John Coles who had the original idea for the book and published by Gillian and Ian Strathcarron. Emma expressed the society's gratitude to all of them. This year will see the publication of Beaulieu in Tudor & Stuart Times, partly funded by a grant of £350 from the Beaulieu Common Good Trust, for which the society is very grateful.

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

Secretary's Report

The Society's secretary, Gillian Strathcarron said the membership remained at just under 200. She welcomed new members and all members present in the hall. Gillian asked anyone who had ideas for visits or talks to talk to Christina Dykes, the Events Secretary or to any member of the committee, as the society was always looking for new subjects.

GS said that *The Older Houses of Beaulieu* book could almost be called a best seller, as 100 copies had been printed and only seven remained. More copies could be printed if there was a demand and there would also be a Part 2 when more members had completed their house histories. The launch of Alan Bartlett's book, *A History of Beaulieu in Tudor & Stuart Times* would take place later in the year.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Marling-Roberts reported that 2016 was an uneventful year for the society and that the financial situation continues to be very sound. PM-R thanked Michael Page for his assistance with the accounts which were kindly and successfully reviewed by Adam Mills. The accounts can now be found on the History Society's website.

Subscriptions were £1061 in 2016. Expenses for the publication of *The Older Houses of Beaulieu* book and the talk with dinner by Andrew Duncan at the Royal

Southampton Yacht Club at Gins were both covered by sales. The bank balance now stood at £4,577.35.

The Chairman, Emma Page, then asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the Treasurer's report. The acceptance was proposed by Ken Robinson and seconded by Andrew Dykes.

PM-R proposed Adam Mills as external auditor. EP asked for a proposer and seconder for the appointment of Adam Mills. David Moore-Gwyn was the proposer and John Pemberton the seconder.

The next item on the Agenda was the Election of Officers for 2017. Secretary Gillian Strathcarron reported that those members eligible and willing to serve were unchanged from last year as no other candidates had been put forward. GS read the following list of names in alphabetical order: Anne Coles, Christina Dykes, Peter Marling-Roberts, Mary Montagu-Scott, Emma Page, John Pemberton, Ken Robinson and Gillian Strathcarron and asked if members agreed to vote en bloc, at which there was a large show of hands. The proposer was Christina Dykes and the seconder Ralph Montagu.

The Treasurer then took the chair and proposed Emma Page as Chairman. This was seconded by Alison Moore-Gwyn and Emma was voted in as Chairman.

EP proposed that a Vice-Chair should be chosen. The agreed nominee was John Pemberton, seconded by Vicky Roberts.

Gillian Strathcarron was nominated as Secretary, proposed by Christina Dykes and seconded by Richard Lynes. Peter Marling-Roberts was proposed as Treasurer by Michael Page and seconded by Dene McCulloch.

The Chairman then closed the meeting, thanked everyone for coming and those who stood for re-election.