



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Held at Beaulieu Village Hall on Friday 30th January 2026

The meeting was attended by Committee Members; John Pemberton Chairman, Corinne Evans (Secretary), Peter Marling Roberts, (Treasurer) Mary Montagu-Scott, Keith & Sally Hutton, Marc Heighway and 80 members

1. John Pemberton opened the meeting at 6.30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

Apologies were received from Nigel Southward, Gloria Knight, Ken & Jo Robinson and Robin Somes.

2. **Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held on Friday 24th January 2025.**
The Minutes had been circulated with the Agenda, and they were duly approved unanimously.

3. **Chairman's Report given by John Pemberton**

2025 was another successful year for the Beaulieu History Society. The committee met in April, June and September 2025 and January 2026. One newsletter, number 46, was circulated in August. The Society had a stand at the Village Fair held in the Village Hall on 16th March 2025. Thanks to Corinne Evans, Keith and Sally Hutton, and other committee members who supported.

Programme of Talks held in 2025:

24 th January	2024 AGM and talk on Folk Heritage and Myths of the New Forest by Brice Stratford
14 th March	Life and Wartime Exploits of Tony Bentley-Buckle by Keith Hutton
16 th May	The Growth of English Wine in the New Forest by Robert Marchbank & Sandy Booth
27 th June	RAF Beaulieu by Marc Heighway
25 th September	HMS Agamemnon, Nelson's "favourite ship" by Mary Montagu Scott
13 th November	Anglo-Saxon Southampton by Andy Skinner

Contributions to the Society:

We appreciate the support of all members especially at meetings, and for contributions of articles (500 to 1000 words usually) for the newsletter. We continue to encourage members to propose topics and present talks to the Society, which we can advise on and help in preparation.

4. **Secretary's Report** - written by Ken Robinson, read by Corinne Evans
Corinne Evans manages the member's list and reception desk at events, liaising with Ken Robinson who manages other BHS administrative aspects including the following:

Membership and Subscriptions: Members are reminded that the BHS subscription is for a Calendar Year, not for 12 months from the date of payment. Following this 2025 AGM, members will receive a subscription reminder email and are requested to renew by paying online, via the website, or in person

when attending an event thereafter. During the year all former members whose 2025 subscriptions were unpaid, but whose names were retained on our mailing lists, were contacted to ensure they wished to remain in touch, others will not be contacted in future. At the end of 2025, the number of paid-up members has increased to 220 with 9 Honorary members.

Website: The Society's website has again run smoothly thanks to Trevor Smith of Ashdown Software who very helpfully manages the website for us. Members are reminded of the useful list of links and resources available on the website.

Email contacts: BHS received over ninety contacts by email during the year. While most of these were administrative (subscriptions, event bookings, etc.) many were personal enquiries related to local history, families and places. We were able to provide information and links etc. to enquirers in subsequent correspondence, which were very much appreciated. We are again very grateful to Tony Norris, Susan Tomkins and Marc Heighway who assisted with the research and responses of some enquiries.

Publications/Books: Committee member Sally Hutton has taken over the management of book sales and dispatch following online purchases. During the year a second reprint of *The Older Houses of Beaulieu* was ordered. Sales during the year and year end stocks are: *Older Houses of Beaulieu* 11/40, *Beaulieu in Tudor & Stuart Times* 22/49. BHS next publication project is Captain Widnell's memoir, which is currently with Lord and Lady Montagu for checking before going to the Printers.

5. Treasurer's Report by Peter Marling Roberts

I am glad to say that it was another stable year for the Beaulieu History Society and that the financial situation of the society continues to be very sound. Subscriptions were £1,043.81 compared to £1,038.58 in 2024 and excess income over expenditure was £758.56 compared to £49.13 the previous year. The bank balance on 31st December 2025 was £8,848.73 compared to £8,090.17 in 2024. The reviewed Statement of Accounts for 2025 is attached to this Agenda and Report.

The Committee would like to thank Elizabeth Selzer for reviewing the 2025 accounts. Subject to members' confirmation, I propose that we accept her kind offer to review the 2026 accounts at the end of this year.

Subscriptions for 2026 The Committee has reviewed the annual subscription, which has remained at £5 for many years. This is excellent value as it covers attendance at all BHS meetings, our Newsletters and the use of BHS resources on the website. However, costs associated with the meetings and other expenses continually increase, therefore, looking forward to next year, the Committee currently proposes that the individual annual subscription for 2027 will be £10, with guest fee at £5 per meeting.

Members voted unanimously for the adoption of the Treasurer's Report, Elizabeth Selzer again reviewing the accounts and the increase in the subscription for 2027.

6. Election of Officers for 2026

- a) Nominations from members willing to serve: The Committee is pleased to nominate Keith Hutton and Robin Somes, both have agreed to serve if elected. There were no new nominations received from members.
Members voted unanimously to elect the new members to the Committee.

- b) Committee Members retire at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution. Nigel Southward does not wish to stand for re-election and the Committee thank him for his service. The following are willing to stand for election again and are proposed to continue in their existing/new roles.

Chairman John Pemberton
Treasurer Peter Marling-Roberts
Secretary Corinne Evans assisted by Ken Robinson for related activities
Members: Marc Heighway, Mary Montagu-Scott, Sally Hutton.

The re-election of these members was unanimously approved.

7. Any other Business

John Pemberton reminded members that the list of talks for 2026 had been circulated online but copies were available on the table if required. The next talk was on 27th February “All That Jazz” - The Story of Beaulieu’s Jazz Festivals

Lord Montagu reported that Captain Widnell’s book was being prepared for printing.

The meeting concluded at 7 p.m. followed by a talk by Marc Heighway entitled Noor Inayat Khan the SOE Agent Trained in Beaulieu, executed in Dachau.

Drinks were served