



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Free to Members



No.4 March 2008

SPRING PROGRAMME

The next event in the Society's programme will, at the kind invitation of Sir Anthony and Lady Evans, be held at their house, Drokes. Sir Anthony will give a talk about the history of Drokes, as one of our series of talks on "The Older Houses of Beaulieu".

Given the time of the year (see below), it will be necessary to hold the event inside. The maximum of people whom it is practicable to seat is 40. Anthony and Caroline have generously said that if there is sufficient demand they will repeat the event the next day.

The first meeting will be at 6.30 on Friday, 11 April, the second at 6.30 on Saturday, 12 April. These meetings will be for members only and only for those who have given their names in advance to the Secretary, Anthony Norris, by 1 April. If you wish to attend, therefore, please contact Anthony Norris (t.norris@forest.wokingham.sch.uk or The Malt House, High Street, Beaulieu, Hants. S042 7YA) and, if you have a preference, state on which of the two days you would like to come. First come, first served. See insert to this newsletter.

On Friday, 23 May the Society will meet at Beufre, by the kind invitation of Clive and Anne Lester. We plan to assemble at 5.30 at the Great Barn which adjoins Beufre and which, of course, is of considerable historical interest. After a tour of the Barn we are invited, weather permitting, to walk round the garden at Beufre and then proceed to the house where, at about 6.30, Clive Lester will give a talk on the history of the house. Again, because the seating capacity is limited to 45, the event will necessarily be restricted to members only and only to those who have given their names to the Secretary by 16 May. Likewise, first come, first served! See insert to this newsletter.

Forthcoming Meetings (Members Only)

Friday April 11th & Saturday April 12th at 6.30 p.m.

The second in our series Historic Houses of Beaulieu:

Drokes – Hosted by Sir Anthony and Lady Evans

Friday May 23rd at 5.30 p.m.

The third in our series Historic Houses of Beaulieu:

Beufre – Hosted by Clive and Anne Lester

Proceedings of the meeting of the Beaulieu History Society held in the Abbey Church on Friday October 5th 2007 at 6.30 p.m.

Over 120 members attended the Abbey Church to hear Professor Henry Mayr-Harting (Regius Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford University) speak on "The Cistercian Context of Beaulieu Abbey".

The choice of the Abbey Church provided the ideal surrounding.

Sir John Coles introduced the Speaker who provided a very stimulating and interesting speech on the Cistercian influence in the 12th Century which led to the foundation of Beaulieu Abbey in 1204. Questions followed and the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Special thanks are due to Paul Humphries who oversaw the church arrangements and ensured the public address equipment functioned flawlessly.

"THE CISTERCIAN CONTEXT OF BEAULIEU ABBEY"

by PROFESSOR HENRY MAYR-HARTING

Regius Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Oxford

We are now able to supply copies of the CD recording Professor Mayr-Harting's brilliant lecture to the Society on "The Cistercian Context of Beaulieu Abbey", with its original interpretation of how the Abbey came to be founded. The CD will cost £5 — of which £2.50 will go to 'Music at Beaulieu', whose equipment was used in its compilation. All interested should contact Mr. Paul Humphries on 01590 611245. Please note that though the 55 minute lecture and the Professor's answers to questions are beautifully clear, the questions themselves are often not, due to the absence of a roving microphone on the occasion.

ORIGINS(2) — BUCKLERS HARD

Quoting from Alex Holland's book '*Buckler's Hard — A rural shipbuilding centre*'...

"The origin of Buckler's possibly derives from the Buckle family who appear in the Beaulieu parish registers from 1668. But the Buckles played no part in the development of the village, though they probably used the hard for commercial purposes before 1720. When the village was created in the 1720s its official name was Montagu Town, but this soon passed into disuse with a return to the former popular name. It was sheer coincidence that in the 19th century, Frederick Buckle, having no previous connection with the hamlet, became tenant of the Master Builder's House".

Lord John Montagu's book '*Buckler's Hard and its Ships*' includes the following...

'The blacksmith's shop, part of which existed in the writer's time, and which only ceased operations about 1885, is no more. The last of the Buckles went away with its disappearance, to settle down again as a repairer of agricultural implements and traction-engines beyond Lymington'.

Perhaps this explains the non-existence of burials of the Buckle family in Beaulieu Churchyard.

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Beaulieu History Society held in the Village Hall on Thursday December 13th 2007.

1. Society Business.

At the outset of proceedings the Chairman announced that:

"-Tony Norris had succeeded John Beaumont as Secretary, the latter having resigned for personal reasons. (On behalf of the Society the Chairman expressed warm appreciation for John's initiative in founding the Society and helping to launch it).

– David Matcham had become the Society's first Treasurer.

– the Committee had decided that, after a year of free activities, it was now unavoidable that members should be asked to pay subscriptions in future. Subscriptions for 2008 were now due and would be at the level of £5 for individual membership and £8 for family membership. Members could expect to attend at least four meetings a year without payment and also to receive the Newsletter free of charge. They could also feel that they were contributing to promoting knowledge of the history of Beaulieu. If non-members were invited to future meetings they would be expected to pay an entry fee of probably £4 on each occasion and would also be asked to pay for the Newsletter.

– the Committee were working on a draft constitution for the Society which would be put to the first Annual General Meeting for members' consideration, probably in the autumn of 2008."

2. Farming in Beaulieu — Past and Present.

There followed a panel discussion of "Farming in Beaulieu - Past and Present". The panellists were Fred Norris, Anne Dovey, Andy Dovey, Arthur Rolf and John Boyd. Ralph Montagu chaired the discussion which flowed smoothly for 90 minutes and was full of interesting insights into how farming practices and fortunes have changed in the last half-century or so. Perhaps the dominant message was that the limited number of people farming in the area today were all "survivors", in that they had successfully adapted to changing and often difficult conditions over the years. That was a cause for optimism for the future when further adaptation would be needed, perhaps especially in response to climate change. The discussion was recorded and the resulting tape will be an invaluable source for those wishing to research relevant aspects of Beaulieu's history in the future.

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Ailsa Montagu (Patron), Sir John Coles (Chairman), Anthony Norris (Secretary) David Matcham (Treasurer), Hon Ralph Montagu, Anne Coles, Rosemary Johnson & Susan Tomkins.

NOTES

1. Clive Webb has shown me the invoice books of his father's business which was based in the Estate Yard [at present occupied by Fairweathers' Garden Centre.] These invoices from just after World War 1 include an account of the Beaulieu Rifle Range. Does anyone know anything about it? Its location perhaps.

2. In a previous edition I asked about the derivation of Harlick's Hill. Rather remiss of me, I didn't notice the reference the *The Beaulieu Record* concerning the disagreement with Boldre Parish of 1802 where the signatories of a meeting included one Thomas Horlock. The Overseers' schedule of 1796 shows one Thomas Horlock living in a semi-detached cottage on the hill we know as Harlick's Hill, then Horlock's Hill.

SOME BEAULIEU FAMILIES (4)

(from The Hampshire Antiquary & Naturalist 1891, and continued from the September Edition]

THE BIELS OF ST LEONARD'S GRANGE.

The family occupied St. Leonard's Grange for over two centuries. A tombstone, near which are numerous others to the same family, is

"In memory of William Biel
Who died May the .. 1715,
Aged 74 years,"

to whom is this quaint epitaph:-

" For 56 years of his known full life He
on St. Leopards Farm did dwell And
since his Breath he have Resigned We
hope with Christ the Rest will end."

The Parish Register records the marriage in 1719 of "a servt. to John Biel of St. Leopards," the probable son and successor of the above William. Another William was the occupant of the farm in 1859. There are Biels still residing in the vicinity, but their ancestral home has passed from them. In searching the register for records of my own family I came across the entry of a marriage on the 9th of September, 1783, between James Warner and James Biel, but of course there must be many other entries relating to them.

OTHER FAMILIES.

The Biddlecombes, Rawlences, Carpenters, and Lejeunes are also old families. In the old Beaulieu Volunteers was a Lieutenant Benjamin Biddlecombe. The Carpenters were yeomen; unfortunately I have no notes about them, except that on some old tombstones of the last century their name is spelt "Carpender", and that in 1859 they held four farms in the parish. Of the Lejeunes (who were doubtless of French descent), one, Ann, became the wife on 17th November, 1777, of Mr. Anthony Adams, Farmer, "Of the Parish of Bewley," a brother, or perhaps son by his first wife Elizabeth, of Mr. Henry Adams, Shipbuilder, and died in December 1778, a few days after the birth of a daughter, Mr. Adams afterwards marrying Elizabeth Colborne, of Lymington, a relative of General Sir John Colborne, Lord Seaton. There was an Ensign William Lejeune, junior, in the Volunteers in 1803-13.

CRICKET SNIPPITS(1)

From the Salisbury and Winchester Journal August 8th 1812

On Monday a game of cricket was played at Beaulieu, eleven of the Paynes against the whole parish for 22 guineas which, after a great deal of good play on both sides was won by the Paynes by 5 of their best wickets.

[Readers will recall the prominent roles that the Paynes played in Beaulieu life during the nineteenth century, notably as Parish Clerks. It would appear the family's Beaulieu history goes back further, for *The Beaulieu Record* has the overseers accounts for 1757, when John Payne was paid 'for six Parish Coffins £2.0.0.' Undertaking seems to have remained in the family as Teddy Payne, in the early part of the twentieth century, was the village undertaker.]

25 YEARS AGO

December 15th 1982 saw the death of Captain Widnell, the author of the most definitive work that exists on the History of Beaulieu and the Church after the Dissolution. The following obituary was written by Lord Montagu for the February 1983 edition of the *Beaulieu News*.

CAPTAIN HENRY EDWARD ROCHFORD WIDNELL

Britain's historic country estates owe their existence today not only to continuous efforts by their owners, but also especially to the distinguished line of resident agents who devoted their life's work to the common ideals of conservation and enterprise, always confident that the continuing ownership was the best catalyst to achieve these aims.

Such a man was Captain Henry Edward Rochfort Widnell, who served the Montagu Estate at Beaulieu for over 50 years and who died in December 1982 at the age of 89 years. Captain Widnell was born in London on October 16th, 1893, the son of E.H. Widnell, Barrister—at—Law. During his childhood he suffered poor health and spent much of his time with his family in the South of France. He was educated partly in France and at Radley College, Abingdon, Berkshire and became pupil to Edward Knox, FLAS at Ammerdown Park, Somerset.

On the outbreak of World War I he received a commission in the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, proceeding overseas to France in late January 1915. He was attached to the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, the Commanding Officer of which honoured him with the offer of a 'regular commission in the field' and served with them until invalided out of the war on account of head wounds received in Mesopotamia in June 1918.

In 1918 he married Mrs. Emma Clifford, a widow with one daughter. Emma's father was the Governor of the Tower of London and the wedding was held in the chapel there. He then naturally directed his thoughts to his old calling and was delighted to be appointed in September 1918, first as personal assistant and later agent to my father John, 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. At this time he moved with his new family into Abbey Mead where he lived until 1977. He won the respect of my father who was immediately attracted by the personality of the new land agent, and thus began for Harry Widnell, known locally as 'Widdy', a long love affair with Beaulieu and its people.

After my father's death in 1929, Harry Widnell was indispensable in assisting my mother in steering the Estate through a long minority and through the trials of death duties and wartime difficulties. After the war, when I was old enough to succeed, it was to an estate which had been miraculously preserved intact, in spite of great problems and sacrifices.

Resident agents come and go but Harry Widnell stayed and earned the everlasting love, respect and friendship not only of my family but also of everyone on the Estate. His devotion to Beaulieu and my family knew no bounds and, in spite of a happy family and social life, there was only one priority, and that was Beaulieu. His daily work touched the entire local scene, whether it was the tenants or local residents, the farms, the woods, the river or hedges, ditches and drains (his favourite subject). His secret love was the history of the area, particularly the church and its surrounding Abbey ruins. A great devotee of Gilbert and Sullivan, he took part in many productions, particularly with the village group known as the 'Beaulieu Cuckoos'.

After retirement, Captain Widnell characteristically and enthusiastically involved himself in the early problems when Palace House first opened to the public, followed by the foundation of the Motor Museum, and the patient reorganisation of the Estate Archives, resulting in the recording in books — some published — of the history of Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard. Above all, the church was his guide and as its warden for many years his life acquired a meaning which embraced all that Beaulieu stands for. There were few lives that were not touched by this man of honesty, integrity and an incorruptible sense of doing the right thing, regardless of colour, class or creed.

In 1977 Captain Widnell suffered a stroke and left Abbey Mead to live at Little Haven Nursing Home in Dibden Purlieu, where he died. He is survived by his daughter, Elfreda Skey, and three grandsons. With the death of Captain Widnell, the Beaulieu Estate suffered the passing of a great man and we are all greatly saddened by this loss.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu January 1983

THE WITCHES OF BEAULIEU (2)

From a chapter on Beaulieu, written by Captain H. Widnell and published in 'The New Forest'.

...About the time of the abolition of poor Mary Dore's grave, another old lady seems to have stepped into her shoes. There is today in Palace House a water-colour of a Mrs `Witchey' White, to whom occult powers were ascribed in the early days of the nineteenth century, when Mrs White acted as charwoman at the house. It is nice to think that the Duchess of Buccleuch, John, Duke of Montagu's grand-daughter, allowed her a small pension, apparently for life.

Witchcraft seems to have run strong in the White family, for some twenty years later we find another Mrs `Witchey' White, seemingly daughter-in-law of the duchess's protegee, of whose prowess, or at any rate believed powers, we have local confirmation. An old Beaulieu estate bricklayer told the story to the writer, of a still older friend of this, who had been confined in a field in the lane from Beaulieu to Hatchet gate, and was unable to get out until liberated by the witch herself. What crime the prisoner had committed history does not relate, but doubtless in her eyes some wrong had been perpetrated, for Mrs White was anxious to help in a good cause, as the following anecdote will prove.

Some years ago a lady born and bred in Beaulieu, and the youngest, as they say, of 'a long family', told the writer of a strange tale concerning her father and old Mrs `Witchey' White.



Old Mrs `Witchey' White, charwoman at Palace House, Beaulieu, about 1812, from a drawing at Palace House

It appears that the father was then courting a young lady from the Fawley district at the time of the Beaulieu Fair, an important local event which was held up and down the village street. On the occasion the young couple were so engrossed in their evening's enjoyment that neither of them noticed how rapidly time was passing. Suddenly the girl realised with a shock that the sun had long since set, and that within a quarter of an hour she was due home in Fawley, some four and a half miles distant. Terrified at what her reception would be from her father and mother when arriving home about an hour later, the distressed damsel burst into tears.

At that moment, old Mrs White happened to be passing on her way up the street towards East Boldre where she lived, and seeing the sobbing girl, asked in kindly manner what the trouble might be. Upon learning the young girl's predicament the old lady in soothing tones promised that if a start was made without an instant's delay, and the now benighted traveller just kept 'jogging along' that she would reach home in time.

Hardly giving herself time to take leave of her lover, the girl turned her hurrying steps homewards. Over the Beaulieu bridge she hastened, past the precinct wall, along Palace Lane, up Hilltop hill, out of the manor gate, then across the Forest on the Fawley road. Following on Mrs `Witchey' White's instructions the girl, up and down hill, kept steadily 'jogging along' but never to her dying day could she account for the fact that somehow she did cover that four and a half miles from Beaulieu to Fawley within the allotted time. A source of equal wonderment to her faithful swain, whose grateful remembrances of the old dame's kindness never faded from his memory.'

There is a reference to Witchey White in the letter published elsewhere in this newsletter. — *Ed.*

THE HISTORY OF BEAULIEU GARAGE 1920 - 1987

by Ken Marvin

In approximately 1918, Harry Wells, who lived in No. 4 Northern Cottages, started a cycle repair business in his home; he also sold two gallon cans of petrol which were stacked outside. He also ran a taxi business and the car was garaged on the site of the present garage site.

In about 1920 he was joined by Alec Marvin, my uncle, and the repair garage started up, built around the building used to store the taxi. The taxi garage extended to provide workshop area and Alec was also in the R.F.C. [Royal Flying Corps].

After 1920 a hut was purchased from the R.A.F. site on the aerodrome and re-erected on the site now the Chocolate Shop, as a shop to selling cycles and accessories. Jack Abbott was employed, and he built radios, and Harry Wells made the cabinets as well as selling cycles.

At the same time cycles were assembled from kits and marketed under the name of Elswick assembled by Harry Wells, Beaulieu. This continued until about 1946 or 1947 when Harry Wells died.

When Jack Abbott left, probably during the war, Mrs Snelgrove's grandson was employed. Mrs Snelgrove was Mr Wells' housekeeper and she lived at Northern Cottages with Harry Wells, but also had part of what is now Thatched Cottage, on the Mill Pond.

In about 1919/20, Alfred Cecil Marvin returned to the village having served in the Royal Flying Corps. He started business with a Trojan van, plying from Southampton or Hythe, collecting goods, in particular, meat for Sarah Hayward, the butcher. Mowats of Southampton made up fish orders in baskets which would be left at the Dolphin garage, behind the hotel. The Dolphin garage was a depot for goods and parcels to be delivered between Southampton and Beaulieu, via Longdown. Sacks of ice were also brought back, packed in shavings. The early bus drivers were Ernest Crouch, John Gay, Arthur Hendey, Bert Thomas, Frank Bunday and Arthur Barnett.

The first bus was a charabanc Ford known as "Beefeater", as it had a red stripe around. In 1924 a new bus was purchased, a R. E. 0. 14 seater with an American engine, built by Pitts of Amesbury.

This was replaced by first a Commer, Dodge, and then a Dennis coach. In 1943 a new Bedford 26 seater was allocated by the Ministry of Transport, like an R.A.F. Crew bus — with slatted seats!

Two years later a Mark II Bedford was allocated with a shapely body and soft seats — the doors on these vehicles were operated by a lever beside the driver's seat — so much for Health and Safety today!

Earlier, in 1938, a Fordson 30 cwt truck was purchased with a canvas tilt. At the beginning of the war, the tilt had a Red Cross painted on it, which could be reversed if used as an ambulance — a wooden frame kept in the roof of the garage was dropped into it to take two stretchers. I still have the First Aid box and contents allocated to it! This lorry was also used for furniture removals and transporting other goods in the area.

CARS DRIVEN AT CUSTOMER'S OWN RISK.

THE GARAGE, BEAULIEU,
HANTS.

Memo. from WELLS & MARVIN BROS.,
(H. W. WELLS, A. MARVIN, A. C. MARVIN),
Motor and Cycle Engineers.

Open and Closed Cars for Hire.
OVERHAULS AND REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.
R.A.C. AGENTS. MICHELIN STOCKISTS.
CYCLES FOR HIRE, AND BUILT TO ORDER. ACCESSORIES STOCKED.
Agents for "Raleigh," "Royal Enfield," and other well known makes.

In about 1930, the garage site had been further developed with the erection of a steel Dutch Barn on the far side of the site, some 50 ft x 20ft deep, with ten foot doors. Two bays were allocated to the Bus Business and three bays to the garage repairs.

In 1945 Alec Marvin moved out of the garage and Cecil Marvin purchased the firm of Wells & Marvin leaving the cycle shop which continued to be operated by Harry Wells.

In approximately 1964, the front of the garage was transformed; the petrol pumps were removed from the front wall, one of which had been there since about 1920, and new pumps installed on an island. A forecourt kiosk was built and acted as a cash desk and accessories sales — a great step forward. The old pumps were installed alongside the garage to serve Diesel, Tractor Vapourising Oil and Paraffin. One new 1000 gallon petrol tank was installed. The rear of the new site was extended to a car park for staff and customers. Ten Lock-ups were erected on the west side and rented out. A heavy duty 10 ton hoist was installed in the centre of the car park with loading on and off at both ends. This enabled vehicles from the museum to be raised on the hoist with the truck running underneath to load and vica-versa for unloading. This also enabled the garage to repair commercial vehicles.

In 1973/4 as required by the Beaulieu Development Plan, the whole site was stripped and the new building erected as you see it today. This was done during the three-day week and the electricity cuts, and it was horrendous trying to carry on working and operating the petrol pumps!

The new site was very practical but did restrict the area for parking (The old site where the lock-ups and hoist were sited is now the Public Car Park.) The Queensmead yard (behind the Village Shop) was transformed back into Vintage Workshops, with its own stores and offices.

At this stage we were responsible for the movement of vehicles from the Museum for filming or for private functions. Several vehicles and staff attended the filming of "The Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines". Another big operation was the London-Brighton Run where at the peak we handled five vehicles to and from London and Brighton, hiring in extra Land Rovers and trailers. I also distinctly remember helping Frank Wallis, supervised by Captain Widnell, move the vintage cars into the front room of Palace House in 1952 thus inaugurating the start of the Motor Museum.

This workshop in Queensmead, carrying out work for the Museum, continued until the new Museum was built and had its own workshop under Louis Giron. When we were free of the Museum work we undertook repairs and restorations for private owners. In particular, an Allday and Onions, belonging to Mr Allday, and a Bristol 400 and M.G.T.C. owned by a Saudi Prince.

In 1987 the garage was taken over by A.C. Nicholas.

Ken Marvin

A TRIP AROUND BEAULIEU CHURCH (2) — The Sone family

Philip Sone came from Northamptonshire in 1706 to be the vicar of Beaulieu, which living he combined with the office of steward of the Manor of Beaulieu. He lived in the Domus, the traditional residence of the parson until 1724 when he had to find another house as Thomas Burman started a brewery in or near the Domus.

In 1716, Mercy Sone, the wife of the Rev. Phil Sone, died. Mrs Sone's death is recorded both in the church registers and by her memorial tablet in the east wall of the chancel. Quoting from *The Beaulieu Record* "This double recording calls attention to the necessity for giving an account of the curious and somewhat mysterious doings of the members of the Sone family, who must have played a leading part in the life of Beaulieu for nearly seventy years. The Rev 'Phil Sone' minister, as he signed himself and as he is nearly always referred to, was not a man who could remain a widower long. We find in the church marriages register of 20th May 1717, the following entry: 'Philip Sone Clerk Minister in this parish and Mrs. ffrancis Browning were married by a licence by Mr. Nicholas Bennet, Rector of Dibden'. Unfortunately for Mr. Sone this union was of short duration, for in the register of the 3rd of October 1718 there stands: 'Mrs Francis Sone, wife of Phil Sone Minister was buried in woollen'. A year and two months later, i.e. in December 1719, Mr. Bennet was called in again, 'Philip Sone Clerk

Minister of Bewley and Mrs Mary Ayre widow of ye same parish were married with a licence by Mr. Nic. Bennett.' Mr. Sone's third wife, Mary, must have been an attractive lady for she was not only the widow of Michael Ayre, the steward, who died in 1716, but was also the widow of Robert Braxtone of Park and Penderley. She was to, however, to return to the status of wife of the steward, as already mentioned, Parson Sone combined that office with that of minister."

Philip Sone's son, another Philip, was rector of Warkton[1742-1756] and Scaldwell [1742-1758], two parishes in Northamptonshire, near Boughton House, the advowsons of which were held by the Duke of Montagu. Sone was also chaplain to the Prince of Wales, as well as to his patron, the Duke of Montagu, but spent most of his time in Beaulieu, directing the ironworks at Sowley. He rented Sowley Farm from 1742-1756. He married the daughter of Myles Troughton who lived at Keeping Farm, and took over running the ironworks from him. They had a son, yet another Philip, known as Philip Troughton Sone, and he took over the running of the forge in 1756, and gave up Sowley Farm and the forge ten years later. Philip Troughton Sone died in 1772 and was buried at Beaulieu.

Whatever happened to Rev. Phil Sone we do not know. He signed, for the last time, the overseer's accounts and churchwardens' accounts at the parish meeting of 31st March 1730. His name does not appear in the burial register, though, as the tablet in the chancel shows, his widow died at an advanced age. Perhaps they are both buried in the large brick stone-topped tomb situated just to the north-east of the church entrance door. The Sone coat of arms is in excellent preservation but the inscription is completely illegible and has almost disappeared.

ROYAL VISITS TO BEAULIEU (1) 1204-1538

Not surprisingly, such was the importance of Beaulieu Abbey, there were many visits by the sitting monarch. *Sir James Fowler*, in his book *A History of Beaulieu Abbey* lists the many visits that took place during the time that the Abbey was in existence. Before quoting from his book it should be mentioned that the *Guest Master* of the Abbey was an important official charged with the duty of receiving and attending to the wants of the many guests of varying degree, who in those days used the abbeys as we nowadays use a hotel or inn.

It might be helpful to list the orders of the monarchs during the time of the Abbey and their relationships with each other:

King John (1167-1216), Reigned 1199-1216

Henry III (1207-1272), Reigned 1216-1272, son of *King John*

Edward I (1239-1307), Reigned 1272-1307, son of *Henry III*

Edward II (1284-1327), Reigned 1307-1327, son of *Edward I*

Edward III (1312-1377), Reigned 1327-1377, son of *Edward II*

Richard II (1367-1399), Reigned 1377-1399, son of *Edward the Black Prince, the eldest son of Edward III*

Henry IV (1366-1413), Reigned 1399-1413, son of *John of Gaunt*

Henry V (1387-1422), Reigned 1413-1422, son of *Henry IV*

Henry VI (1421-1471), Reigned 1422-1461, 1470-1471, son of *Henry V*

Edward IV (1442-1483), Reigned 1461-1470, 1471-1483, son of *Richard, Duke of York*

Edward V (1470-1483), Reigned April 1483-June 1483, son of *Edward IV*

Richard III (1452-1485), Reigned 1483-1485, brother of *Edward IV*, uncle of *Edward V*

Henry VII (1457-1509), Reigned 1485-1509, son of *Edmund Tudor*

Henry VIII (1491-1547), Reigned 1509-1547, son of *Henry VII*

Edward VI (1537-1553), Reigned 1547-1553, son of *Henry VIII and Jane Seymour*

Quoting, starting from page 109...

"The Guest Masters were not infrequently called upon to provide for the entertainment of kings and their numerous attendants, who must often have left behind them an empty cellar. We shall see that King Edward I was not unmindful of this, for *he* ordered the keeper of his wine at Southampton, to send to Beaulieu a tun, to replace that which were drunk "the last time when we visited there".

King John

The founder visited Beaulieu, doubtless, to observe what progress was being made with the building of the abbey, on May 19th 1206. He was on his way from Cranborne to Southampton, whither he went on the following day.

On Tuesday, December 18th 1212, King John, coming from Corfe Castle by Wareham and Christchurch, arrived at Beaulieu, and left for Winchester on the Wednesday.

On March 18th, 1213, the King arrived at Canford from Corfe; on the 19th he left for Beaulieu, where he remained the following day, leaving on the 21st for Southampton.

Henry III

Letters on the Close Roll are dated from Beaulieu during the reign of King Henry III, on 13th March 1223; the 10th and 11th January and the 20th December, 1235, from which it is known that the Court was then at Beaulieu Abbey.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Abbey, 17th June 1246, the King, Queen Eleanor, the King's eldest son Edward, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the King's Brother, the Bishops of Winchester, Bath, Exeter and Chichester, and many barons were present. The young prince was taken ill and was nursed by the Queen for three weeks. The admission of a woman to the Abbey, being contrary to the statutes of the Order, was, at the next visitation, partly the cause of the deposition of the prior and cellarius, who were held responsible for having given the Queen permission to remain; but they were also guilty of having at the time of the dedication allowed meat to be eaten by secular persons, which was also contrary to the statutes.

Edward I

The King visited Beaulieu and issued letters from there on January 24th, 25th and 27th 1275 and on August 29th 1276. In the same year "John de la Croyze came before the King at King's Beaulieu on Monday the eve of St. Giles". The King was also at the abbey on October 21st and November 15th 1285; and a deed enrolled 14 Ed. I is dated King's Beaulieu, 5 kal. Decemb. 1285. On September 6th and 9th 1293, the King again visited the abbey.

Edward II

The King paid a prolonged visit to the abbey in 1325, when the Court was in residence there from April 5th to April 27th. The King was also at Beaulieu on February 4th of the same year.

Henry VII

King Henry VII was at Beaulieu on August 18th and 19th 1489, and again stayed at the abbey on August 19th 1499, being then on his way to September.

Henry VIII

In the first year of the King's reign he visited the abbey and remained there for a week, August 7th to 13th 1509.

This concludes the list of Royal visitors to the Abbey during monastic times."

[In the next edition we will look at Royal visitors in post-monastic times — Ed.]

BARN GREEN is a village in the parish of Hambledon, about 6 miles N.W. of Havant. Population included with Hambledon. Letters *via* Horn Dean.

Fiddin Mr. William, Pipers hill
Horn Mr. William, Anthill house
Jones Dr. George Haines, Ashlin ho.

Banting Matilda, 'White Hart'
Clevery John, farmer
Colwell Francis, blacksmith
Colwell John, boot and shoemaker
Friend William, farmer & maltster
Gray William, chairmaker
Griffin William, farmer
Hatch Thomas, farmer
Hobbs John, farmer
Jarman Henry, farmer & miller
Langford Sarah, grocery dealer
Merritt Ann, miller
Merritt Henry, farmer
Merritt Thomas, farmer
Pratt Jane, farmer
Royal John, carpenter & wheelwright
Royal Richard, carpenter & wheelwright
Stares Robert, farmer
Warren William, farmer
Workman Richd. grocer & beer shop

BEAULIEU, a village & parish located on a river of its name, and 6½ miles N.E. from Lymington. This village is noted for its once famous abbey, founded by King John. Here it was that Margaret of Anjou took refuge after the battle of Barnet. The parish is rich in antiquarian remains. Fairs chiefly for horses and cattle are held on the 15th of April and 4th of September. Population 1177. Acres 8880. Countycourt town, Southampton. *Post Office*, at William Payne's; letters delivered at 7 a.m., and despatched to Southampton at 6.30 p.m.

Baker Rev. Frederick Walker
Burt Rev. John Bartlett, (Baptist minister.) Beaulieu rails
Davies Rev. Geo. Jennings, (curate)
Pocock Henry esq.

Adams John, farmer, Bucklershard
Aldridge George, 'Horse & Jockey', Beaulieu manor
Ball Eliza, butcher
Bennett Ann, baker
Bennett Charles, boot & shoemaker
Bidlicombe Benjamin, farmer
Biles William farmer, St. Leonards
Burdin James, veterinary surgeon, Hazle copse
Burt John Bartlett, miller, Beaulieu rails
Carpenter Saml. farmer, Dock farm
Carpenter Samuel jun. farmer
Carpenter Stephen, farmer, Godfrey's farm
Carpenter William jun. farmer
Cooper Stephen, farmer
Cullen George, tailor
Dawkins Thomas, farmer
Dodds Isaac, farmer, Sowley
Eames James, farmer, Beck farm
Farlow James, 'Chiquers'
Figgins Thomas, farmer
Fletcher James, 'Montague Arms'
Fry George, blacksmith
Gregory Thos., beer retailer, Beaulieu rails
Huggins Charlotte, farmer
Kemp Henry T. C. grocer & baker
Judd Thos., farmer, Bargey farm
National School, Stevens James, & Vincent Elizabeth
Payne William, wheelwright; *Post Office*, and parish clerk
Pike Michael, farmer
Pinnock Thomas, farmer
Pinnock William, farmer
Randall Joseph, cooper
Rawlings Edward, blacksmith
Rowe John, grocery dealer, East end
Beaulieu rails
Seager James, farmer [hard
Scanes Wm., 'Ship Inn' Bucklers-

Snook James, 'Forge and Hammer', Sowlcy
Stote John, boot & shoemaker
Suffield Thomas, grocery dealer, Beaulieu rails
Tarrer George, farmer
Wallis William, beer retailer, Beaulieu rails
Ward Benjamin, 'Royal Oak' and tailor, Hill top
Ward John, saddler and harness maker
West William, grocery & dealer
Westbrook James & Francis, twine & spinners
White William, tailor
Wiltshire James, farmer, Swinleaze farm
Withers Henry, farmer

BEDHAMPTON, a village and parish contiguous to Havant. Towards the west it is delightfully situated, and commands fine prospects both landscape and marine; it is also noted for fine springs of water, some of which possess medicinal virtues. Population 588. Acres 9280. Countycourt town, Portsmouth. *Post Office*, at Wm. Lawrence's; letters delivered at 8 a.m. and despatched to Havant at 6 p.m.

Alder Rev. St. John's, M.A. (rector)
Childs Lieut. Henry, Semaphore
Kay James, esq., the Elms
Smith Mrs. Mary Ann
Snook John, esq., Belmont castle
Stirling Admiral Sir James, & c. n. Belmont house
Stone Mrs.
Stoneham Mr. James

Bone Sarah, beer retailer
Clarke Woodthorpe, farmer
Curtis Jacob Jacobs, farmer
Gad James, 'Kings Head Inn,' and brewer & maltster

Snook James, 'Forge and Hammer', Ide Willis, blacksmith
King Noah, beer retailer
Lawrence William, Post office
Lipscomb Robert, 'Golden Lion'
Locke Bct, blacksmith
Lysus Thomas, former
Osmond John H. farmer
Pratt John, gardener & seedsman
Rogers Thomas, farmer
Snook Henry & John, millers, &c.
Stoneham Henry, farmer & miller
Waight Abraham, grocery dealer
Wakelood Joseph, grocery & c. dealer
For Conveyances, see Havant.

BISTERNWE, a village 3 miles S. from Kingwood, and 6 N. from Christchurch. Population is included with the parish. Countycourt town, Fordingbridge. Letters *via* Ringwood.

Dent Villiers, esq.
Mackie Rev. Charles, M.A. (curate)
Mills John, esq.

Foot John, parish clerk
Fowler Benjamin & William, farmers
Free School, Snelling William, and Neave Elizabeth
Hurdle Saml. 'George and Dragon'

BLACKWATER, a small hamlet in Christchurch parish, 3 miles N. W. from that town. Population numbered with the parish. Countycourt town, Christchurch. Letters *via* Christchurch.

Malmesbury Earl of, Heron court
Bacon James, 'Old Sailor'
Blandford Isaac, farmer, Westheron
Brenton James, shoemaker
Bulton Wm. farmer, West heron
Cane Benjamin, farmer
Every Francis, 'Horse & Cross'

BEAULIEU CEMETERY

The June 1894 edition of The New Forest Magazine records the subscription for the bell in the chapel at the Cemetery.

The question of when the Cemetery came into use is answered in *The Beaulieu Record* from which I quote, referring to the contribution to the magazine: "...The half for Beaulieu on this occasion has been occupied by two items, firstly an account of the inspection of the school by the Rev. J.G.Athill, which happily had been of the usual satisfactory nature, and secondly by the details of a 'Confirmation and consecration of the Cemetery' on June 8th 1892. Both these events were rather marred by the fact that the Bishop was more than an hour late in reaching the church 'owing to some disorganisation in the Railway Company's arrangements'. The consecration of the cemetery which followed the confirmation, was therefore somewhat hurried, as the Bishop 'had to confirm at Boldre after leaving us'. This fact necessitated the exclusion of the procession about the grounds, 'and some of the parishioners were rather scandalised because there was none'. The editor concludes, 'We may congratulate ourselves upon having such a beautiful spot for a burial ground, and when nature has had time to do her part in the growth of trees and turf it will hardly be possible to desire a pleasanter resting place for our departed'.

LETTER

I recently received an e-mail from Robin Simpson, which, with his permission, I reproduce in its entirety. — *Ed.*

I am Robin Simpson and Walter Elsworth kindly sent my mother your newsletter.

I was born at The Lodge, my father was Sir Patrick Hastings' butler and my mother was the cook. My great grandfather, Edwin Robbins, was Lord Montagu's gamekeeper for 45 years so my family, like yours, go back many generations as Beaulieu people. I remember your grandfather who used to deliver feed to our house wearing his black bowler hat.

I want to tell you about Witchey White. Whilst living with my grandmother in Beaulieu she would tell me about how Witchey White would transform into a hare and would be chased by dogs. She lived in Chapel Lane, East Boldre in an old cottage. At the back of the cottage there was a small hole in the wall and, when chased by the dogs, she would disappear into the house via this hole. A few years ago we happened to be in Cornwall and went to Tintagel, where there is a Witches Museum. Here we found Witchey White's charms on display.

They thought that there was a ghost at St. Leonards and it was seen quite often standing silhouetted in the old ruins at night. My father, when he was very young, went by late one night, saw it, and shot at it. Next morning he returned and found a large dead heron! Your father would find this story quite amusing as he knew my father, Hector, very well.

I would like to thank you for bringing everyone's attention to the headstones being pushed over at Grindingstone. We have now put back the headstone of my grandmother's brother who drowned in the Mill Pond at Beaulieu. I am told he was the first person to be buried at Grindingstone and the Bishop of Winchester came down to consecrate the ground.'

Should you wish to have an electronic copy of this newsletter please e-mail me at t.norris@forest.wokingham.sch.uk and I will attach a copy. If you know of any Beaulieu people, now living away, please feel free to e-mail them a copy. Should you wish to have subsequent editions e-mailed, please let me know. I will be including old photographs and documents which do not reproduce well under a photocopier, in the e-mail edition. A.C.Norris, *The Malt House, High Street, Beaulieu S042 7YA*