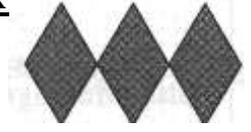


BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patron: Ailsa Montagu



No. 6 February 2009

NEXT MEETING

Friday, 6 March at 6.30 p.m.

Address by Professor Roger Knight, Professor of Naval History at Greenwich Maritime Institute, on

**"Shipbuilding for the Navy in Four Wars 1739 to 1815:
Buckler's Hard in Context".**

**Venue: Lecture Theatre
John Montagu Building**

**New members welcome
Subscriptions: £5 (single), £8 (family)**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that 2009 subscriptions are now due. Please make sure they are paid either prior to the next meeting or on the evening itself.

Membership Subscriptions are £5 (single) and £8 (family).

Subscriptions may be sent to either the Treasurer, Mr. David Matcham, Carrwood, Ramley Road, Lymington, S041 8LH or the Secretary, Mr Anthony Norris, The Malt House, High Street, Beaulieu, S042 7YA

Beaulieu and the Special Operations Executive

The new season of the Beaulieu History Society opened on 17 October 2008 with a lecture by Ailsa Montagu on the story of the World War II Special Operations Executive (SOE) at Beaulieu.

Using wartime photos, maps and footage from a 1946 documentary film featuring real SOE operatives trained on the Estate, she began by explaining how and why SOE was formed and how it recruited its agents. She went on to describe the various houses that were requisitioned and explained how they were used. This was followed by an account of the training itself, illustrated by notes made by the wartime instructors. She also described some of the colourful characters who taught at the 'Finishing School for Secret Agents'.

The histories of some of the many agents who passed through Beaulieu were covered, illustrated by contemporary assessments and anecdotes. Finally, Ailsa discussed how much local people knew of what was going on at the Finishing School. She produced stories and reminiscences from written accounts and interviews which gave a rich and often amusing account of what ordinary Beaulieu residents made of the 'hush-hush troops' and their VIP visitors.

Ailsa concluded her talk with evidence of what was visible today of the presence of SOE at Beaulieu, including a Polish inscription on a wall for which she provided a surprising translation!

The evening ended with a question and answer session enlivened by the memories of Denis Hendey, whose family lived in a cottage in the grounds of one of the SOE houses and who frequently met the agents and their British Army 'minders'.

The History of the High Street

On 28 November 2008 the Society met in the Village Hall to discuss the history of Beaulieu High Street. The hall was filled to capacity and a great deal of interesting information emerged.

John Coles introduced the discussion, describing the High Street as a "jewel of history". Although the earliest houses now standing were built in the 17th century, there is a good deal of historical evidence for believing that there were buildings of some sort in the present area of the street by the mid 16th century and perhaps as much as 500 years ago.

He then introduced each building in turn, describing what is known about it from public and semi-public sources and inviting members of the Society to add their own information and comments. This led to some particularly rich exchanges as many residents of the village and others drew on their memories and knowledge.

A note on the history of the High Street, based on this highly successful and informative meeting, is now in preparation and will be made available to members as soon as possible.

The History of Ipley

On 16 January 2009 the Society met to hear an address on "Ipley Manor and Beaulieu: A Long History" by John Pemberton, the owner of Ipley Manor.

He explained that archival research had produced details of the De Ipley family who occupied a farm at Ipley between 1188 and 1316, at which date it was transferred to Beaulieu Abbey, for which it probably produced beef, milk and timber much like other granges owned by the monks.

The speaker then presented the results of archaeological excavations carried out at Ipley by the Avon Valley Archaeological Society which confirmed the site of the farm in mediaeval times, before the current house was built in 1746, and established that the site had been used for habitation since at least the 13th century.

Finally, following the dissolution of Beaulieu Abbey in 1538, Ipley passed into the ownership of Thomas Wriothesley in 1544 and thence to the Montagu family, remaining part of the Beaulieu estate until 1897.

John Pemberton's talk, based on much original research and accompanied by an illuminating visual presentation, was enthusiastically received by members and stimulated many questions.

In this edition of the newsletter

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Page 15: A walk around Beaulieu Church (5)

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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

If you have any comments or contributions for subsequent newsletters please contact Anthony Norris at anthynorris@tiscali.co.uk or at The Malt House, High Street, Beaulieu, Hampshire, S042 7YA. The next newsletter will be distributed in June 2009.

AN EMINENT RESIDENT — Sir Patrick Hastings

by Robin Simpson

Memories of Sir Patrick Hastings, Barrister.

Sir Patrick Hastings moved to The Lodge at Beaulieu in 1923. Whilst at the Lodge, he built a tennis court, a greenhouse and kennels for his dogs. My grandfather helped him with these projects but found it difficult keeping pace with him. For country sports, Beaulieu was a paradise. He rented a pheasant shoot from Lord Montagu — Mr. Pike was the Keeper. Despite being an extremely busy man he still found time to write plays, many of which were performed in the London theatres. Some plays were conceived at The Lodge, the last play he wrote was his most successful, namely "The Blind Goddess". This was made into a film.



Sir Patrick Hastings, K.C., in 1946

Many famous actors and writers stayed at The Lodge — Sybil Thorndike, Edward G. Robertson, and Edgar Wallace to name a few.

Whilst at The Lodge, Sir Patrick would spend many hours pacing up and down the lawns, hands behind his back, head down with pipe in mouth. My mother said no-one dared to approach or speak to him as this was a sign that he was working on a new case and needed to be left alone. Sir Patrick was probably one of the greatest Advocates this country has ever produced, being involved in some of the biggest murder trials of the time. When a particular *case* finished my father, Hector Simpson, would pick him up from Brockenhurst Station and drive him straight to Hartford Hole where he would fish for *sea* trout.

My father started as Sir Patrick's under-keeper and then became his butler. My mother, Vera, was Sir Patrick's cook. She started her working life at The Drokes as a nursery maid, so marrying into a game-keeping family, she became an expert game cook ending up cooking for Lord Montagu (he was the most appreciative person she ever cooked for and is still proud of this fact). At 95 she can still cook any game correctly, particularly venison.

Sir Patrick and Lady Hastings lived at The Lodge with their two sons, David and Nicky. They also had three daughters, Barbara, Patricia (who wrote his biography) and Phillippa, but they did not stay at The Lodge very much. Both Sir Patrick and Lady Hastings adored Hector. On one occasion my father was serving dinner and at the end of the main meal he brought in the pudding — a large quivering pink blancmange. David, still an Etonian, took a dim view of the pudding. As the pudding was placed on the table, both brothers started arguing. Nicky said "Eat it" — David said "I will not". Dining with them was a High Court Judge, Justice Stable. He tried to calm them down but David could not control himself. He threw the pudding across the table. Nicky caught it and threw it back, missed his brother and my father caught it. However, temptation was too much for him and with a cry of "How's that" hurled the pudding back covering Nicky. Hector was banished to the pantry.

David Hastings became my godfather. I still have the silver christening mug he gave me. David married Jeannie, the daughter of Commander Wrey. They lived at Boarmans. Commander Wrey and his wife are both buried at Grindingstone. Jeannie and David were married at Beaulieu and had a daughter, Judy. Within a year David was sent to India where he served with the Chindits under Wingate. Sadly, on the last day of the War, David was shot and killed crossing the Irrawaddy River. My mother kept in contact with David's widow for many years.

Sir Patrick had many friends around the Village; one in particular was Mr. Norris who became a devoted friend showing kindness and helpfulness whilst Sir Patrick was at Beaulieu. Sir Patrick missed him greatly when he left The Lodge in 1938.

Biographical details: Sir Patrick Hastings was born on March 17th 1880. He was educated at Charterhouse and when the Second Boer War broke out he enlisted and served with the British Army. In 1901 he returned to Britain determined to read for the Bar. He became a barrister and soon gained a reputation. In the early 1920s he decided to go into politics. He joined the Labour Party and was elected M.P. for Wallsend in 1922. On the formation of the Labour government in January 1924 he was made Attorney General and was given the traditional knighthood that went with the post. He decided not to stay in politics and resigned his seat in 1926. He had begun an alternative career as a playwright, with *The River* being produced in London in 1925, but soon went back to the Bar where he resumed his practice. He had several notable cases, including that of Princess Irina Yusupov who, led by her husband, sued Metro Goldwyn Mayer over a film fictionalizing the murder of Grigori Rasputin; she won £25,000 damages, an unbelievable figure at that time. In another Hollywood related case, Sir Patrick represented Warner Bros., who sued actress Bette Davis for breach of contract, when she accepted an offer in 1936 to appear in two films in England. He called Davis "rather a naughty young lady" who "wants more money", helped turn British public opinion against the actress and finally won his case. In 1948 he suffered a mild stroke and was advised to retire. He died four years later.

For further information on this remarkable man read "The Life of Patrick Hastings" by Patricia Hastings.

THE BEAULIEU FIRE SERVICE 1907-1989: Part 1

by Walter Elsworth

Beaulieu Fire Brigade was first formed as an organised force in 1907 by the present Lord Montagu's father, when he sold Ditton Park and came to live in Beaulieu. He brought with him his engineer Frank Wadley to superintend the building and running of an electrical power station to be situated just to one side of the Montagu Arms Hotel.

The *February 16th 1907* edition of the *Hampshire Independent* reports 'The Beaulieu Fire Brigade, the nucleus of which was formed some forty years ago, under ducal regime, has been reorganised by the efforts of Messrs Wadley and R.J. Bacon (the newly appointed captain), who have been ably supported by some of the old hands. Of these, last few remain, notably Messrs. W. Payne, J. Norris and G.R. Collins. The engine, one of Merryweather's (and a good one), has been carefully preserved, and the tackle is in splendid condition. The members have been drilling most assiduously twice a week for some months. The engine has been dragged by willing hands from its repository in the Palace House stableyard, and one-man, two-man and four-man drills performed. The membership at present amounts to nearly 20, and the majority live close to the engine house.'

The newly formed Beaulieu Fire Brigade wasted no time in getting in trim. The *Hampshire Independent* of *September 7th 1907* reports... 'Last night (Friday) at Palace House, Lord Montagu presented to the members of the Beaulieu Manor Fire Brigade the prizes gained in the recent "single man drill" competitions. The following are the winners:- 1. Mr. T. Hendey, time 1min. 43sec.; 2. Mr. A. Abraham, Amin. 25sec.; 3. Mr. W. Holman, 1min. 48sec. It should be stated that only one second separated No. 3 and No. 4 (Mr. F. Zobel). In presenting the prizes his Lordship congratulated Mr. F. Wadley (acting chief officer) and the members of the Brigade on the efficiency displayed, and also provided prizes for team drill.

The Fire Brigade was financed by Lord Montagu but he asked the villagers to contribute. Below is part of a newspaper report from the *Hampshire Independent* January 18th 1908.

Lord Montagu entertained the members of Beaulieu Fire Brigade to dinner at the Montagu Arms Hotel on Thursday night and all interested in the work of the Brigade were invited to take tickets. Over forty availed themselves of the invitation. During the repast Lord Montagu said... He was very glad as president to see so many present at the dinner. He was most keenly interested in the Brigade and wished to do all he possibly could to help it. Already a very large amount had been spent by him in putting the engine and appliances in order. Now the Brigade was appealing for funds to provide uniforms etc. so as to complete the equipment. He should be pleased to head the list with a sum of £10, and he also intended to build an engine-house for the Brigade near the electric power station (*applause*).

...Mr. Nash-Brown (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer) said that they had a Merryweather engine, about half a mile of hose, an alarm bell, and other appliances, and Lord Montagu had expended a sum of about £36 in having these put in first-class order (*hear, hear*). They now wanted uniforms to complete their equipment and a small sum to meet the working expenses in the way of horsing the engine for wet drills and small repairs. A complete uniform with helmets would cost about £50, and the working expenses per annum would be less than £10, so he was now appealing for £60. He was glad to say that he had already received in money and promises £25, which he thought was a very good beginning, and he hoped the rest would soon be forthcoming. He fancied he could see many bursting with eagerness now to hand him a subscription which he would be only too pleased to relieve them of (*loud laughter and applause*).

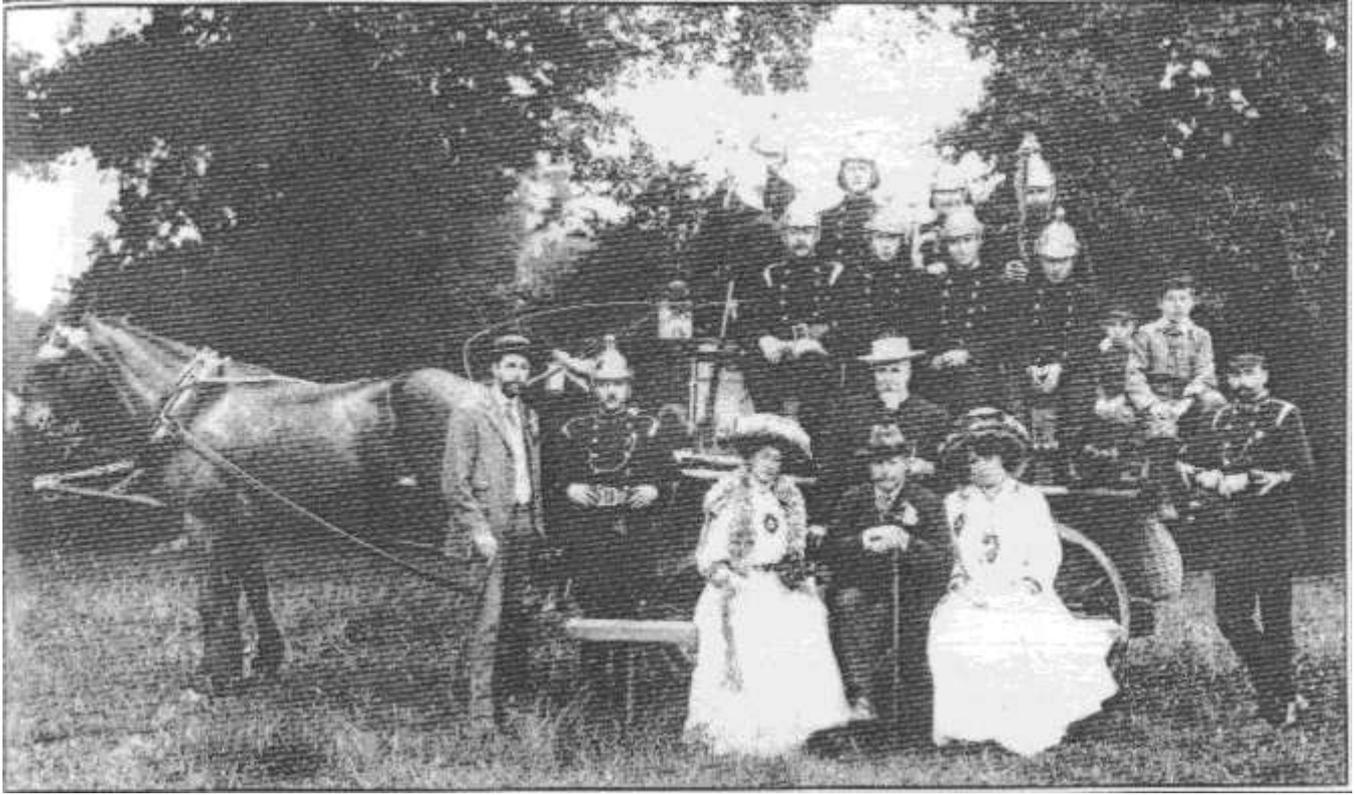
... The toasts were interspersed with capital songs given by Messrs. A. Buckland, J. Biddlecombe, Foakes, Hayward, Jones, Marsh, Norman, Plascott, Preston, Toomer and Wadley, and the accompaniments were efficiently performed by Mr. Payne. The National Anthem concluded a most enjoyable evening.'

The March 1908 edition of *The New Forest Magazine* shows that the villagers were prepared to make their contribution, as seen below.

BEAULIEU FIRE BRIGADE. Subscriptions received to February 21st.
Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, £10; Sun Insurance Company £5 5s.;
Mr. H. W. Forster, M.P. £5; Fine Art Insurance Company £5;
Miss Bacchus, £2; Rev. R. F. Powles, £2; Messrs. Ashby, £1 1s.;
Mrs. Geach, £1 1s.; Mr. G. H. Morgan, £1 1s.; Messrs. Shepherd
& Hedger, £1 1s.; Messrs. Strong & Co., £1 1s.; Mr. F. Baring, £1;
Messrs. G. Bonham-Carter & C. Norman, £1; Mr. A. E. Gibbs, £1;
Mr. H. Huth, £1; Rev. J. Willcocks, £1; Mr. J. Hayward, 10/6;
Mr. E. F. K. Dry, 10/6; Mr. J. L. Nobbs, 10/6; Mr. F. Norris,
10/6; Mr. P. A. Stevens, 10/6; Mr. W. E. Winsey, 10/6; Messrs. H.
Bowman & Sons, 10/-; Mr. C. Cooper, 10/-; Mr. C. Scott, 10/-; Col.
Jerrard, 10/-; Mr. E. L. Appleton, 5/-; Miss Jackman, 5/-; Mr. T.
Jones, 5/-; Mr. P. McCallum, 5/-; Mr. E. Robbins, 5/-; Mrs. Self,
5/-; Mr. Toomer, 5/-; Total £46 8s. 0d.

Mr. J. W. Nash-Brown (Hon. Secretary & Treasurer) while most gratefully acknowledging the above, will be glad to receive any further subscriptions towards the £60 required.

Below is a photograph of the Beaulieu Fire Brigade showing off their new uniforms. [Printed by kind permission of Lord Montagu]



Beaulieu Fire Brigade. 1908, Lord & Lady Montagu and daughter. Helen, seen with the Beaulieu Volunteer Fire Brigade. The manual fire engine was driven by Mr. Jones, the village carrier with his own horse from the Montagu Arms or Mr. Winsey, the grocer. Some of the Brigade were Estate workers like Frank Wadley, engineer at the Beaulieu Electric Light Station, standing, second from left and Alexandra "Harry" Pattillo, plumber [second row, first left] Others worked in the village Harty Wells from the Garage & Bicycle Works, back row, second from right.

May 1909 saw the completion and ceremonial opening of the new fire station. The *Hampshire Independent* for May 29th 1909 carries the following report.

'The new fire station built by the president of the brigade, Lord Montagu, was formally opened on Friday evening. Accompanying Lord Montagu were Prince Francis of Teck, the Hon. Arthur Stanley M.P., and Sir Henry Norman M.P.. After the new building and appliances had been inspected the fire alarm was sounded, the members of the brigade doffed undress for full uniform, the engine was horsed, and the hose cart got out. Quickly arriving at Palace House water was played onto the building from the hydrants in six minutes from the time of the alarm being sounded, and the engine was well at work within nine minutes. Lord Montagu complimented Chief Officer Wadley and his men on the smart and workmanlike manner in which the drill had been performed. There were also present Mr and Mrs Francis Francis, Mrs Geach, Miss Bacchus, the Rev. R.F. Powles (hon. chaplain to the brigade) and Messrs. G. Bonham-Carter, G.H. Morgan, E. H. Noble and J. W. Nash-Brown (hon. secretary of the brigade).'

The New Fire Station



One of their first serious calls was to a large fire of a hay rick belonging to Miss Burden of the Mill. The *September 10th 1910* edition of the *Hampshire Independent* reports that 'in three minutes they had assembled and had the engine on its way...!'.

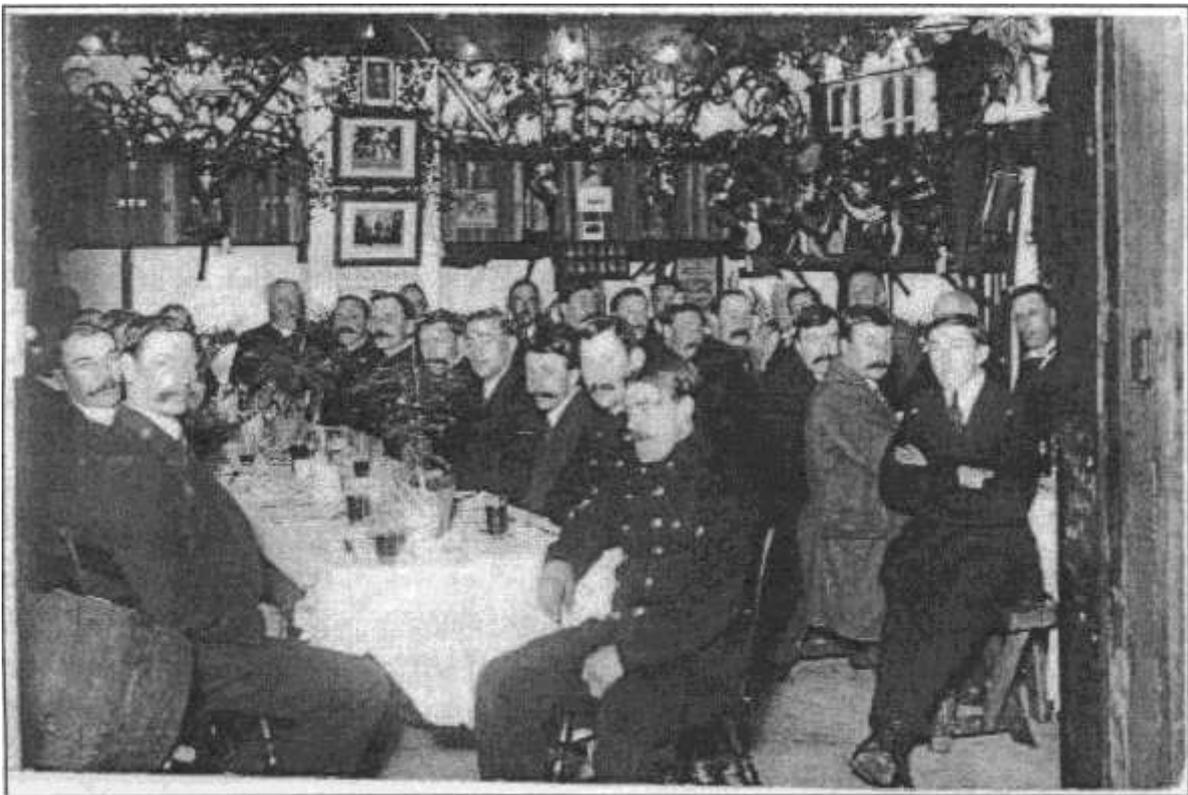
April 1911 saw a major fire when The Studio was gutted by fire. *The Hampshire Independent of April 8th 1911* reports...

`A destructive fire occurred at Beaulieu on Wednesday night, the result being that Lord Montagu's studio containing thousands of pounds' worth of valuable map compiling apparatus and plant was gutted. It is estimated that from £13,000 to £15,000 will hardly cover the loss occasioned by the destruction of costly lenses and photographic appliances and material used in the production of the maps irrespective of the burning of the building. ...At 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday evening the studio was closed, and everything was apparently in good order; but by 9 p.m., when Mr. E. Montagu of The Rookery, which is situated adjacent to the studio, and is engaged in work there, was at dinner, his attention was attracted by the erratic behaviour of the electric light, and, going outside he noticed the interior of the ground floor of the studio was in flames. Seeing at once that prompt action was necessary, and knowing the value of the contents of the building, Mr. Montagu despatched a friend at top speed to the fire station and the Beaulieu brigade, under Captain Wadley, was quickly on the scene with their manual engine. Almost every man in the village turned out to render assistance, and willing helpers arrived from the surrounding neighbourhood.

When Mr. Montagu approached the building he found the flames had obtained a firm hold on the ground floor, and with the idea of saving some of the valuable property on the upper floor, with the assistance of the local Territorials, he obtained a ladder, but no sooner had they placed it against the side of the house than the flames burst through the flooring, and very soon the whole of the interior was a mass of roaring flames. ...Every credit is due to the Fire Brigade for their excellent work, and it was only through their strenuous efforts that the new wing was not also consumed by the flames. The impossibility of saving the main building was evident to all, but although handicapped by a shortage of water, for the pond from which the supply was drawn ran dry after the brigade had been at work for a short time, the hard work of the brigade and their assistants was crowned with success in preventing the further spreading of the flames.... By four o'clock in the morning the fire had practically burnt itself out, and the weary villagers, begrimed with smoke and scorched by the intense heat of the flames, wended their way homeward'.

The *May 20th 1911* edition of the *Hampshire Independent* reports that the brigade was soon busy again. 'The Beaulieu Fire Brigade received a call to a cottage fire at East Boldre at A.15 a.m. on Sunday. The members promptly turned out with the engine, and in less than half an hour from the alarm being given were playing on the flames and under the able supervision of Chief Officer Wadley, quickly got the fire well in hand. The thatched roof was damaged by fire, and the interior of the cottage by fire and water. The cottage, of which Mr. J. Etheridge is tenant, is situated 1³/₄ miles from the fire station'.

Bearing in mind this was in the middle of the night, the firemen had to be contacted, and the engine set up with the horse, the turn-out time is quite impressive.



The Beaulieu Fire Brigade Dinner, about 1910. [My grandfather, Mr. F. Norris, is on the extreme right, wearing glasses. — Ed.] One of the photographs on the wall at the back can be seen to be that of the Fire Brigade in their new uniforms i.e. the photograph shown earlier.

[to be continued in June 2009 edition]

200 YEARS AGO

Will he never learn?...

Jasper Stickland has been this week committed to gaol, charged with his own confession, with stealing a lamb, at Beaulieu. [*Hampshire Chronicle August 7th 1809*]

N.B. Jasper had only recently been released from gaol as the *March 21st 1808* edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle* reports that... This week have been also committed Jasper Stickland and George Fry, for six months each for attempting to kill deer in the New Forest.

Alec Holland in his excellent book *Buckler's Hard — a rural shipbuilding centre* tells us more about this particular member of the Stickland family. He writes...

‘Jasper Stickland was one of a large family with many branches. He was born about 1770, and made a meagre living was a general labourer, with periods on poor relief. In 1806 he was again on poor relief, with a wife and at least two children to support. In 1808 his third child was born. In 1809, with his brother Solomon, he stole and killed a lamb, valued at 20s, the property of Edward and Balthazer Adams. On 5 March 1810 both were found guilty at Winchester Assizes, and were sentenced to be hanged, later commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales. Jasper and Solomon Stickland sailed from England on the *Admiral Gambier* on 5 May 1811, arriving in Sydney on 29 September. Jasper's wife, Sarah, evidently found companionship elsewhere, as she bore an illegitimate child in 1811. She lived on in Beaulieu, a burden to the Poor Law Overseers.’

Would it be the case of 3 strikes and out?

The Draining of Sowley Pond — 1907

Sowley Pond was made in 1270 by building a causeway which held back the waters of two streams outside 'the King's wood of Suthlie'.

It is mentioned in the Forest Eyre of 1280: 'At the same justice court it was presented that the abbot of Beaulieu has newly made a certain pond outside the kings wood of *Suthlie* and has enclosed water so that it has overflowed the kings land to the damage of the forest. The abbot attends and shows warrant: therefore he is acquitted.' The manor account book of the time refers to it as a fishpond, and was presumably used to provide food for the monastery. Following the dissolution it became part of Sowley Farm although the fishing was reserved for the lords of the manor and in the 18th and 19th Century was integral in the functioning of the iron works nearby.

The *September 7th 1907* edition of the *Hampshire Independent* reports the following:

‘Lord Montagu is draining Sowley Pond, near Lymington, about 100 acres in extent, the largest lake in Hampshire, which was originally made by the Cistercian monks over 600 years ago. The lake contains an immense number of fish, including pike, perch, roach, tench, carp and bream. It is expected that operations will be so far completed that the pond will be netted on Monday, and the water run off and the fish exposed on Tuesday and Wednesday. This work is being undertaken previous to re-stocking with trout, and as the matter is of great interest locally, Lord Montagu will be pleased to welcome friends and neighbours to view the proceedings.’

The conclusion is recorded in the *September 21st 1907* edition of the *Hampshire Independent*.

'The draining operations and the netting of fish at Sowley have been continued during the week with vigour. There were many interested spectators in Saturday last, and they were entertained with some fine sport. Amongst the captures were some huge pike, four of which scaled 28¹/₄lbs., 28lbs., 22lbs., 24lbs. The two former were purchased (by auction) by Captain Osborne and Mr. Burrough Hill, of Southampton.'

In Palace House is one of these pike, stuffed. As the plaque reads...

`Queen of Sowley Pond'
Deposed AD 1907 September 14th
Weight 28¹/₂ lbs Length 3ft 9in
Presented to Lord Montagu by William Burrough Hill of Southampton.

There was perhaps a second reason for the draining of Sowley Pond. If one reads *John, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu* by *Lady Troubridge and Archibald Marshall (1930)* it seems that everyone was hoping for something else to be revealed, as well as coarse fish. Quoting from the book...

Here, referring to the Palace House... 'The south front of the building remains what it was in monastic times, except for the filling in of the archway and the rooms above the one-time chapels. The niche which contained a figure of the Virgin is still there, and has been filled again with a statue. There was a persistent tradition that an image of the Virgin in the church was of gold and had been thrown into Sowley Lake by the monks, to save it from the King's Commissioners. The lake was drained and dragged in 1907 to empty it of coarse fish, and expectation ran high, but no golden or any other figure was found.'

Since I suspect it would be under many feet of mud after 350 years, it is not surprising that it wasn't found. Perhaps, with all the modern technology available today couldn't the Time Team be encouraged to investigate further? [Incidentally, I thought the gold statue had been thrown into the Mill Pond — Ed]

A bull in the bedroom...

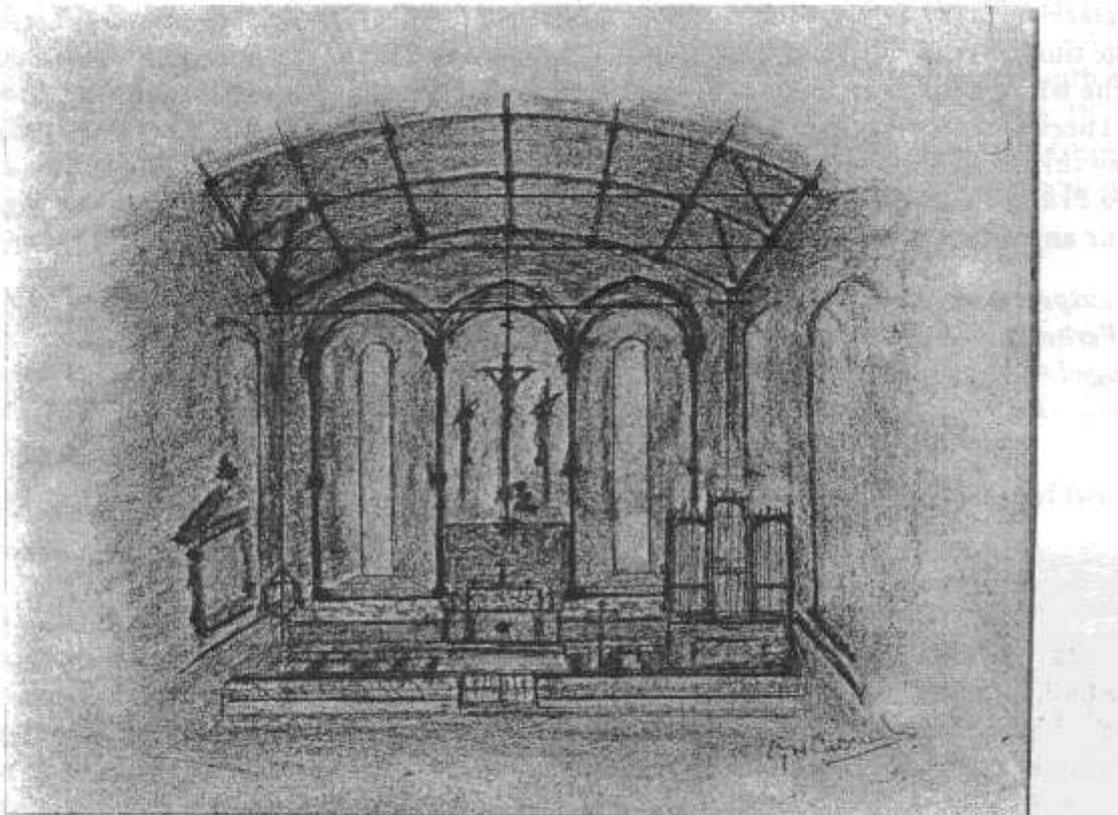
'On Tuesday the above remarkable occurrence actually took place at Beaulieu Rails. It appears that the bull, a fine animal, belonging to Mr. Seager, of Pennerley, being eager to join some of his own species grazing in the Forest beyond, made a spring from the Manor bank, and alighted, not on the heathery sward, as no doubt he anticipated, but on the roof of a cottage built on a lower level under the friendly shade of the bank which separates the New Forest from the Manor. With a thundering crash Taurus came through thatch, rafters and laths, creating no small consternation in the bosom of the "gude wife" in the sitting room below, who, having caught up her four children, made a hurried exit from the house. We will not attempt to describe the feelings of the bull on finding himself in this strange and unexpected predicament; to use a stereotyped phrase, no doubt "his feelings may be more easily imagined than described". Suffice it to say that this veritable housebreaker, after unceremoniously spreading some bed linen over the floor, gave one huge bellow as a parting salute, or perchance as an apology for his intrusion, and with a bound he retired headlong through the aperture, fortunately without having wrought further damage.'

[from Hampshire Advertiser July 13th 1878]

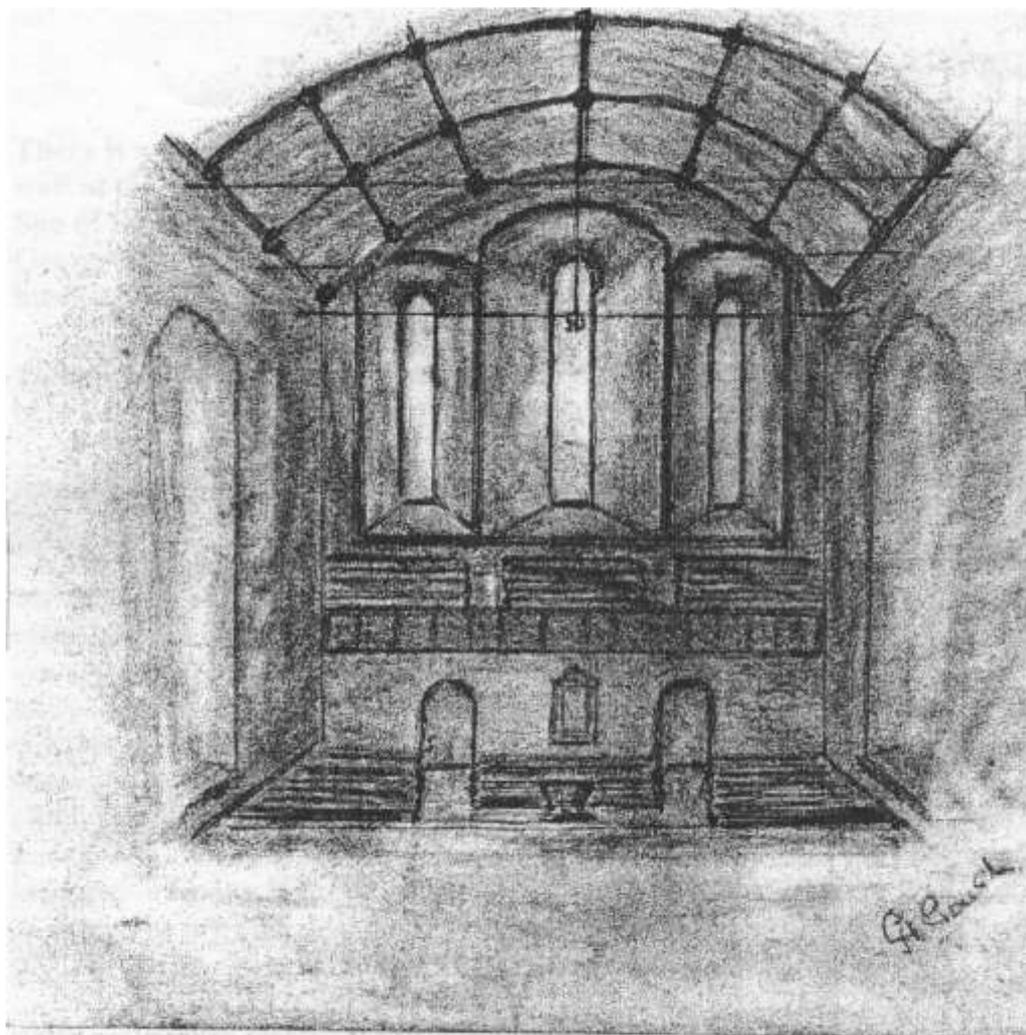
Sketches by George Crouch of the Church prior to the alterations of 1940.

George Crouch was a member of the Choir for 59 years and there is a brass plaque commemorating this attached to the choir stalls. George Crouch was the brother of Ena Crouch who served the Church so well as Sunday School Teacher, and also brother of Claude Crouch who played cricket for Beaulieu in the 1930s before becoming a prominent local cricket umpire.

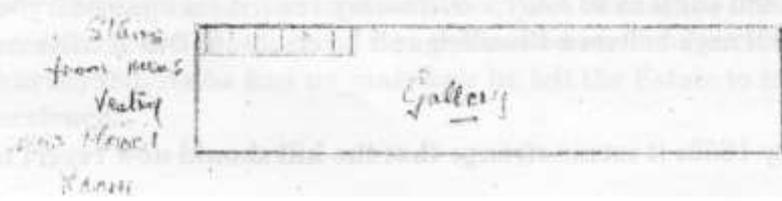
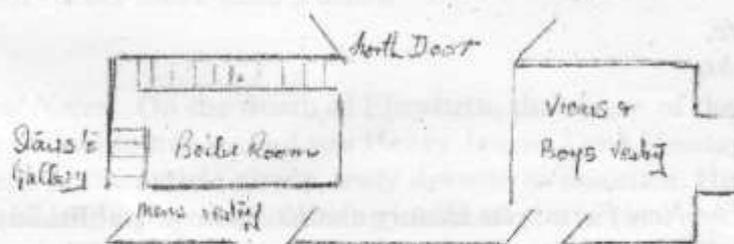
There are very few photographs or drawings of the North End of the Church prior to the alterations of the 1940s and 1950s. So it is worth reproducing George Crouch's drawings of the Church at that time.



Altar and organ as it was before alterations in 1940.
Altar piece is of Christ on the Cross with the two
robbers on either side with his mother at the foot.



North end of Church before the organ was removed



Can you find the 25 Beaulieu farms in this wordsearch?
 [Answer at end of newsletter]



Harlicks Hill again...

I have uncovered a very old poem entitled 'The day we went to Hordle'. The third verse reads...

*Up Sticklands Hill, past Hatchet Gate,
 We slowly crept, for we carried weight,
 With a dozen lumpy souls as freight,
 Tis steady she goes, for Hordle*

John R. Wise, in the Ast edition of '*The New Forest: Its History and its Scenery*' published in 1863 includes a map of Beaulieu, and the hill out of Beaulieu now known as *Harlicks Hill*, was then called *Sticklands Hill*. The 1867 and 1880 editions of *Kelly's Dictionary* record that one Mary Stickland was the village carrier for journeys between Beaulieu and Lymington. Did she live on the hill?

As the Horlock family lived in the early 1800s it seems strange that the hill should now revert to its original name.

A walk around Beaulieu Church (5)

The monument to Henry James, Baron Montagu of Boughton.

There is a memorial tablet to Henry James, Lord Montagu of Boughton in the chancel on the east wall at the south end of the church. Its inscription is: Henry James, Baron Montagu of Boughton, Son of Henry, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury and Elizabeth, Daughter and Heiress of George, Duke of Montagu. In thankful remembrance of forty years of happiness with the best of husbands. This monument is erected by his widow. Then there follow verses from Revelations.

To appreciate everything that Henry James did for Beaulieu, it is worth recalling the paragraph below from a book I was reading recently. The second paragraph is added for interest...

from 'A Journey-Book of Hampshire' published 1841...

`... the church of Beaulieu has been lately repaired, new pewed, and otherwise improved, at the expense of Lord Montagu, brother of the Duke of Buccleuch; and a comfortable residence for the clergyman of the parish has also been completed at his lordship's expense. Besides this, he has erected two schools for the reception of 100 boys and 100 girls, and provided them with a master and mistress, and it is his intention to encourage two infant schools, which are to be auxiliary to the other two schools. These schools, however, are strictly confined to children whose parents belong to the Established Church; and if there should be any Dissenters in the parish, their children will be entirely excluded from the advantages which Lord Montagu has provided; and he will not allow any dwelling belonging to him "to be used for the purpose of a school of instruction in any form of religion opposed to or differing from that of the Established Church, as taught in my own schools" (from 'Memorandum and Instructions' issued by Lord Montagu, Oct 27th 1840).

At Beaulieu was also a Hospital of Knights Templars, which was founded before the establishment of the abbey. The ruins of the Hospital, which are now converted into farm buildings, are sometimes mistaken for those of the abbey. They are about half a mile distant from the water, on rising ground which commands views of Hurst Castle, the Needles, Spithead, and the towns of Yarmouth, Newton, Cowes and Newport. The ruins of the abbey are in a low situation, and the lands above them are now rather swampy. The Beaulieu or Exe river is navigable to the village; the tourist is recommended to sail down it to Exbury, near its mouth, a distance of rather more than 3 miles.'

Additional Notes: On the death of Elizabeth, the widow of the 3rd Duke of Buccleuch in 1827, Beaulieu passed to her second son Henry James, Lord Montagu of Boughton, a man who was, as can be seen in the article above, truly devoted to Beaulieu. He was a great benefactor to the village, building a new school, being instrumental in the reconstruction of the Church, and in addition provided the villagers with a piped water supply from the Monk's conduit. Lord and Lady Montagu were the first owners of Beaulieu since the days of the abbots to really live in Beaulieu. Lord Montagu of Boughton died on October 30th 1845 and is buried in Stoke Poges Churchyard. As he had no male heir he left the Estate to his nephew, Walter Francis, 5th Duke of Buccleuch.

Postscript...

Below is an article I found on the Internet... I include it for French speakers!

Une nuit de 1951, un peu avant Noel, Michael Sedgwick, directeur de recherche du musee de l'automobile de l'abbaye de Baulieu en Angleterre, est encore à sa table de travail après minuit.

La film& de tabac emplît son bureau. Ouvrant la fenetre pour aérer, il entend les chants d'un office catholique. Ils venaient par vagues irrégulieres, comme d'une radio qui fonctionne mal, ditil ! Je les trouvais tellement beaux que j'essayais de les capter sur mon propre poste ...en vain.

Ce soir là, Bertha Day, l'intendante de l'abbaye, entendit les cantiques elle aussi. Elle savait que Madame Mears venait de mourir. Tous deux le comprendront par la suite, ce sont les moines de l'abbaye qu'ils ont entendu chanter une messe comme à chaque fois que quelqu'un du village s'éteint.

Seulement, plus aucun moine ne vit à Baulieu depuis 1538 ! Fond& par les Cisterciens en 1204, l'abbaye a prosper& jusqu'à ce qu'Henry VIII la fasse fermer. Pourtant, semble-t-il, les moines n'en sont jamais vraiment partis

Pour les gens de la region, les fantômes de Baulieu font partie du quotidien. Le reverend Robert Frazer Powles entretient avec eux de si bonnes relations qu'il en connaît plusieurs par leur nom. A chaque Noel, il célèbre pour eux un office dans l'église du village. Un jour, alors qu'un fidèle lui dit qu'il n'y a pas grand monde pour la messe, il répond : plus que vous ne voyez !

Tout le monde n'accepte pas aussi volontiers les fantômes de Baulieu. Un membre d'une équipe de cinema qui tournait dans l'abbaye entend quelqu'un descendre l'escalier derrière lui. Les pas le dépassent à sa grande terreur. Celui qui le suit est invisible. D'autres personnes ont été affolées par des bruits qui, la nuit, semblaient provenir du cimetière des moines comme pour un enterrement.

On a aussi vu les moines. Ils sont vêtus de marron, l'habit des frères lais, qui, au contraire des pères en robe blanche, n'étaient pas ordonnés.

L'actrice Margaret Rutherford a vu un jour, un moine en froc brun, lire dans les mines du cloître, vision qu'un employe de l'abbaye eut aussi en 1965. Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, les officiers d'une unite antiaérienne ont aperçu un groupe de moines près de la chapelle. En 1979, on en vit un qui taillait la vigne récemment replantée.

Lord Montagu et sa famille, propriétaires de l'abbaye depuis 1673, affirment que les fantômes n'ont jamais été autre chose que des amis. Les moines ont toutes les raisons de l'être !

25 Beaulieu Farms Wordsearch: Beck, Bergerie, Beufre, Clobb, Culverley, Curtle, Hazel Copse, Hill Top, Home, Ipley, Keeping, Leygreen, Lodge, Monkshorn, Newhouse, Newlands, Otterwood, Park, Penerley, Ravensbeck, Sowley, St. Leonards, Swinesleys, Thorns, Warren
