



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Friday 25th February 2019
at Beaulieu Village Hall

Minutes

1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

Emma Page, BHS Chairman (EP), welcomed the President Lady Montagu, Lord Montagu and approximately 70 BHS members and guests to the AGM, (which was to be followed by Rupert Scott's talk on the Utilities of Beaulieu).

In opening the meeting, she advised those attending of the sad death of Bunny Borthwick on 24th February, noting Bunny's exceptionally committed involvement to the Beaulieu community and especially the Beaulieu River Sailing Club.

2. Apologies for Absence

Ken Robinson (KR - deputising for Gillian Strathcarron, BHS Secretary, who was away on Holiday) gave the formal apologies for non-attendance, received from:

Gillian and Ian Strathcarron, David and Gloria Knight, Rose Woodfield,
Richard and Glenda Lynes, Janie Earle, and Nigel Bryant.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

EP referred to the Minutes of the preceding AGM as placed on the BHS website and asked if members were content that they were a correct record of last year's meeting. This was agreed and their adoption was duly proposed, seconded, and approved by vote of the members.

4. Chairman's Report

EP began her report by thanking all the committee members for their hard work and support during the year and the shadow committee of spouses for their hard work.

EP said BHS is very grateful for the speakers' excellent talks during the year – six in all. There was a late start to the year because the first talk and AGM had to be cancelled because of snow. So the first meeting was not until April 11. This was a talk about Beaulieu in Edwardian Times, by Anne Coles, Tony Norris and John Pemberton.

On 27 April there was another team talk by Ken Robinson, Anthony Norris and David Moore-Gwyn who described the work of Charles Skyes, artist and sculptor. This was held in Beaulieu Abbey Church by kind invitation of Father John.

On 15 June, members were invited to visit Lepe House and explore the garden. A full talk will follow in the future.

On 14 September we had a presentation by Gale Gould on the timber of the New Forest in the 18th Century.

On 8 October we went back in time with a talk by Bruce Bailey on the development of the Palace House since medieval times. This was by the kind invitation of Lord Montagu.

Last but not least, on 30 November Dan Oxberry gave us a talk on Airfields around Beaulieu.

Also, Dene and Gillian took a stand at the Community Heritage Fair in Lyndhurst to show the work and publications of the History Society.

Our next meeting will be on 15 March when I will be describing how the Mitford family created the Exbury Estate in the 18th Century. This meeting will also serve as a book launch for the book I have edited on this subject. 100 per cent of the proceeds go to the New Forest Heritage Centre and Reference Library, a charity which has no public funding.

5. Secretary's Report

KR confirmed that the number of members of BHS remained just under 200. He then read GS's report on her behalf:

"We had a wide range of activities in 2018, attracting 170 members at six different events. Four new members signed up this year. To date BHS has sold 109 copies of *The Older Houses of Beaulieu* and 83 copies of *The History of Beaulieu in Tudor and Stuart Times*. Six copies of the latter have been bought by committee members, Emma Page, Christina Dykes, Dene McCullough and Gillian Strathcarron to donate to local libraries and Buckingham and Southampton Universities. We were very pleased that Alan Bartlett's son got in touch with us and bought 10 copies of his father's book and his granddaughter has helped us to promote the book. We are

grateful to Corinne Evans who produced the typescript of the book for giving us the contact with the Bartlett family.

A very good review of the Bartlett book has appeared in *Tudor Times* and has been placed on our website. The next publication will be the second edition of *The Older Houses of Beaulieu* when we have enough material.”

KR stated that GS says that she looks forward to another busy year in 2019, and remarked on members behalf, how much her efforts were appreciated.

6. Treasurer’s Report and Accounts for 2018

Peter Marling-Roberts (M-R) gave his Treasurers report for 2018, saying he was glad that it was financially a uneventful year for the Beaulieu History Society and that the financial situation of the society continues to be very sound. He expressed the committee’s thanks to Adam Mills for reviewing the accounts which had been placed on the BHS website, and copies were circulated in the room for member’s reference. PM-R confirmed that Subscriptions were £946 in 2018 compared to £816 the previous year. BHS also generously received £300 from the Common Good Fund to help pay for our planned trip to St Peter's Church and the Gate House in Titchfield later this year. The sale of books in 2018 was £940. The main expense during 2018 was the publication cost of the successful Bartlett book which was £2205. Income for the year less expenditure resulted in a shortfall of £391 compared to a surplus of £553 the previous year. The Bank balance on December 31st 2018 was £4739 compared to £5131 the previous year.

PM-R commended the statement of Account to the members, which was duly proposed, seconded, and approved.

The Committee’s decision that the subscription for the current year should be unchanged at £5, was reported by PM-R, and duly approved by the members.

7. Appointment of External Auditor

The appointment of Adam Mills to continue as Auditor for the current year was proposed by PM-R and duly approved by the members.

8. Election of Committee and Officer’s for 2019-20

KR referred to the Constitution and summarised the position that members of the Committee in 2018 who were willing to stand were eligible to do so, namely:

Emma Page, Peter Marling-Roberts, Gillian Strathcarron, Mary Montagu-Scott, Christina Dykes, John Pemberton, Ken Robinson, - and Dene McCulloch who had been co-opted to the Committee during the year

There had been no other nominations of members wishing to join the Committee. EP explained that the Committee welcomes new members who would like to help in the organisation of the Society's meetings and activities, and anyone wishing to do so was encouraged to contact her or the Secretary at any time.

The members named above were then proposed en bloc, and were duly elected by vote of the members.

The appointment of the Officers of BHS were then put to the membership, as required by the Constitution.

PM-R took the Chair to propose **Emma Page** be elected as continuing **Chair** of the Society, this was coupled with a statement of appreciation for all that Emma does for the Society. The members approved this appointment

EP then proposed **Peter Marling-Roberts** for election to continue as **Treasurer**, which was duly approved by the Members.

EP proposed **Gillian Strathcarron's** election to continue as **Secretary**, noting her commitment to the Society, which was duly approved by the Members.

8. Any Other Business

Members were asked if there were any other matters they wished to raise, but there being none, the formal AGM concluded.