

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patron: Ailsa Montagu

No. 8 June 2009

The Beaulieu History Society now has a break for the Summer and will reconvene on...

Friday October 16th

AGM

followed by

**The Archaeology of the Beaulieu Area
Mr Frank Green
[New Forest Park Authority Archaeologist]**

Beaulieu Village Hall

6.00 p.m.

The Society will begin its next season of activities with the Annual General Meeting at 6.00 pm on Friday, 16 October in the Village Hall. The Agenda and other papers for the AGM will be distributed later. Following the AGM Frank Green, the Archaeologist of the National Park Authority, will address the meeting on The Archaeology of the Beaulieu Region. He will describe the ways in which archaeology illuminates the history of the Beaulieu region from the earliest times to today. He will then discuss present and planned archaeological projects of direct relevance to Beaulieu, in which there may be scope for members of the Society to become involved.

Hare Coursing... [from The Hampshire Advertiser February 17th 1872]

'A very successful competition took place on Tuesday, by permission of Lord Henry Scott, M.P. at the Abbey Walls Farm occupied by Mr. John Biel. The morning was heralded by a bright sunshine, and a dying wind in the few hours preceding had brought the ground to good holding condition. This meeting is the inauguration for what is hoped will become an annual trial of skill for the young saplings of many future generations. The owners, with their favourite property, attended from various localities, including the Isle of Wight, Ringwood, Southampton and Lymington. The hares, which were remarkably strong, gave full scope for the most strenuous efforts of the greyhounds, and in some few instances resulted in a happy escape from their too youthful pursuers. The hospitality of Mr. John Biel on the occasion was munificent and unbounded, all comers having been most agreeably welcomed to that good cheer which the English agriculturists so well knows how to supply. That future meetings may be supported with equal kindness, numbers and success, is all that can be desired for the encouragement and progress of coursing in this neighbourhood.'

BUCKLER'S HARD IN CONTEXT

On 6 March 2009 the Society was addressed by Professor Roger Knight, Professor of Naval History at the Greenwich Maritime Institute, who had earlier worked at the National Maritime Museum for some 27 years, ending as Deputy Director. Roger Knight is one of Britain's foremost naval historians and is the author of many publications including "The Pursuit of Victory. The Life and Achievement of Horatio Nelson" (published 2005).

His chosen subject was "Shipbuilding in Four Wars, 1739 to 1815. Buckler's Hard in Context". He stated at the outset that this was not a well-researched subject. There were only a few relevant books and articles. But there was a mass of archives available in the National Archive, the Maritime Institute and elsewhere which would repay further work. He had not been able to trace good contemporary paintings of the ships built at Buckler's Hard. French ship-builders of the period tended to commission fine oil paintings of their products but not Henry Adams, the Buckler's Hard shipbuilder, who was rather tight with his money. This was a pity because such paintings would be a valuable source of information.

Henry Adams took advantage of a private shipbuilding industry in England which was flourishing by the latter part of the 18th century (see below). He built a total of 27 ships before he retired in 1794 (his two sons then took on the business but were declared bankrupt in 1810). In all, 57 warships were built at Buckler's Hard, a considerable achievement for a small yard. The largest ship constructed there was only 200 tonnes less than H.M.S. Victory. Hulls built at Buckler's Hard would have left the yard without their rigging and be rowed to Portsmouth to be fitted with mast, keel etc. They would have made this voyage under the command of an officer from Portsmouth, the responsibility of the builder ending when the hull left his yard.

Since the early 17th century warships had grown increasingly in size. Materials for shipbuilding were largely imported from the Baltic, which was peaceful for much of the period, though some came from North America as well.

In the first half of the 18th century state-owned yards built nearly 300 ships compared to the 108 which were privately built. But in the rest of the century the output of the private yards steadily increased and the state yards built fewer. By the time of the French Revolutionary War private yards were building 71% of warships. The state-owned dockyards were becoming major bureaucratic organisations with their own culture which was very different to that of the private yards. The Navy Board preferred ships to be built at the Thames dockyards, the real powerhouse of the private industry, because they believed they could provide more effective supervision there; the further yards were from London, the more, it was thought, they would try to get away with. There was a particular occasion when the Navy Surveyor visited Buckler's Hard and reported sub-standard work. Private yards were given stiff contracts by the Navy Board with tough penalties for overruns and other failures to meet targets.

It was worth noting that while Holland and Sweden developed a successful private ship-building industry France never used private yards. Consequently, it was less able than Britain to respond quickly to urgent wartime requirements.

(continued overleaf)

BUCKLER'S HARD IN CONTEXT

(continued)

Professor Knight displayed five maps to illustrate how the pattern of the ship-building industry changed during the period. During the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739 to 1748) the industry was dominated by the Thames yards and that pattern did not change appreciably during the Seven Years War (1756 to 1763). During the American War of Independence (1775-1783) the Navy decided that it did not have anything like enough ships and the balance began to shift to the private yards. But the big change came at the outset of the Napoleonic Wars (1803 to 1815) when the government realised that shipbuilding and maintenance had fallen far beyond the desired level. The Navy needed a lot of small ships and needed them quickly. The result was a huge expansion of shipbuilding all around the country. Had the two sons of Henry Adams joined in the urgent production of small ships it is likely that they would have remained solvent. But they decided to go on building larger vessels, fell into difficulties over the contracts and were made bankrupt in 1810. They unsuccessfully sued the Navy Board.

There were many unanswered questions about shipbuilding in general in this period. Were privately-built warships cheaper? How were costs affected by naval blockades? Were there significant regional price variations? Why were some of the yards outside London not used at all in certain periods? How much was politics involved; were contracts let to marginal seats? The archives could undoubtedly provide the answers.

There followed a substantial question time when members asked about responsibility for ship design and rigging, apprenticeship training, the state of the private yards between the wars (when the building of warships ceased), maintenance, gunnery, budgetary pressures, the cataloguing of drawings etc. at the Maritime Museum and other matters. Professor Knight provided full and expert answers.

John Coles

An early flight...

Mr Armstrong Drexel made a successful flight at Beaulieu. In still calm weather he brought, from its shed, his Bleriot monoplane and with Mrs McArdle as passenger made three circuits, attaining at altitude of 600 feet.

[Hampshire Independent September 17th 1910]

Note: The New Forest Flying School was established on the Beaulieu Heath near Hatchet Pond — the first recorded flight by the principals of the school, McArdle and Drexel, being made on Sunday ^{1st} May 1910. These flights attracted large crowds, about 500 according to the *Lymington and South Hants Chronicle*.

Robert Coles has written a book entitled *History of Beaulieu Airfield* which gives an extensive account of the early flights from Beaulieu and also its use during the two World Wars.

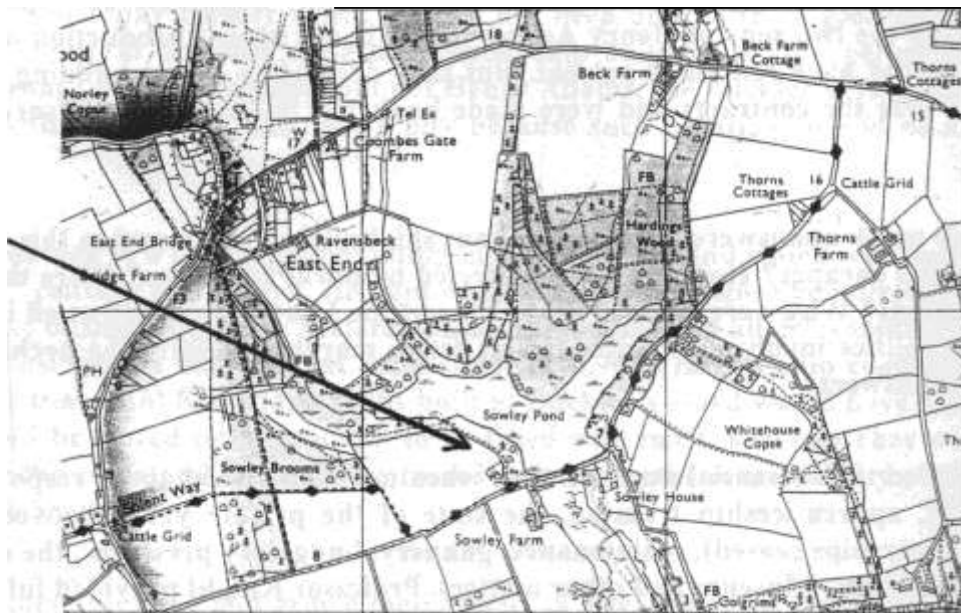
THE SOWLEY COPPICE INCIDENT OF 1862 [Part 1

The local press records an unfortunate incident which led to unpleasantness between the villagers of East End and the Duke of Buccleuch concerning access through Sowley Coppice. *The Hampshire Advertiser* records it thus...

The Hampshire Advertiser April 19th 1862

'We regret to inform our readers that the beautiful walk in Sowley Coppice, at East End, has been closed to the public, and that a feud of great animosity is now raging, in consequence of this act, between the villagers and the steward of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. The road in question has been in public use for a period beyond the memory of any living person; and there appears to be grave doubt as to the legality of this proceeding on the part of the steward. A more lovely piece of woodland scenery it is, perhaps, impossible to conceive; and, as the walk, after leading through a shady avenue, about a mile in length, skirts the noble sheet of water known as "Sowley Pond", it may be imagined that it had become a place of continual resort by all persons in love with quiet and pleasing scenery. The

I believe *Sowley Coppice* to be the woodland to the South of the Pond, but I have been unable to find a map which specifically mentions *Sowley Coppice*.



roadway was, moreover, a great convenience to the labourers residing in the locality, their journeys to and from work being shortened by two or three miles, in the course of the day, by using this path in preference to the long and circuitous public road. Great indignation was accordingly expressed when the road became suddenly closed to the public, the gate closed, and covered with thorn bushes, the bushes being heavily coated with tar. The bushes were pulled down, and the gate forced open — only, however, to be re-closed and ornamented as before. This sort of game has now been carried on for some time, both sides evidently intending to push matters to extremities. On Sunday morning last, the bushes had been removed altogether, and a strong upright oak paling fixed to the gate, over which it was impossible for any person to climb without risk of serious bodily injury. The villagers, however, were not to be daunted, and early in the morning enough of the palings had been pulled away to allow people to pass through.'

A person by the name of Pragnell was summonsed before the magistrates at Hythe for damaging a gate, the property of the Duke of Buccleuch, and it was then contended that he had a *bona fide* right to do so as the inhabitants there had a right of way through the wood where this gate was placed to prevent persons from going through. The magistrates then dismissed the summons on the grounds that they had no jurisdiction in this case.

Soon after this, the unpleasantness was to get even worse with the Duke of Buccleuch's boat and his boat house at Sowley Pond being set alight.

Two references to what happened next appear in the *August 9th 1862* edition of the *Hampshire Independent*:

BEAULIEU.] — FIRE — A fire broke out on Wednesday night, at a boathouse, near Sowley Pond, the property of the Duke of Buccleuch. The house and a boat were totally destroyed. There can be no doubt but that it is the act of an incendiary, arising out of the late dispute with regard to the road through Sowley Coppice.

LYMINGTON:- SOWLEY COPPICE AGAIN. — We regret to state that the long and acrimonious dispute with reference to the public right of way through this beautiful tract of land, appears to be carried on with as much bitterness as ever. Some time ago we stated that the case brought by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch (the owner of the coppice) before the Hythe Magistrates, in which Mr. Pragnell was the defendant, had been dismissed by the Bench and that the public continued to use the road through the coppice as heretofore.

It was also stated that the duke's people had removed the obstructions at each entrance to the coppice, but had also dug a deep ditch in front of the gateways to render ingress and egress impossible on the part of the public. Three ditches were then filled in by the indignant dwellers in the neighbourhood, but to little purpose; for they were speedily dug out again, and the soil carted away, a threat also being expressed that the ditches should be filled with water from the large pond at the end of the coppice. The villagers in this extremity made their way in and out the coppice by means of planks kept for the purpose of forming a moveable bridge over the ditches in question. For some time this mode of "crossing the gulf" has been in use, with but little opposition from any one.

Emboldened by success, the villagers constructed a more permanent footway by fixing supports or 'joists' on each side of the ditch, and nailing a strong plank to them. On the night of the 31st, however, some persons supposed to be in the employ of the "other side", cut away the middle portion of the plank, leaving about 18 inches of each end projecting from the sides of the ditch. Fortunately no person that night had occasion to come through the wood after dark; otherwise serious, and perhaps fatal accidents might have occurred. The ditch, which is seven feet in depth, contains water not sufficiently deep to drown a grown person, but a small child falling in might find great difficulty in extricating himself from so perilous a situation. Anyhow, no person, old or young, could expect a midnight tumble into the chasm without expecting also to suffer some serious personal injury. Had the ditch contained seven feet of water, the act of cutting away the entire portion of the plank would have merited the severest reprobation.

Even now we can only speak of it in terms of censure, and express our firm belief that his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch would be the last person in England to encourage such a procedure on the part of his servants.

The next morning several of the inhabitants sent for their legal adviser, Mr. Charles Davies, of Lymington, who will, we suppose, take the necessary steps in the matter, though we are not aware of what course may be pursued. There is reason to fear, if this vexed question be not speedily set at rest, serious assaults will take place. Some individuals are already spoken of as being afraid to stir out after daylight and with apparent reason, judging from the threats uttered against them.

Years ago this locality was one noted for its lawlessness and profligacy, and from the bad feeling which has lately sprung up among the people, it would seem that this vexatious, stupid and needless dispute is rapidly undoing the good work of the last twenty years among this once neglected people. The coppice road in question has been used by them from time immemorial — and it is their determination to maintain their right of way to the utmost.

If his Grace imagines he has a right to exclude the public from Sowley, we trust he will at once try the question in the superior courts, and bring this unpleasant and dangerous matter to a termination, and so restore peace and quietness between him and the inhabitants of this neighbourhood. The present system in one of childish and bootless annoyance, which, while it fails to establish his right to close the road, creates and keeps alive the worst possible feelings on the parts of the villagers towards one who has hitherto shown himself in every respect the promoter of industry, and a friend of the poor.

Since writing the above, we have heard that a boat-house recently erected by the Duke at Sowley Pond, and a costly boat moored inside, have been destroyed by incendiaries. We trust the perpetrators of this cowardly act will be speedily discovered, and brought to consign punishment.'

The *August 23rd* edition of the *Hampshire Independent* relates the action both parties then took.

'A few days ago, a handbill was published, offering a reward of £20 for the discovery and apprehension of the parties who set fire to the Duke of Buccleuch's boat-house, at Sowley Pond. This outrage is supposed to have been perpetrated by way of revenge for the attempts lately made to close Sowley Coppice to the public of East End and Beaulieu. A handbill, offering a reward of £1 for the discovery and apprehension of the parties who maliciously cut asunder a plank bridge, at the entrance of the coppice, has just been published by the villagers. This game of "diamond cut diamond" is being carried a little too far, and will, in all probability, be attended with serious results.'

In the next edition the outcome of this sad incident will be revealed.

THE BEAULIEU FIRE SERVICE 1907-1989: Part 2

by Walter Elsworth

11930s-19451

Horses were used to pull the fire appliance and were supplied, if available, by Fred Jones the village carrier who lived up at Bunkers Hill Cottages on the Buckler's Hard road. If his was not to be had, others were borrowed from Mr Winsey, the baker and grocer, whose shop is where Abbey Stores is today. Obviously at some later date the old horse-drawn machine was replaced by a newer chemical device and towed by a motor vehicle. The first I can remember was an old Delage saloon car, this car was in the early 1930's. The years between the horse-drawn appliance and this, seemed to be rather a dark age, so I think I had better leave them and start with the time that I personally can remember.

Between the two world wars Beaulieu Fire Brigade was financed, staffed and run by the Beaulieu Estate. This was in common with most of the brigades, either private estate units or town or borough run brigades. If and when an incident became too big for the smaller brigades to cope with, phone calls to the next nearest units had to be made, but, of course, there was no guarantee that help would automatically be given. It was left to the discretion of the officer-in-charge or his superiors as to whether they would respond or not. Another big snag was that each brigade had its own choice of equipment which meant that nothing was standard in the way it is today, different sizes and types of hoses, couplings and hydrant fittings were in use to fit, of course, the type of equipment in use in each separate area.

In Beaulieu the appliance I remember was a trailer which in effect was an over-sized fire extinguisher towed behind a large private car, quite effective on small outbreaks, but with the great disadvantage of not being able to pick up and use open water. In no way was it a pump. In the village the few hydrants available were on the private estate supply, fed by gravity from the reservoir, so that if the fire happened to be out of the village itself, pressure could be quite reduced until, at a certain level, there just wasn't any.

Four major incidents which I can remember illustrating the shortcomings of the village brigade at this time were calls to three large houses in the area and a pair of thatched cottages, namely, Oldways, Blackbridge House, The Lodge and Bunkers Hill Cottages (previously mentioned).

Oldways was the first, a large thatched house owned by a friend of Lord Montagu's, Sir Thomas Troubridge and situated in the woods north of Palace House. The fire took place on September 4th 1930.

At this time all Beaulieu had was a wheeled chemical extinguisher and so help had to be sought from the Lymington, Hythe and Exbury Brigades. Water to fight this fire had to be pumped up from Boarmans Pond by a pump called in from outside and, by the time it had been set up, the fire had virtually destroyed the property, in fact it had to be totally rebuilt and can be seen standing on the site today.

The next incident was Blackbridge House, again a large thatched property standing in a lovely site overlooking the upper reaches of Beaulieu River and owned, I think, by General Alexander. Some idea of the type of construction can be gained from the garage and outbuildings which survived the fire and are still in use today. Again, outside help had to be summoned, the delay resulting once more in the virtual destruction of the house, in spite of an unlimited supply of water in the river at the bottom of the garden.

FRIDAY, SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, SEPTEMBER 4, 1930.

TEA INSTEAD OF SKILLY.

Casuals' Fare at Westend Institution.

INMATES WHO ENJOY GAME OF CARDS.

Mr. Mayor called attention to the casual served in the canteen with the evening meal at West End Institution. "I visited the canteen," he said, "and I must say that I had a lovely time. I asked them whether it was tea or skilly, and they replied 'No, it is skilly-tee.' They wanted a cup of tea, and I think it would be a pity to give it to them."

The Mayor said he agreed that the skilly was not altogether nice, but the food, in the past, had been found to follow what other institutions did and not provide tea. His argument was that more vegetables would be attracted to the institution that gave tea and not skilly.

Mr. Mayor, having been assured that there was no difference in the cost, moved that tea be provided, and this was agreed to.

PENSION QUESTIONS.

It transpired that the Rev. Law, minister of a recently-returned member of the staff at Shirley Warren was not satisfied to pay his rent. He had not qualified for the old-age pension, and the man asked for the consideration of the Committee.

Mr. De Grand said it was understood that when the man retired he would have the old-age pension.

The Chairman suggested that the matter should go to the Finance Committee, and this was agreed to. Mr. Mayor remarked that it was possible to get the man's pension. Mr. G. Baker, retiring officer in No. 1 District, whose health had broken down, sent in his resignation, and asked that an assistant be given in his stead. This matter was also referred to the Finance Committee, and Mr. De Grand carried on the work during Mr. Baker's illness, was appointed to the vacancy.

WEST END FOOTBALLERS.

The West End Football Club were allowed to play during the recesses of a ground near the institution, the Mayor (Mr. H. Street) remarking that some of the inmates enjoyed watching the game.

The Officer (Mr. A. J. Walker) mentioned that this year the club had paid the rent in advance. Their year was satisfactory.

PLAYING CARDS.

Mrs. Poole called attention to the dirty state of the playing cards used by the male inmates. She hoped that some time they would be supplied.

The Mayor: "I am always giving out from seven to ten cards each week. The old men enjoy a game, and I thought some second-hand cards for them."

Mrs. Poole: "I am sure, I am sure, that I can't get a pack of my own. I am sure, I am sure, that I can't get a pack of my own. I am sure, I am sure, that I can't get a pack of my own."

The Mayor promised to look into the matter.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

The Mission to Waverley and Wanderers, of Christchurch, were granted permission to distribute religious literature among the vagrants.

'OLD WAYS' IN FLAMES

Heavy Loss to Sir Thomas Troubridge.

BEAULIEU HOME DESTROYED.

Firemen's Exciting Experience.

AS briefly reported in last night's "Echo," fire completely destroyed Old Ways, Beaulieu, the New Forest home of Sir Thomas Troubridge, Bart., yesterday afternoon. The damage is thought to be between £3,000 and £5,000. Hardly any furniture was saved, but a box containing papers was snatched from the burning building.

Three fire brigades (Lymington, Hythe, and Exbury) were called to the scene, but when they arrived they found that the flames had gained a substantial hold.

The fire brigades had to run about a mile of hose through woodland to a pond, from which water was obtained. There were many helpers, but they were powerless in face of the flames.

Old Ways was a picturesque residence standing on a hill above Beaulieu Abbey.

The alarm was given by Miss Helen Marshall, a maid in the house, who noticed smoke issuing from the roof near the chimney. She told Lady Troubridge, who was at her desk writing, and she then phoned Mr. J. C. Ashmead, master gardener, at Beaulieu. The brigades were called, and in the meantime the household staff, with help, did what they could to stem the progress.

Their task, however, was impossible. In a little over an hour the house was reduced to the ground.

SITUATION HOPELESS.

"When we arrived we found the situation hopeless," said Subaltern Kiersey of the Lymington Brigade—the first to reach the burning building—to our representative.

The building, which was constructed mainly of timber, with a thatched roof, was like a high bomb, and was rapidly falling in pieces.

REDUCED TO ASHES.

The chimney, which apparently was situated in the centre of the house, still stands, but for the rest the building has been reduced to ashes, except in a mass of twisted water pipes and a water cistern. Among the debris were to be seen hundreds of pages of typeset, which belonged to Lady Troubridge, who is a well-known authoress.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought that it might have been due to a chimney sweeping fire and the thatch becoming smouldering.

A number of valuables in the house were destroyed.

Sir Thomas and Lady Troubridge have resided at Beaulieu for many years. They have temporary accommodation at the residence of a neighbour, Mr. Carter. They spent last night at the Priory House, Beaulieu, as the guests of Mr. Laurence Smith and Lord Alton of Liverpool.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Three of the servants—Mrs. E. Woodfield, J. Bidwell and A. C. Stupp—had a narrow escape from serious injury when standing on the cover of a well.

The cover collapsed, and Bidwell fell about eight feet.

He was prevented from falling to the bottom of the well by a narrow board. Woodfield and Stupp fell on top of him, but they managed to hold on to the base.

A GOLD CROSS.

One chimney stack of the building remains, another having been pulled down for safety.

Little of value was salvaged, but among the ruins was found a gold chain, in which was attached a gold cross set with pearls, in the back of which was the inscription "R.V." from L.R., March 23rd, 1888.

Among the articles salvaged was the MS. bearing the title, "Married Out of Folly," by Lady Troubridge. The book is much shrouded, but the writing is legible. Notably amongst the debris was an iron box locked dated 1888.

Sir Thomas Troubridge states that Lady Troubridge's MS. of her biography of Lord Minto of Beaulieu is in the hands of the publisher.

AN INTERVIEW.

Sir Thomas Troubridge, in an interview, said: "I was in Beaulieu when I was told by Mr. Ashmead that the roof of my house was on fire. Mr. Ashmead was taking some chemical extinguishers with him, and I went with him to my home. When I arrived, I threw up my coat and attempted with the extinguishers to put the flames out. I did not at that time attempt to get any of my own valuables out of the house. I was intent upon putting the flames down if at all possible, but finally I was forced to leave by the fierce heat, and I left my coat behind. This jacket I have no more in Lord Forest's, and all I have is what I stand in. I have just been away to buy a few things. Lady Troubridge told me that she was at her desk writing when the outbreak occurred, but she managed to save the manuscript on which she was engaged."

DATE TO THE FIRE.

Mr. H. Street, chauffeur to Mr. Laurence Smith, who was one of the first on the scene, said: "Immediately I heard of the fire I took out a van and, with seven men inside and P.C. Daniels standing on the man-board, I dashed up to 'Old Ways.' The place was a mass of flames. We could only enter the dining room, and we pulled out what we could before the smoke and flames became too much for us. Mr. Moberg and I had only just got out when the place collapsed. Mr. Moberg burned his finger, and I was hit on the neck by a piece of burning wood. Our clothes were too wet to burn. Water poured through the ceiling from the tanks in the roof, but the flames grew fiercer and fiercer."

BEAULIEU TO HAVE ENGINE.

In a few weeks time Beaulieu is to have a fire engine of its own. The engine has been ordered, and delivery is expected. The movement to acquire an engine for Beaulieu was started some time ago following a fire at the residence of Mr. J. E. Hinton, J.P.

CARAGES.

HURFIELD—Large GARAGE in Lot, with e.v. 50. per year. Apply to Mr. C. H. HURFIELD, Southampton.

L per year, east-down, near Bournemouth. Apply to Mr. L. H. HURFIELD, Southampton.

PRIVATE GARAGE in Lot 24, weekly. Apply to Mr. L. H. HURFIELD, Southampton.

MOTOR-CYCLE THEFT. | ALRESFORD BENCH.

OF BRAN R COVERE

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GREAT

The
OF
Quality

877 WINGS
Wardrobe 12 ft. wide, 6 ft. high, with 2 ft. 6 in. wide with 2 ft. 6 in. high. 2 ft. 6 in. wide. The best.

Or delivered free monthly payments

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L.J. STUBBS

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Telephone: Southampton
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SHOWROOMS: C
MARE STREET

The fire at The Lodge was quite a bit different from the last two, in that it was an outbreak in the roof space of a large slate-roofed property, which stands on high ground overlooking the tidal part of the Beaulieu River. Water for this fire was pumped up from the river by the pump from Exbury, set in Mr Norris' field by the old swimming site. Incidentally, the pump became well and truly stuck in, and it was quite some time before it could be recovered and taken back to Exbury. One incident regarding this fire is well worth relating, if only to illustrate the type of control at fires at this time. The Officer in charge of the Exbury brigade was a Mr. Johnson, whose crew were rather enthusiastically removing furniture from the upper storeys by throwing it out of the windows. When a gentleman standing by said that he thought that that was not the best way of doing the job, Mr. Johnson said that he had put out more fires than the gentleman had ever seen. Only afterwards did Mr. Johnson learn that the other gentleman was none other than Mr. E. Hayward who at that time happened to be the Chief Fire Officer of the Southampton Fire Brigade, and who had attended in his own interest. Enough said about that, it only remains to be said that the house itself was not badly damaged, just a part of the roof and the roof-space.

At Bunkers Hill Cottages again quite a bit different in this case, a pair of thatched cottages, the cause of the fire being a chimney, which spread to the roof which was destroyed along with the upper storey and severe damage to the ground floor as well. Hythe brigade along with Brockenhurst attended this fire; just why Brockenhurst came out I do not know, maybe the usual help was not available. Living in the cottages at the time were Mr. and Mrs. H. Forward, who was a Forest Agister for many years. They were temporarily accommodated after the fire in the rooms down at The Domus, where they subsequently had quite a few extraordinary tales to tell about the alleged hauntings and ghosts. When the cottages were rebuilt they moved back again and lived there for many years after. The other tenant was Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hendey who worked at the mill for Mr. Norris, who moved to Chestnut Cottage, but never went back after the rebuilding.

To return to the brigade itself, it consisted of about twelve to fourteen of the younger men of the Estate staff, drawn from the building staff, woodmen, gardeners and so forth. The Officer in Charge was Mr. Wadley, the second in command being Ted Biddlecombe, who also worked the power station. Drills were held on Tuesday afternoons when everyone involved gathered at the Fire Station. Most of the drills were centred on Palace House and consisted mainly of life-saving practices using the furry ropes which were attached to some of the windows and also making sure that the Palace House staff were familiar with the ways of escape through certain windows and then across the roof to various access points. The younger members of the household staff used to rather enjoy the proceedings but the elder and senior members, such as the cook, lady's maid and head housemaids thought it rather undignified, especially coming down ropes with men stood below to assist them. Some of the firemen were not too enthusiastic about the drills either and when one of the woodmen clashed with Mr. Wadley he was promptly told to seek other employment, which he did with the Forestry Commission over at Lyndhurst.

With the setting up of the Auxiliary Fire Service just prior to the War, the Beaulieu brigade found themselves issued with a Beresford Stork trailer pump, albeit quite a small one, but nevertheless a device which at last enabled them to make use of open water which was a big step forward for them. An Austin Towing Vehicle to carry the crew and tow the pump also arrived to take the place of the car. It was at this time too that the old brass helmets and the silver one worn by the Officer in Charge were replaced by army-style helmets, a bit sad really as they disappeared as far as I know and were never seen again.

We now reach the time of outbreak of the war and the brigade was strengthened by quite a number of men from the village outside of the estate staff, and with the death of Mr. Wadley, the new Officer in Charge was Mr. Norman Winsey from the Bakers and Grocers Store [now Abbey Stores]. He was quite a different character from Mr. Wadley, rather easy-going and quite unflappable and was known affectionately amongst his men as "The Guv'nor". He left most of the training and operational work to

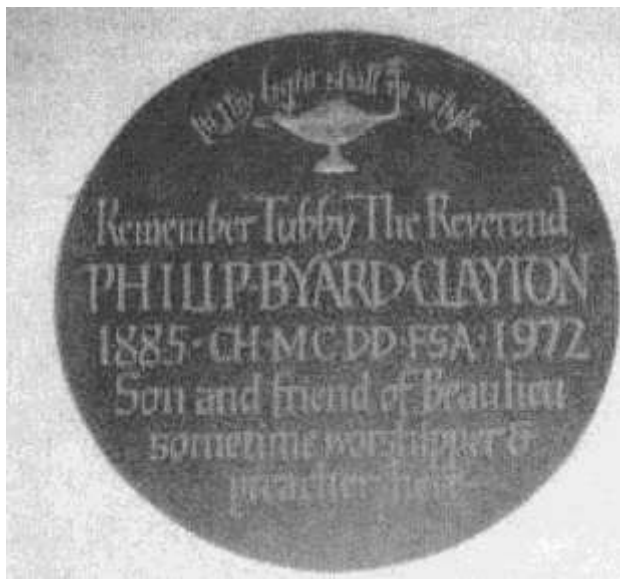
Ted Biddlecombe who I think did a great job in building up a very efficient and able station, the members of which did some great work during the blitz and subsequently all through the duration of the war. A large army-style hut was erected on what is now the site of the present Fire Station and all through the war a duty section of personnel slept there, ready to get the appliance out and ready for and eventual turn outs. Towards the end of the war Beaulieu even had its own full-time fireman, a chap from Sway called Harry Harris, who looked after the care and maintenance side of things until the end of the war, when the station strength was reduced quite drastically to around ten or a dozen personnel.

What I have omitted to mention I'm afraid is the fact that early in the war the Fire Service was nationalised, Beaulieu becoming known as Station 16.13.3.Z. The overall control was in the hands of the Home Office and remained The National Fire Service, so the estate control ended although the majority of the members were employed by Beaulieu Estate as they are even today.

[to be continued]

25 years ago...

On June 3rd 1984 the Archbishop of Canterbury attended the Abbey Church to preach and also dedicate a plaque in memory of 'Tubby Clayton'. The Rev. P.B. Clayton 'Tubby' became world famous as the founder of Toc H. The Rev. Clayton's parents had, some time before the War, built the little Australian-type bungalow standing just outside the manor, at Hatchet Gate. Here Mr. Clayton had passed much of his early manhood, and had in consequence become a devotee of Rev Powles, whom he continued to visit and assist whenever his multifarious duties would assist.



I remember someone telling me that he used to swim in Hatchet Pond, smoking a pipe!

In his final years, he would preach at Midnight Mass.

THE BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

Officers and Committee:

John Coles [Chairman], Anthony Norris [Secretary & Newsletter editor], David Matcham [Treasurer], Rosemary Johnson [Events Secretary], Ralph Montagu, Ann Coles and Gill Hawkins.

In October 2007, at one of the first meetings of the History Society, Professor Henry Mayr-Harting, Regius Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Oxford, addressed the Society on 'The Cistercian Context of Beaulieu Abbey'. So, ..

HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE ABBEY?

Here are 10 questions about the Foundation of the Abbey. How many can you answer? No reference books allowed!

1. The Royal Charter for the building of Beaulieu Abbey was issued in...
A. 1201 B. 1204 C. 1207 D. 1210 E. 1213
2. Which King issued the Royal Charter?
A. Henry I B. Henry II C. Henry III D. John E. Richard I
3. The King agreed to the foundation of the Abbey at a meeting with Cistercian abbots. Where was this meeting?
A. Norwich B. Ipswich C. Ely D. Lincoln E. Cambridge
4. The King had hoped that the Abbey would be a suitable setting for his tomb when he died. In the event he was not buried at Beaulieu, but where?
A. Warwick B. Worcester C. London D. Ely E. Exeter
5. Where was the mother house from where the abbots came?
A. Cluny B. Clairvaux C. Chalon D. Cisterce E. Citeaux
6. The Abbey was originally to be built, not at Beaulieu, but where?
A. Blenheim B. Canford C. Coxwell D. Inglesham E. Faringdon
7. The Abbey was finally dedicated — when?
A. 1227 B. 1231 C. 1234 D. 1242 E. 1246
8. Who was the King on the throne at the time of the dedication and who attended it?
A. Henry III B. Edward I C. Edward II D. Edward III E. Richard II
9. Who was the Pope at the time of the issuing of the Royal Charter and who had frequent disagreements with the King?
A. Benedict XI B. Benedict XII C. Innocent III D. Gregory IX E. Urban VI
10. Who was the Abbot of Beaulieu at its foundation?
A. Hugh B. Denis C. William D. Robert E. Peter

Answers on p15

A Walk around Beaulieu Church (6)

St. John's Chapel

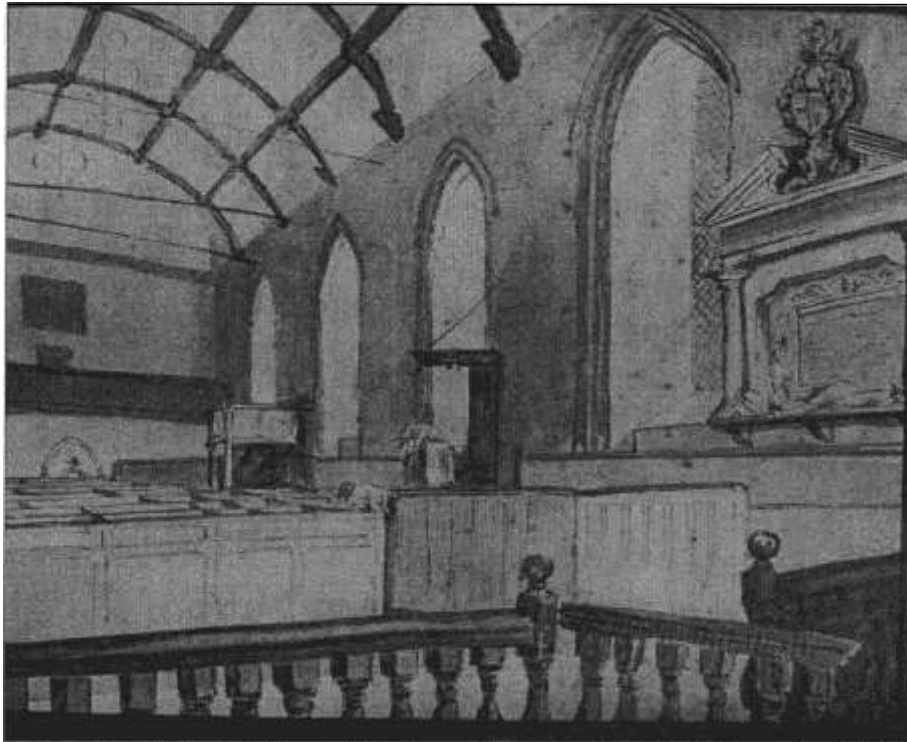
In the last edition I printed some drawings of the Church prior to the 1950 alterations. Although photographs of the north end of the church are sparse, I have acquired one taken by Rev. Nicholl, the Vicar, on February 15th 1950, just prior to Caroline Montagu's wedding. The Choir's vestry door is clearly seen.



Notice also the step ladder leading up to the bell tower. I remember, some years later the Vicar, the Rev. Kenneth Jarvis, taking me up there and we walked right to the front of the church. That step ladder was very rickety; I don't think with Health & Safety considerations, we would be allowed to go up there now!

Access to the gallery at the back of the church was via a staircase at the far north west end. It is obscured by the organ pipes.

The gallery at the North end of the church has been used down the centuries for varying purposes. Old prints of the church show that in the 18th century a wall across the nave separated the gallery from the rest of the building, and for a time it served as the village school.



This is a drawing of the North End of the church in 1834. Notice the wall separating what is now the gallery, from the rest of the church. I am not certain when this wall was removed, probably in the major alterations done in 1840.

The most recent major alterations to the north end of the church were set in motion by Rev. Samuel Davies. Quoting from *'The Beaulieu Record'* ...

"It was on May 20th 1957, that the vicar, Mr. Davies, first proposed his plan of alterations and improvements to the church, the most far-reaching to be carried out since the work of Lord Montagu of Boughton in 1839-40. Mr Davies' ideas were, briefly, to provide a view right up and down the church from and to the cloisters by cutting an arch at the north end of the church in the partition wall of the vestry, inserting a glass door on the inner side of the old oak doors into the cloisters, and making a new vestry at the north-west end of the church out of and above what was, at that time, the boiler house. This latter operation would entail the sweeping away of the stairs to the gallery which then rose up just to the north of the north-west entrance door, leading into the west side of the churchyard. It was at the time suggested the organ should be placed in the gallery and that an oak staircase worthy of the church should be built in front of the gallery at the west corner. At the meeting the vicar produced plans submitted by Mr Roger Pinckney which 'received general support.'"

Messrs. Gamble and Co. of Lyndhurst, the builders, started the work on January 6th 1958 and continued until the church was re-opened by the Bishop on the 29th of March. The financing was supplemented by several gifts, and the benefactors are listed in *'The Beaulieu Record'* page 437.

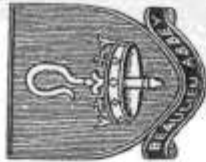
However the alterations completed in 1958 did not include removing the organ to the gallery or the oak staircase to the gallery. As a result, the only access to the gallery was via a step-ladder in what is now the choir vestry. The idea of removing the organ to the gallery was dropped and it was not until 1965 that the final alterations, including the oak staircase, were completed. The details are given in the February 1965 edition of *The New Forest Magazine*.

Beaulieu CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN AND HOLY CHILD

CHAPEL OF ST MARY, BUCKLERS HARD

Vicar REV. K. E. JARVIS
TELEPHONE BEAULIEU 242

Churchwardens THE HON. MRS. EDWARD PLEYDELL-BOUVIERE
MR. H. WIDNELL



SERVICES in the Parish of BEAULIEU

ABBEY CHURCH
Sundays
8 a.m. Holy Communion
9.45 a.m. Holy Communion (sung)
11 a.m. Mattins and Sermon
6 p.m. Evensong

Weekdays:
Wednesdays and Saints' Days. 8 a.m. Holy Communion
3rd Wednesday in each month. 10 a.m. Holy Communion
Normally, Mattins and Evensong are said daily in the Abbey. For time see weekly notices.
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL, BUCKLER'S HARD.
2nd Sunday in month 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
3rd Sunday in month 3 p.m. Service for Children & Parents
1st Wednesday in month 10 a.m. Holy Communion

Our New Gallery Chapel. At the time of writing these notes, the builders have already been at work for a week, and made splendid progress. The beautiful lines of the new oak stairway have already been greatly admired.

Our parishioners will remember that after the death of the Rev. R. F. Powles, money was collected for a memorial in Beaulieu Church of his outstanding ministry of fifty-nine years here. A stone plaque was erected with some of this money; the balance was spent in levelling the back of the gallery, in order to make there a small 'side-chapel,' with an altar which could be used for mid-week services and other occasions when there is only a small number of worshippers. This chapel was in use until the big restoration work of 1958, when the stairway up to the gallery was removed to make room for new vestries. Since then, of course, we have been unable to use the gallery.

Before very long we hope to be able to announce a date for the consecration of our new Chapel of St. John. The altar will be the fine 'Holy Table,' made of walnut which once grew in Beaulieu cloisters, and which was the High Altar of Beaulieu Church until the sanctuary was re-modelled in 1939. Some of the furnishings from St. John's, Park, will be used, and the dedication to St. John will always remind us of our daughter church at Park, which was beloved by many of our older residents.

The major cost of the alterations will be met by a legacy to our Fabric Fund. But there will be an opportunity for parishioners and friends to make specific gifts for the furnishing of the Chapel. This is a most sensible way of commemorating those who in past years have loved and served

Beaulieu Abbey Church. Already I have had some offers to make memorial gifts. If any others would like to give to St. John's Chapel some of the furnishings which will be required, I shall be grateful if they will get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Alteration in times of services. Commencing on Easter Sunday, the Sung Eucharist (or Family Communion as we often call it) will be at 9.15 a.m. instead of 9.45 a.m. Whilst this change has been welcomed by some who regularly come to the Sung Eucharist, the news of an alteration in time has come as a disappointment to others. So it is only right that the reasons for making a change should be given.

On the second Sunday in each month, the times of Sunday services in our parish are as follows:

8 a.m.	Holy Communion.
8.50 a.m.	Holy Communion at Buckler's Hard.
9.45 a.m.	Sung Eucharist, with address.
11 a.m.	Mattins and Sermon.
3 p.m.	Sunday School.
3.45 p.m.	(sometimes) Holy Baptism.
6 p.m.	Evensong and Sermon.

On some occasions it has been my responsibility - and privilege - to take all these services myself. It is true that very often we have the help of Bishop O'Ferrall, and when he is free to do so, he celebrates at the 9.45 a.m. Sung Eucharist. We are an extremely lucky parish to have his help and his teaching. But we cannot count on Bishop O'Ferrall being available; and I fear the time may come (if he and his family ever move to another address) when we shall no longer have his help at Beaulieu.

I have been told in no uncertain terms that I must not go on taking, on some Sundays, seven services in a day. It is true that our present timetable is governed to some extent by the necessity of preserving time for the monthly early celebration of Holy Communion at Buckler's Hard. And although this only happens once a month, it affects our times for every Sunday, as it would obviously confuse everyone if services began at different times on different Sundays.

So we have decided to omit the once-a-month early celebration of Holy Communion at Buckler's Hard. Instead, I am offering the residents of Buckler's Hard an evening celebration of Holy Communion, once a month on a Sunday evening. (The monthly Communion service at Buckler's Hard, at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, will continue.)

This change in service times at Buckler's Hard will enable us to move the Sung Eucharist at Beaulieu Abbey to 9.15 a.m. What are the advantages of this change?

1. It will be a great help to me, as in future I shall have half-an-hour's rest, between 10.15 a.m. and the beginning of Mattins at 11 a.m. It will also mean that I shall be able to have a cup of coffee and a biscuit! (Fairly often in the past, I have left the Vicarage at 7.30 a.m., and not returned till after twelve noon, without of course, having had breakfast.)

The dedication of the St. John's Chapel took place on the Eve of All Saints 1965 in the presence of the Bishop of Winchester.

However it was not until the following year that the alterations were completed.

The November 1966 edition of *The New Forest Magazine* (opposite) gives more details of the benefactors.

The staircase to the gallery was built thanks to a legacy by Miss Agatha Mary Williams.

Agatha died in Exeter in February 1960. Her father, a personality in Beaulieu and a forceful character, ruled the Beaulieu School in the eighteen nineties before he took Holy Orders. Miss William's mother was a Miss Judd from Newhouse Farm.

St. John's Chapel. We hope to finally complete the restoration of the chapel in our gallery before next spring. The gallery was originally levelled about 1942, in order to make a side chapel as part of the memorial to the old "Abbot," the Revd. Robert Fraser Powles, Vicar 1886 - 1939.

Since his death, our parish has had some exceptionally generous gifts and bequests, notably from Mr. Shotter, (for many years Headmaster of Beaulieu School) from Miss Agatha Williams, and from Mr. Albert Ehrman of Clobb Copse. None of these benefactors of benefactions are commemorated in our church, and we think it is time that this was done.

In 1963, Peter Langham-Browne (who for many years had been our most devoted Sacristan) died while he was preparing to come to Beaulieu to serve at the 8 a.m. service on Whit Sunday. A year ago Reg. Stevens passed to his rest, only a few years after having moved from Beaulieu, where for many years he gave outstandingly faithful service as Churchwarden. Not only were Peter and Reg. close friends, but they were also friends - almost sons - of the old Vicar.

It is proposed that our new Chapel (which has been provided largely through the generous donations mentioned above) should be finally completed as a memorial to "the Abbot," Reg. Stevens and Peter Langham-Browne. Their relatives have asked if they may give some of the articles needed to furnish the Chapel adequately. It may be that some of their old friends in Beaulieu would also wish to be associated with a project which would have been dear to the hearts of all three. Here is a list of some of the articles still needed :

For the Altar: A fair linen cloth and a cover. A cushion for the missal and an altar book. A rug to be placed in front of the altar.

For the credence table. A wafer box, cruets and a glass tray to put them on.

For the Chapel. A "clergy stall" and seat, used for the daily offices of Matins and Evensong. A Prayer Book and Bible. Twelve new chairs. An oak cupboard, to keep the altar vessels when not in use, also for books.

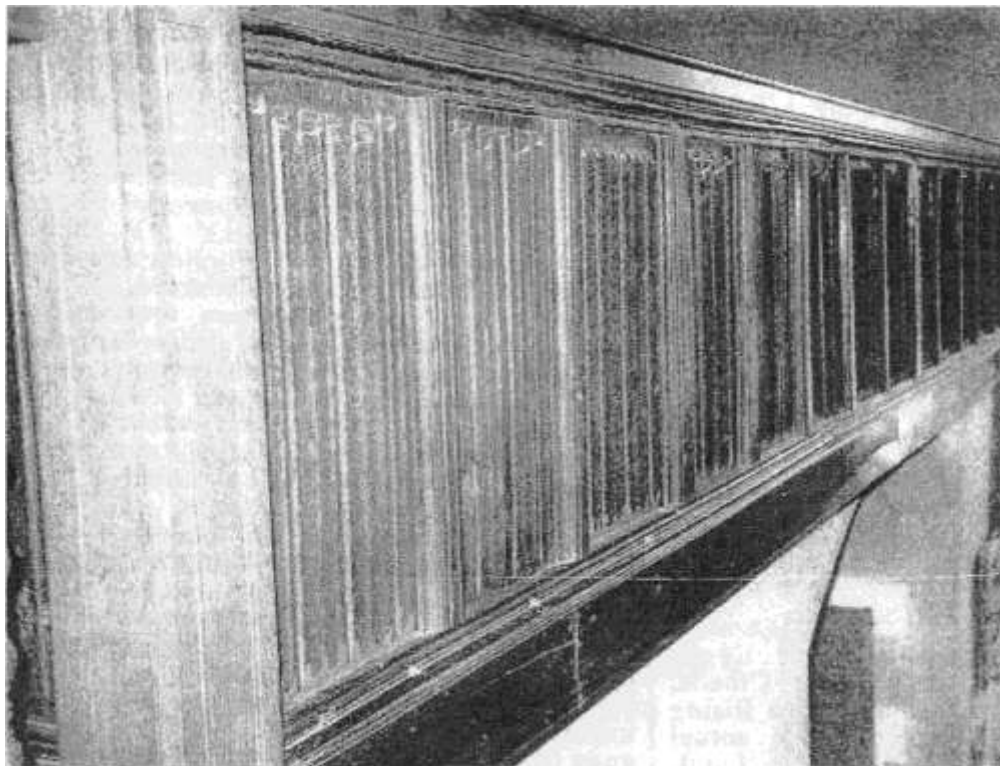
Anyone who would like to give any of these articles as their own merri.., orial gifts, should get in touch with me, and I could then give an estimate of cost.



There is much debate concerning the history of the oak linenfold panelling of the gallery.

Drawings of the church in August 1834 seem to show the panelling in place, which suggests it was not taken, as previously thought, from the Houses of Parliament after the Great Fire of 1834 as this did not occur until October 16th 1834.

A Report by W.H. Randolph Blacking on 7th March 1940 states 'The Gallery front is formed of some good linen-fold panelling of about 1530 (probably of domestic origin)' and this seems more likely.



Erratum: In the previous edition I stated that George Crouch had been a member of the church choir for 59 years. I did him a disservice — it should have been 69 years — as the plaque in the choir stalls quite clearly states.

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 September 2009.

Answers to Quiz: 1. B 2. D 3. D 4. B 5. E 6. E 7. E 8. A 9. C 10. A
Scores: 9 or 10 Outstanding 7 or 8 Quite Good 5 or 6 Further reading required
Under 5 Go out and immediately buy 'Beaulieu - King John's Abbey' by Dom. Frederick Hockey [Pioneer Publications].

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The very Genteel Residence, in good condition, to be Let, with immediate possession, apply to the Auctioneer.

Parsonage House, Beaulieu.

SALE OF EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PLATE, AND VALUABLE LIBRARY OF BOOKS.

MR. FLETCHER has received instructions to SELL BY AUCTION, without Reserve, on Tuesday, June 18, 1839, at Eleven o'Clock precisely, owing to the number of Lots, the whole of the genteel FURNITURE, 400 Ounces of PLATE, Plated Articles, excellent LIBRARY OF BOOKS, containing upwards of a 1000 Volumes, and other Effects, of the Rev. Henry Adams, deceased.

The FURNITURE comprises four-post and other bedsteads, with appropriate furnitures, bordered down and goose feather beds, mattresses, stout Witney blankets, Marseilles quilt, and bedding; mahogany chests of drawers, dressing and wash tables, commodes, swing glasses, window curtains, and the usual and necessary fittings of the bed chambers; capital Brussels and Kidderminster carpets, stair ditto, hearth rugs, sets of Spanish wood and mahogany dining tables, Pembroke, card, work, and other tables, sideboard cellaret, dumb waiter, sofa with squab and cushions, neat cane seated chairs, handsome chimney glasses, mirror, fender, and polished steel fire irons; richly cut glass, antique china, handsome sets of tea china, set of brown edged dinner ware, 6 dozen ivory handled knives and forks, one double and two single barrel guns (by Manton), pair of splendid pistols, mahogany gun case, medicine chest, tea urn, papier maché tea trays, and various other useful effects, with numerous kitchen requisites, brewing and dairy utensils, iron garden roller, quantity of wood, coals, &c.

The PLATE, containing about 400 Ounces, consists of 3 chased salvers, coffee and tea pots, cream jug, table and dessert spoons and forks, 4 candlesticks, sauce ladles, tea and salt spoons, sugar tongs, punch ladies, toasting fork, and several smaller articles.

In the PLATED ARTICLES are a splendid tea urn, tea pot and stand, silver mounted, 6 candlesticks, pair of handsome ditto, silver mounted and branches, 4 decanter stands, silver edges, snuffers and tray, bread basket, taper candlestick, skewers, wine strainer, set of rich cut glass spirit bottles and stands, &c.

The LIBRARY contains about 1000 Volumes, including the works of the most celebrated Authors on Theology; a choice selection of Sermons, by the most eminent Divines; also the valuable Works of Johnson, Shakespeare, Phillips, Bolingbroke, Doddridge, Hume, Gibbon, Sheridan, Voltaire, Thompson, Pope and Dryden; Lewis's last edition of the Topographical Dictionary, various classical works, and other books appertaining to the Library.

The whole will be particularized in Catalogues, to be had Three Days previous to the Sale, at the Montague Arms, Beaulieu; Nag's Head, Lymington; Rodney, Hythe; Falcon, Fawley; Quick's Hotel, Southampton; and of the Auctioneer, Redbridge.

The Goods may be viewed on the Monday forenoon and the morning of Sale.

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Prior to his death in 1839 the Rev. Henry Adams lived at a house on the present site of Parsons Mead. After his death it was pulled down. Its contents were auctioned — the above was, taken from *The Hampshire Independent* for Saturday June 8th

Books by Previous Speakers.

Members may be interested to know of two books by authors who have addressed the Society.

Religion, Politics and Society in Britain 1066-1272, by Professor Mayr-Harting (Pearson Education 2011)

Henry Mayr-Harting, formerly Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford, addressed the Society in October 2007 in Beaulieu Abbey Church. His subject was the Cistercians. Those present may remember that his talk included some fresh observations on the foundation of Beaulieu Abbey, perhaps the most important event in Beaulieu's history since so much flowed from it.

The Professor's new book contains three pages which develop his account of the foundation. As we know, King John's decision to found what became Beaulieu Abbey was taken as a result of a meeting between the King and Cistercian Abbots at Lincoln in November, 1200. Relations between the two had been severely strained but at Lincoln it was made clear through the mediation of the Archbishop of Canterbury that the King's anger with the monks had lapsed. The Cistercians knelt to thank the King who then declared that he would build a new Abbey for their Order.

Mayr-Harting takes the view that the whole performance at Lincoln was clearly intended for widespread "publication". It was a kind of political theatre. John had been losing the propaganda battle with the Cistercians and could not afford to do so. He wanted to find a way of giving in to them without losing face. The "theatrical ritual" at Lincoln enabled him to do this. So, by this account, the decision to found Beaulieu Abbey was a gesture to public opinion, especially knightly public opinion. The knights in their localities were politically important to the King. The Cistercians were known to have influence with them. The king's hope was that his gesture would ease his relations with this politically important class.

The Pursuit of Victory. The Life and Achievement of Horatio Nelson, by Roger Knight. (Allen Lane, 2005)

Professor Knight, formerly Professor of Naval History at the Greenwich Maritime Institute, addressed the Society in March 2008, placing Buckler's Hard in the context of naval shipbuilding nationally. If members have not already seen his major work on Nelson, published in 2005, they may like to know that at the time of writing this note the paperback version was available at the Buckler's Hard Museum bookshop for the greatly reduced price of £7.99.

It is a remarkable work of scholarship: "This superb work is the definitive Nelson biography" (the Economist). "Perhaps the best single-volume life that we are ever likely to see" (The Guardian). "Magnificent..intensely readable" (Spectator). The book received equally favourable reviews in America and elsewhere abroad and won the Mountbatten Maritime Prize.

John Coles.