



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patron: Ailsa Montagu



No. 9 September 2009

Autumn Programme

Friday October 16th

Annual General Meeting followed by

**The Archaeology of the Beaulieu Area
Mr Frank Green**

[New Forest Park Authority Archaeologist]

Beaulieu Village Hall 6.00 p.m.

AGENDA FOR A.G.M.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Chairman's Report | 2. Secretary's Report |
| 3. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for 2008 | |
| 4. Appointment of Auditor | 5. Annual Subscription |
| 6. Election of Officers | 7. Any other business. |

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.

Friday December 11th

**The Reverend Robert Frazer Powles
and
The Ghosts of Beaulieu**

by Anthony Norris

Beaulieu Village Hall 6.30 p.m.

The meeting will be in two parts. Firstly a brief outline of the contribution that Rev Powles made to the life of Beaulieu Parish will be given. It is hoped that members who have heard stories about this eccentric gentleman will be prepared to share them. There have been a lot of instances, many recorded, of ghosts appearing in and around the Abbey Precincts. Some of these occasions will be related during the second part of the meeting when, again, it is hoped there will be plenty of audience participation.

THE SOWLEY COPPICE INCIDENT OF 1862- Part 2

Readers will recall from the previous edition of the Duke of Buccleuch's decision to close off a path through Sowley Coppice which had been used since time immemorial as a right of way between East End and Beaulieu. The unpleasantness escalated with the setting fire to the Duke's boathouse on Sowley Pond, together with his boat which was inside.

The *Hampshire Independent* of December 20th 1862 relates what happened next...

ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN — THE SOWLEY COPPICE QUESTION AGAIN.- It will be remembered that some months back a person named 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 the case. After this, considerable damage was committed on the Duke of Buccleuch's property, a valuable boat and boathouse were set on fire and totally destroyed, and in consequence of this Police-constable Troke was employed to watch and protect the Duke's property. In October a lad named James Collis was charged by Troke with stealing a fir pole. For the defence several witnesses were called who swore that the defendant merely took it up, placed it across the ditch at Sowley Copse in order for a girl to go over, and when he was in the act of replacing the pole the policeman, who had been watching, caught hold of him and charged him with stealing it. After a long hearing the magistrates committed Collis for trial at the ensuing county quarter sessions.

Since that time, the inhabitants of East End have still continued to go through the wood, asserting that they have a right of way. At the Drummond Arms Inn, Hythe, on Saturday, before Mr. H. F. K. Holloway and Mr. E. Drummond, magistrates, William Pragnell, Thomas Renyard, Henry Thorn, George Turner, John Collins, Charles Parker, Thomas Keeping, and George Rixam were charged with assaulting Police-constable William Troke in the execution of his duty at Ravensbeck, near Sowley Copse. They were further charged with doing damage to the premises of Mr. Phillpot, of Ravensbeck Farm. Mr. F. Leigh, of Southampton, prosecuted, and Mr. C. Davis, of Lyminster, appeared for the prisoners.

The circumstances of the case are as follows:- On Saturday evening, the 6th instant, the prisoners, with a number of other persons, met at Ravensbeck early in the evening, with their faces blackened, and commended to fill in a ditch, which had been opened by the Duke of Buccleuch's men, in order to cross into Sowley Copse. They then returned to Beaulieu Rails, where they had six gallons of beer, and after drinking this they retired to Wheeler's beershop at East End, and remained there until shut up time. The party then left there for Ravensbeck, where they went through the farmyard, threw stones at the tiles of the house and the piggery. Police-constable Troke, who had been watching, hearing the noise, went to see what it was, and Pragnell threw a handful of dirt in his eyes, others called out "Kill the ----- - bobby to-night". Collins struck him with a stick and knocked him down, another hit him in the head with a tambourine (as they had "rough music"), and others kicked him while he was down. On making his retreat to Mr. Phillpot's house, the place where he lodges, he was stoned and pelted with mud, and on being taken into the house the party amused themselves by breaking nine panes of glass, unroofing a pigsty, and committing other damage.

There being no evidence against Rixam, he was discharged. Mr. Davis attempted to prove an *alibi* for the other prisoners. Pragnell, Renyard, Thorn, Turner, Collins, Parker and Keeping were each sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour for the assault on the constable, and one month each with hard labour for the wilful damage to Mr. Phillpot's property. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Sowley were so sure of "getting the day", as they term it, that they brought a basket

of colours to decorate the accused with, and a waggon and horses to convey them home; but on hearin that they were committed to prison the colours and waggon suddenly disappeared.'

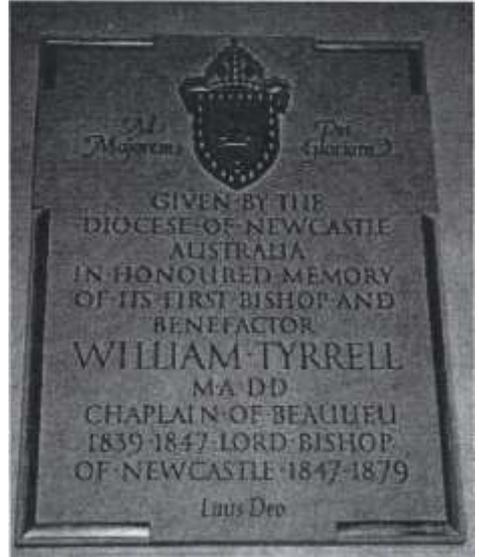
Perhaps this brought the whole affair to a climax and, as there are no more references to be found, we might assume that calm returned, and I suspect that the villagers retained their right of way through Sowley Coppice.

A Walk around Beaulieu Church (7)

The Tyrrell Memorial Plaque

The Rev. William Tyrrell was appointed Vicar of Beaulieu on 17th June 1839. At first he lived in Palace House, while the new parsonage was being built, and took up residence in the new house when it was completed in November 1840. This is now 'The Lodge'. He became the first Bishop of Newcastle, New South Wales on June 29th 1847 and died in Australia on 24th March 1879 leaving a considerable endowment to the Diocese.

The memorial plaque was commissioned by the Diocese of Newcastle N.S.W. and was unveiled and dedicated on Sunday July 6th 1972 by the Rt. Rev. Colin James (then Bishop of Basingstoke).



William Tyrrell born in London on 31st January 1807, was educated at Reading and Charterhouse and was entered as a pensioner at St John's College Cambridge, where he obtained a scholarship in 1827. He took his B.A. in 1831, and immediately before coming to Beaulieu had been a curate at Burnham, Bucks, near to Ditton Park, which was owned by the Dukes of Buccleuch. Since Walter Francis, Fifth Duke of Buccleuch, had gone to St. John's College, Cambridge in 1825, the two undergraduates would have been there together, and in consequence, the young William Tyrrell would almost certainly have come across the Duke's guardian, Lord Montagu of Boughton who inherited the Beaulieu Estate in 1827.

Quoting from *The Beaulieu Record*

'During Rev. Tyrrell's short incumbency not only was he to endear himself to his parishioners as perhaps no parson had ever done so before, but he was also, along with his generous patron, Lord Montagu of Boughton, to carry out probably the most notable repairs and alterations which the Beaulieu church had ever experienced.

It was clear that everyone liked Rev. Tyrrell whose charming and noble face, athletic figure and kindliness of manner must have proved a remarkable contrast to the aged and somewhat set though

good old Pastor Adams. On June 29th 1847 he was appointed first bishop of Newcastle in New South Wales.

On his departure from Beaulieu, Rev. Tyrrell received a testimonial from the parish, along with a piece of plate, with which he was greatly pleased and deeply touched, as can be judged since it was found amongst his possessions on his death thirty-two years after. The 180 signatories of Beaulieu had made him their presentation as an expression of their great good will and best wishes towards one whom they were never to see again. Nor indeed was the Bishop's native land ever to be revisited, for his whole life was to be dedicated to the work in his diocese on the other side of the world, where *he* died on the 24th March 1879.'

N.B. The Testimonial to Bishop Tyrrell is reproduced on pages 252 and 252 in *The Beaulieu Record*.

The alterations to the church in 1840, overseen by Rev. Tyrrell, included installation of the box pews which fifty six years later were described as 'unsightly' in the October 1896 edition of the *New Forest Magazine* and were removed and replaced by the present pews. Also photographs show that, at the same time, there were significant alterations to the rear of the church which opened up what is now the gallery.

THE FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND BEAULIEU CLUB DAY — WHIT TUESDAY

Friendly societies and The Poor Law

Friendly societies began in the seventeenth century as trade clubs, and grew rapidly after about 1760. In return for a small weekly contribution paid into a common fund, workers were provided with sickness and funeral benefits.

Friendly societies began when groups of neighbours, friends or workmates decided to form an association to protect them in times of need. Each member would contribute a certain amount of money and in return they would *be* entitled to payments from the funds if they found themselves in need due to sickness, unemployment or bereavement. The attraction of such a democratic and sociable form of welfare protection led to the big expansion of friendly societies at the start of the nineteenth century; workers particularly needed to insure themselves against the uncertainties of life thrown up by the industrial revolution and so the greatest increases in friendly society membership around 1800 were in rapidly industrialising and urbanising areas, such as Lancashire. Total membership grew from 704,000 in 1803 to 925,000 in 1815.

Friendly societies with large numbers of affiliated branches throughout the country began to grow in the 1830s and 1840s.

Perhaps the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, one of the most contentious pieces of nineteenth legislation, led to the growth of Friendly societies. Prior to this Act, the Poor Law, which had been in operation since Elizabethan times, had been the main focus for the relief of poverty. Under the Old Poor Law each of 15,000 parishes in England and Wales was responsible for the relief of poverty in its own area. This was administered by *overseers of the poor*. Each year, every parish appointed one or two *overseers of the poor* who were approved by the local magistrates. These people were usually churchwardens or landowners. Overseers were responsible for administering poor relief in their parish. They levied a poor rate and supervised its distribution. Appendix A 1095] of *The Beaulieu Record* lists the order in which the occupiers of the several farms and premises in Beaulieu Parish served the office of Overseers since 1808.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 amalgamated parishes into groups of about 30 parishes, each managed by a Board of Guardians. The Boards of Guardians were elected by the ratepayers of the whole area, each parish having at least one representative on the Board. Each union was to be responsible for the workhouse in its area. Under the Old Poor Law the local parish workhouse or poorhouse had often been seen as a relatively unthreatening and even friendly institution. The workhouses of the New Poor Law, post 1834, were designed to project a very different image. In order to discourage applicants, conditions in the workhouses were supposed to be less appealing than those enjoyed by the poorest of labourers living outside the workhouse. The pre-1834 practice of providing relief to able-bodied paupers outside the workhouse was intended to be restricted and eventually to be abolished, so that those who failed the workhouse test would have no entitlement to poor relief. So, with conditions designed to be as unattractive as possible people did not want to be associated with the post-1834 workhouses. The nearest workhouse to Beaulieu was at Ashurst.

So, a significant cause of the expansion of friendly societies was brought about by the New Poor Law of 1834 as workers sought to protect themselves from the workhouse system. Of the 3074 affiliated lodges of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows (the biggest affiliated friendly society) still active in 1870, nearly half (1407) were founded in the decade after the 1834 Act. The figures for the two biggest societies, the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of Foresters, illustrate the extent of the growth:

Year	Manchester Unity of Oddfellows	Ancient Order of Foresters
1850	224,878	80,089
1870	434,100	361,735
1890	713,000	666,000

By 1890, almost 80% of the male working population were members of a friendly society.

The Liberal Government of the early twentieth century was concerned that poor people who could not afford to insure themselves through friendly societies would face a grave crisis when the need arose to seek medical attention, and set about organising a national health insurance scheme. This concerned the friendly societies as they knew that a government insurance scheme would all but destroy the reason for their existence. However, in the event, a compromise was reached.

The government's answer to the problem of provision of sickness benefit for all was the 1911 National Insurance Act. Under this Act, Employees contributed 4d, employers 3d and the state 2d weekly, to the state health insurance scheme. The scheme applied to all workers earning less than £160 a year and all manual workers aged 16 — 60. Insured people would receive 10s a week for up to 13 weeks, and then 5s a week for a further 13 weeks in any one year, if unable to work due to sickness. The administration of the scheme would be carried out by friendly societies, trade unions or commercial insurance companies approved by the government.

This was probably the most unpopular of all the Liberal government's welfare reforms even though it was arguably the most important. Most workers resented having to pay 4d from their wages and in effect, because payment was flat-rate and every worker paid the same, the poorer workers were hit hardest. Many regarded it as a straightforward pay cut. There was no guarantee they were going to be ill and would reap any benefit at all from the scheme.

The Montagu Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters was the main friendly society contributed to by Beaulieu people to start with.

Club Day

The actual formation date of the Montagu Lodge of the British Order of Foresters is uncertain. The Parish Magazine for June 1886 records a presentation to Mr Reuben Jones in appreciation of 18 years as Chairman of the Lodge. Earlier references are sparse, the earliest so far discovered being that of 1868, and it is evident from the report that it had been in operation prior to that date. The report published in the *June 6th 1868* edition of **the Hampshire Independent** states...

BEAULIEU.]—WHITSUNTIDE.—The members both of the old friendly society and the Montague Lodge of the British Order of Foresters celebrated their anniversary on Whit-Tuesday, the members meeting at their lodge rooms at ten o'clock, and having proceeded to visit their patrons and the neighbouring gentry, headed by the Beaulieu brass band, they returned to the church, where Divine service was performed by the vicar, assisted by the curate, and a practical discourse delivered, a goodly number being present on the occasion. After the service the school children, numbering over 100, formed themselves outside the church into a circle, and were regaled with buns, &c. by Lord Henry Scott, who honoured the brethren with his company, and who, by his exceedingly kind and pleasing manner throughout has gained that respect which is so universally felt towards him. The band during this part of the day's proceedings played some lively airs. Afterwards the members and friends adjourned to the marquee, where a dinner was provided by Host Bourden, of the Montague Arms; but owing to the booth being so far away from the house it was not possible to place the dinner on the table in quite so satisfactory a manner as could have been desired. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly responded to, and those who wished to enjoy themselves in sports had then an opportunity of doing so in the beautiful grounds at the Abbey, kindly lent for the occasion by Lord Henry Scott.

The meeting of Whit-Tuesday, 1880 records that the society had 131 members. The *Hampshire Independent* edition of *May 22nd 1880* goes on to say '...after enrolling several new members, a procession was formed, and headed by the Beaulieu Brass Band marched to the church, followed by the Beaulieu Schools also in procession. At the conclusion of divine service the members again formed a procession and went to the adjacent meadow, where each school child was served with a large bun and some ginger-beer given by the club. The little ones having enjoyed their buns separated to amuse themselves as best they could, while the band led off to a spacious barn belonging to the Montagu Arms where an excellent dinner had been provided by Miss Lane, the hostess. The barn had been fitted up for the occasion with new floor, windows, &c., a vast improvement on the booths formerly used, which in wet weather were very unpleasant.... After the usual loyal and other toasts had been given and responded to, the young people went off to the Palace grounds, which were thrown open by the order of the noble owner, for the purpose of dancing and other enjoyable games, but instead of drinking booths, as formerly, there was erected a large tent, in which tea, coffee, etc., were sold at a cheap rate, and which secured a fair amount of patronage'.

It was evident that this annual event became a big occasion in the life of the village.

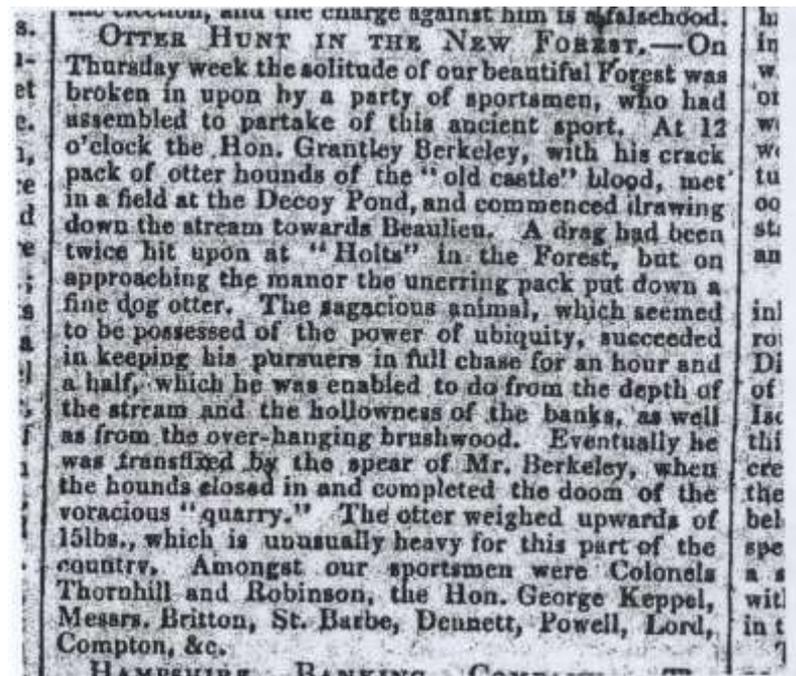
In 1884, Beaulieu in conjunction with Hythe published a magazine, *The Beaulieu and Hythe Parish News*. This continued until 1887 when it was replaced by *The New Forest Magazine* which gave an account of the news in most of the New Forest Parishes. The *July 1884* edition of *The Beaulieu and Hythe Parish News* carries the following comprehensive account of the proceedings in that year.

CLUB DAY.

Whitsun Tuesday by time-honoured custom is a great day with us. The Montagu Lodge of the British Order of Foresters holds its yearly Festival. This year Club Day must certainly be described as very successful. First, as to the Club itself, it has every element of prosperity, a good balance, good officers, well conducted Lodge meetings—but above all it has a large increase of young members who shew the strength of the Club. Then as to this particular Whitsun Tuesday. The much wished for rain seemed likely at last to fall, the wish was universally expressed that we might have rain, but that the day might last fine and the night be a thoroughly soaking one, neither wish was quite gratified, a little rain fell in the day and none at night. Still on the whole the weather did not interfere with the success of the day. Early in the morning busy hands were decorating the village with flags and erecting a flower-adorned arch at the Church Mead Gate. In due time the Band and with it the largest muster of members the Club has had marched to the Parsonage and thence to the Church, the service there was bright and hearty, God save the Queen was played by the band, then the procession started again and the Club formed a ring round the flagstaff in the Church Mead, the Band playing while the school children, who formed an inner ring, enjoyed the buns and ginger beer given them by the Club. Then followed some rather intricate evolutions carried out with due precision, which brought the members of the Lodge and their guests to the great barn at the Montagu Arms where dinner was provided. There were not so many as usual at the guests' table, while there were more than ever of the members enjoying a good substantial meal. Great regret was felt that Lord H. Scott could not take his customary place in the chair, and this the more, from the fact that his Lordship had a double reason for his absence, the recent death of his father and the state of his own health. The chair was taken by Mr. Stenning who had been asked to explain the reasons for Lord H. Scott's absence. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to. Dinner ended the Band returned to the Church Mead and played there, where a large gathering of present and past inhabitants of Beaulieu and neighbourhood assembled, and a pleasant opportunity of meeting friends was thus afforded. At 4 o'clock came one of the great features of the day—the tea provided for the wives and sisters and in some cases for tender acquaintances of the members. A tent had been erected, and under this constant relays of guests came and enjoyed an admirable tea, when the lady part had done thorough justice to the provision made for them, the members of the Club came and had their tea, and so the meal went on, ladies pouring out what seemed an inexhaustible supply of excellent tea, other ladies handing quantities of bread and butter and cake, this continued for an hour and half; it would puzzle a good arithmetician to calculate the number of cups of tea that were supplied before the ladies could rest from their labours. The Band kept on playing till it was nearly dark, and then came to an end a happy and successful Club Day.

Club Day, on the lines described before, continued down to about 1926 when it petered out, largely on account of the fact that the estate men, who were always given a day off every year to attend the celebrations, began to take their day off without coming to the festivities, whereat Lord Montagu (John) and his steward (Capt. Widnell) began to consider that the Club Day had rather outgrown its original use.'

Otter Hunt... from Hampshire Independent August 7th 1841



[I recall, in my youth, seeing the Otter Hounds muster outside the Clockhouse- Ed.]

25 Years Ago...

From the Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre News 1984

February edition:

The Rev. Terry Abernethy, our new Vicar, will be inducted at Beaulieu Abbey Church by the Bishop of Winchester, on Friday February 10th at 7.30 p.m.

[N.B. Unfortunately there is no report of the service in the March edition].

[continued overleaf]

If you have any comments or contributions for subsequent newsletters please contact Anthony Norris at tonynorris314@btinternet.com or at The Malt House, High Street, Beaulieu, Hampshire, S042 7YA. The next newsletter will be distributed in February 2010.

October edition:

SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER K.B.E.

A beautifully carved wooden plaque has been presented by Lady Chichester and family to our Chapel at Bucklers Hard, and on Sunday August 26th, the 12th Anniversary of the death of Sir Francis Chichester, it was unveiled by Lord Montagu, and dedicated by the Very Rev. William Baddeley, Dean Emeritus of Brisbane, an old friend of the family.

At the top of the plaque are two dolphins, a seagull, and a pair of Navigator's dividers, illustrating the wide achievement of Sir Francis; 'Navigator of the Skies and Seas; Inspirer of the Hearts of Men'.

In the centre a yacht is shown, because Sir Francis' yachts Gipsy Moth II; HI (trans-Atlantic races); IV (circum-navigation of the world); and V are commemorated because Bucklers Hard was their 'home port'. Incidentally, Gipsy Moth I was an aeroplane.

In the lower section are the marvellous words from Psalm 107 "They go down to the *sea* in ships and occupy their business in deep waters; these men see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep". The Wood Carver and Designer was Richard Grasby of Shaftesbury.

The plaque has already aroused considerable interest with visitors, and it is nice to see a bit of 'modern history' among the ancient articles for which our Chapel at Bucklers Hard is noted.

K.B.

[N.B. K.B. was Ken Bickell who was a fine servant to the church in many capacities, from Verger to Treasurer of the P.C.C. and main contributor to the monthly newsletter.]

December edition:

TWINNING WITH HAUTVILLERS

In 1982 we received a letter from the Mayor of Hautvillers, Monsieur Jean Couten, indicating a wish to twin with a village in England and showing a special interest in Beaulieu. Included in the enquiry was an invitation to our Parish Council to visit Hautvillers at a convenient date. Due to various problems this was delayed until autumn 1983 when three Parish Councillors motored out to France staying for two days in the village.

[N.B. The outcome of this visit will be described in the next edition of this newsletter — Ed.]

THE BEAULIEU FIRE SERVICE 1907-1989: Part 3 [From the War until 1989]

by Walter Elsworth

After the war the A.T.V. and the trailer pump remained the only equipment the brigade had to use, although a 120 gallon tank of water, with a hose reel was added, so at last on arrival at an incident, the water could be used straight away instead of having to wait for the trailer pump to be set into whatever open water was available, streams, wells, ponds etc. Another step forward for Beaulieu, quite a useful one too.

About this time Mr. Winsey reached retirement age, and with Ted Biddlecombe not continuing after the N.F.S. finished, the new Officer in Charge was Harold Bryant, also employed on the estate with the building staff. Not long after he had taken charge it was decided by the Hampshire Fire Service to build a new station at Beaulieu, just alongside of the existing one and where the old war-time hut was sited. The position was approved by the estate and work was got under way and eventually in 1955 the new station was completed. It was a big step forward from the old one with such things as a separate watch-room, kitchen, showers and toilets, lecture room and a drill tower, but more important than all of this,

was the arrival of a 400 gallon Water Tender, a real purpose built fire engine. No more hitching on the trailer pump before leaving on a call, just jump aboard and off we go.



Beaulieu Fire Brigade outside Palace House, with Lord and Lady Montagu and Ralph.
The photograph was taken in the 1960s

By this time too, the huge oil refinery at Fawley was under construction with quite a large number of contractors employed to build the various plants necessary for the refining of crude oil into the many products for the market and also a large deep water marine terminal. All this meant more calls for the brigade in a very different field. These calls proved to be very valuable for the brigade in as much as they helped to gain a very useful working knowledge of the layout of the refinery, something which proved to be very useful in later years.

On the completion of the refinery and when it commenced production, the village brigade became part of the pre-determined attendance, which meant that as soon as The Hampshire Fire Service received a call these five appliances were immediately called to attend, however or whatever the incident proved to be. In the event of a larger incident the code term "Major Fire Esso Fawley" was used. The first five machines on arrival each dropped off one member who together formed a team to organise a fire control system with H.F.S. headquarters at Winchester, whereby every appliance and officer was booked in attendance at the refinery fire station and also headquarters in Winchester. This system proved to be very successful during the seven or eight major fires, these including the Catalytic Cracker unit Power-formers, Pyre-stills and incidents down at the Marine Terminal.

The Catalytic Cracker was I think the largest single incident dealt with by the Hampshire Fire Service and a certain amount of apprehension was felt by all concerned because at that time apart from America there were no plants of this kind in the United Kingdom. No one had any previous experience of the effects of fire in this type of plant, so there were no laid down procedures to be followed. However, all went well, the supply of crude oil was cut off and the fire contained and controlled, but not before very serious internal structural damage was sustained. Another problem was caused by the

amount of cooling water used by the firemen, several control rooms being flooded before pumps could be set up to get rid of the excess.

One other incident worth recalling about this time was the call to the "Esso Glasgow", a 12,000 ton tanker berthed at the marine terminal. It was while being loaded with refined products to be delivered by sea from the refinery to other depots that somehow it caught fire. The Hampshire Fire Service responded promptly with a fire fighting tug from the Royal Navy at Portsmouth and due to some great efforts from all involved, the fire was extinguished. Just as the crews were beginning to relax a little, mopping brows etc., there occurred a large gas explosion which split the deck right across and also half way down the topsides. Several firemen were blown off their feet, but luckily no one was injured; only scared almost to death. Luckily again no fire followed but firemen stood by all through the night and most of the next day, until the danger was thought to be over. Most of these early major fires at Fawley took place under the leadership of Sub-Officer Harold Bryant, a very efficient and well respected leader, and it is to his credit that his personnel showed great discipline and skill when it was really required.

I think that here I should mention two very serious incidents which occurred here in Beaulieu just before Sub-Officer Bryant retired at the end of 1967. The first was an accident to an estate worker who was also a member of the brigade. He became trapped under a tractor out in the woods and despite desperate and prolonged efforts by the brigade and fellow workers he unfortunately lost his life. A commendation was awarded to the brigade by the Chief Fire Officer in recognition of their efforts, well earned but very sadly received. The second incident occurred in the very early hours of the next day, when a call was received to the village Post Office which was well alight when the brigade arrived. The Postmaster who lived there by himself, was overcome by smoke and fumes and despite great work by two of the firemen who went in and effected a rescue, he also lost his life. Two fatalities in less than a day, nothing like that had ever happened before or, for that matter, since. Leading Fireman Maurice Betteridge earned a personal commendation for his great efforts that night, and I think that I am right in saying that this was the only time in the history of the Hampshire Fire Service that two commendations were awarded to the same station in such a short time.

Beaulieu Fire
Brigade in the
1970s

From left to right

Walter Elsworth
Ron Hendy
Denny Read
Keith Betteridge
Maurice Betteridge
Alan Baker
Frank Woodward
Martin Broomfield
Alan Oakley
Colin Sheppard
Mossy Harding



Southern Evening
ECHO

1000 Star - No. 1000
NORTHAMPTON, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15, 1967. Price 5d.

CITY FINAL

MAN DIES IN VILLAGE BLAZE

"Echo" Staff Reporter

VILLAGE sub-postmaster 54-year-old Mr. John Kitcher died in his blazing home in the centre of Beaulieu, New Forest, early today.

Mr. Kitcher—who had lived alone since his wife's death several years ago—was found by the post office in a room next to his bedroom over the post office.

In another fire six miles away, but also 90 minutes later, the studio of a Press photographer engaged at the Beaulieu fire was destroyed.

Leading camera maker Jennings of Beaulieu, telling Mr. Kitcher's death a year ago, said that he had been in the house at the time of the fire, but that he had not seen the cause of the blaze.

It is not clear whether the fire started in the kitchen, but it is believed that it spread to the living room and then to the bedroom.

Beaten back by flames

Mr. Kitcher and his wife had been living in the house for 15 years. The house was built in 1952 and was a two-story house with a garden.

The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the living room and then to the bedroom. The fire was so intense that the flames were seen from the road.

All things said later, "The City" and "The Echo" were the only papers to report the fire.

Phone call drama

The drama began when Mr. Kitcher called the fire station to report the fire. The fire station was 10 miles away.

Driver hurt in



Flames at the scene of the Beaulieu fire.

Weather forecast for the South

The weather forecast for the South is as follows: Wednesday, November 15, 1967. The weather is expected to be cloudy with some rain. The temperature is expected to be between 40 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Soton brothers among seven hurt

"ECHO" STAFF REPORTER

SEVEN people were injured and three of them are still in hospital today after a crash between a bus and a motor cycle on the A1401 near Soton, Hampshire.

The bus was carrying 15 passengers and the motor cycle was carrying two people. The crash occurred at about 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

It doesn't have to be a NEW car to be **GOOD**—get a good USED CAR

CHILDREN DIE IN FIRE

CHILDREN aged between 10 and 12 were killed in a fire at a house in the village of Beaulieu, New Forest, early today.

The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the living room and then to the bedroom. The fire was so intense that the flames were seen from the road.

Docks claim meeting in London

"LONDON" (Special Report) The docks claim a meeting in London today to discuss the future of the industry.

'Technical' lift for the S

"THE" (Special Report) The "S" has received a technical lift for the S.

Plans for hovercraft

"LONDON" (Special Report) The plans for hovercraft are as follows: The hovercraft will be used for transport and for recreation.

Commencing Friday 9.30 a.m.

CLOSING DOWN

Above: How the Southern Evening Echo reported the sad event of November 15th 1967.

When Harold Bryant retired, his place was taken by Maurice Betteridge (previously mentioned) and by then the Brigade was very strong with some first-class men, very fit and probably in a better state than ever before. They were led very enthusiastically, if sometimes a little unorthodoxly and one incident which occurred at this time and I think worth relating concerned "The Pacific Glory", a fully-laden super-tanker which collided with a similar vessel "The Allegro" off the Isle of Wight. Allegro made a safe berth at Fawley but Pacific Glory caught fire, several of their crew losing their lives and Hampshire Fire Service mounted a sea borne operation in conjunction with the fire-fighting tugs from Esso Fawley, to try and bring the fire under control. Relays of men were employed and the village brigade was involved spending all Saturday night out afloat and alongside or as near as possible, cooling the hull and superstructure. Salvage money was awarded to the Hampshire Fire Service for their successful efforts, the brigade earning their share, yet another first time occurrence. So for a

small village brigade quite a variety of incidents were dealt with, which says quite a lot for the skill and enthusiasm shown.

About this time there came another big change in the way the Fire Service was controlled. Someone somewhere, decreed that Southampton and Portsmouth City Fire Brigades should amalgamate with the Hampshire Fire Service to form what is now the Hampshire Fire Brigade, to be commanded by one Chief Fire Officer who happened to come from the Hampshire Fire Service. It would not be wrong to say that this move brought quite widespread unrest for some time, the city brigades seeming to see it as a bit of a come down having to work with retained personnel and when it was decided that some of the retained men should go to the city stations for drills, a certain coolness on the part of the full-time men was not really hidden. After a short while this practice ceased and integration began, be it somewhat slowly, the professional jealousies began to gradually disappear.

In 1975 the station at Beaulieu saw yet another Officer in Charge, Maurice Betteridge going to join the Army Fire Service at Marchwood. Dennis Read a long-time serving leading fireman took over, and he had just about time to get settled in to the job when he was faced with the spring and summer of 1976, remembered as the year of the great drought, when the countryside and the forest was so dried up that even established trees and shrubs died through lack of rain. It was by far the worst year in living memory for fire calls throughout the country, and this village brigade played its full part and took on its fair share of the work that had to be done. The New Forest had great areas burnt off, luckily mostly heather and gorse. The risks to the plantations were very great but no severe losses were suffered. It was very different in the Ringwood area however, where several large plantation fires raged, sometimes

almost out of control. Relief crews were drawn from all areas and stood by after the blazes had been brought under control, sometimes all night through, until relieved by full-time crews during the daylight hours.



Opposite: Fire in Dock Lane
July 1975
...but which house?

I think that these operations did quite a lot to foster better relations between the men from the city brigades and the retained men from the country stations. Mutual respect was won by both sides and I am sure that The Hampshire Fire Brigade emerged much stronger in spirit and more united than ever before.

Dennis Read spent thirteen years in charge, quite a long spell by most standards and did a first class job, especially with recruiting and training quite a number of younger recruits. On his retirement, a large party was given in his honour at The Domus attended by The Chief Officer of Hampshire Fire Brigade and also a large number of his colleagues from the New Forest division.

100 Years Ago

from the *Lymington and South Hants Chronicle* August 12th 1909

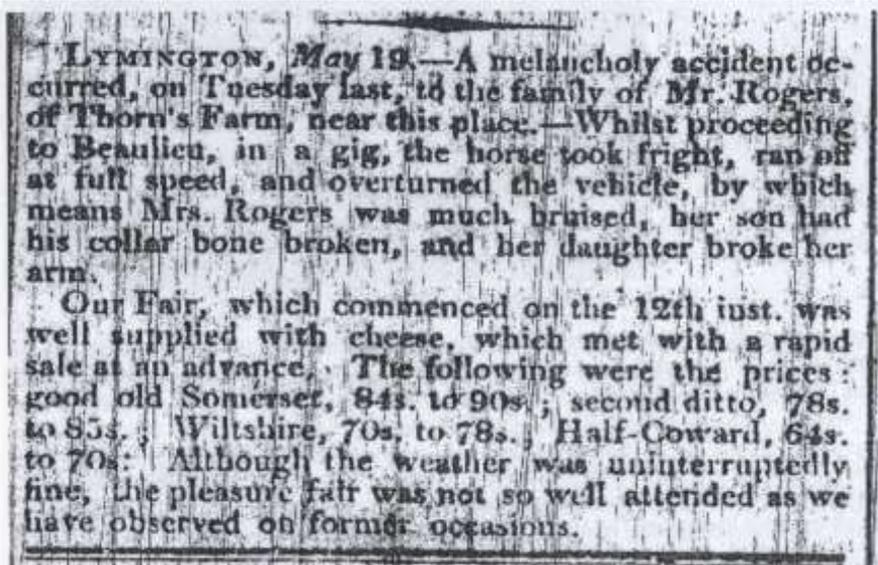
BATHING FATALITY IN BEAULIEU RIVER

The whole of the Territorial Camp at Beaulieu was thrown into gloom on Monday evening by a drowning fatality, the victim of which was Private Charles Hunt, of the Berks and Bucks Regiment. It appears that a party numbering over 200 were bathing near the quay in the Beaulieu River, the deceased who was unable to swim, being with several companions. On leaving the water Hunt was missed by his friends, and they returned to look for him, but were unable to discover his whereabouts amongst the crowd. An alarm was raised, and finally the whole of the men were ordered out of the water, when it was definitely seen that Hunt was missing. The best swimmers then commenced diving, and after repeated efforts the body was at last recovered. Artificial respiration was tried but without avail, the body having been in the water about an hour. The sad occurrence placed the camp in mourning, the officers not appearing in mess attire at dinner, and the bands were silent.

THE YEAR 1815

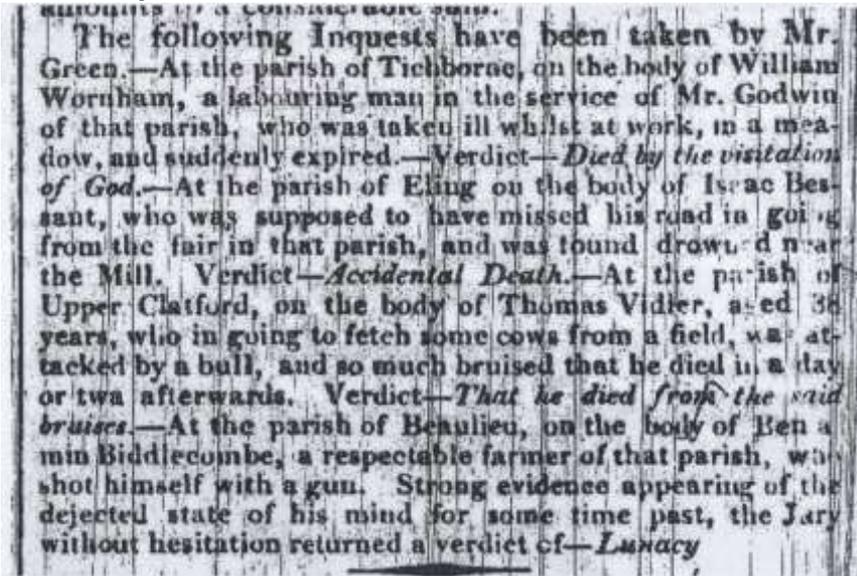
The Burial register records the burial of Sarah Willis, aged 25, on *March 14^m 1815*. The Rev. Adams adds that she was 'murdered by a soldier'. The *March 18^m 1815* edition of *The Hampshire Chronicle* records that 'Wintel Hisenaur charged with the wilful murder of Sarah Willis at Lymington was this day committed to the County Gaol for trial at the next Midsummer Assizes.' However, the June 8th edition records that he was acquitted. One will probably never know the real circumstances of her death, or even whether the Henry Willis who was buried on *August 16^m 1815* aged fifteen months was her son.

The *May 20th 1815* edition of *The Hampshire Chronicle* reports an unfortunate accident to the Rogers' family of Thorn's Farm.



Also of interest is the Cheese Fair held in Lymington, which was an annual event of the time.

The Burial records show that Benjamin Biddlecombe was buried on July 15th 1815, aged 52. This bare fact conceals the sad circumstances which must have led to his death. It is only when one reads the July 15th edition of *The Hampshire Chronicle* that the true facts are revealed.



The following Inquests have been taken by Mr. Green.—At the parish of Tichborne, on the body of William Wornham, a labouring man in the service of Mr. Godwin of that parish, who was taken ill whilst at work, in a meadow, and suddenly expired.—Verdict—*Died by the visitation of God.*—At the parish of Eling on the body of Isaac Bessant, who was supposed to have missed his road in going from the fair in that parish, and was found drowned near the Mill. Verdict—*Accidental Death.*—At the parish of Upper Clatford, on the body of Thomas Vidler, aged 38 years, who in going to fetch some cows from a field, was attacked by a bull, and so much bruised that he died in a day or two afterwards. Verdict—*That he died from the said bruises.*—At the parish of Beaulieu, on the body of Benjamin Biddlecombe, a respectable farmer of that parish, who shot himself with a gun. Strong evidence appearing of the dejected state of his mind for some time past, the Jury without hesitation returned a verdict of—*Lunacy*

It seems the society of the early nineteenth century was not compassionate when giving verdicts in such cases as *Lunacy*. One is also drawn to the verdict of William Wornham at the head of the cutting. Would the verdict '*Died by the visitation of God*' now be recorded as a heart attack?

William Payne's death is recorded in the Burial Records on June 15th 1815, with the supplementary note that he was Parish Clerk fifty two years. His age is quite clearly recorded as 70, though *The Beaulieu Record* says he was 76. If he were 70 when he died this means he was appointed Parish Clerk at the age of 18 which I find quite extraordinary. It was the circumstances in which he took over as Parish Clerk which are of interest, and are well documented in *The Beaulieu Record*. Before quoting from *The Beaulieu Record* it is worth mentioning the two protagonists, Botley Braxstone and Rev. Henry Robinson. Botley Braxstone had, in 1760, been Parish Clerk for some 20 years, and the Rev. Henry Robinson had only recently [he was appointed in 1756] taken over as Minister.

... Mr Robinson was undoubtedly a man of strong views, and very possibly he and Botley Braxstone had crossed swords with one another several times during the previous three or four years.

... Botley Braxstone was most probably bland and off-hand in the presentation of his accounts. Mr Robinson would have cross-questioned him. Braxstone would doubtless be seething with indignation that an upstart minister who had only been in the parish some four years should dare to cross-question him, Botley Braxstone, clerk for nearly twenty years, and the son of one of the most illustrious families of Beaulieu. We can well imagine that he completely lost his temper and became more and more uncontrolled as the uneasy feeling grew in him that he could no longer hide his shortcomings. Finally he overstepped the mark to such a degree that the minister, no longer able to contain himself, took a step unprecedented in all the 120 years of the records of the parish meetings, and seized the book and actually wrote in it then and there, right full across the page, in a large firm hand and encasing his words in a frame so that none could miss them:

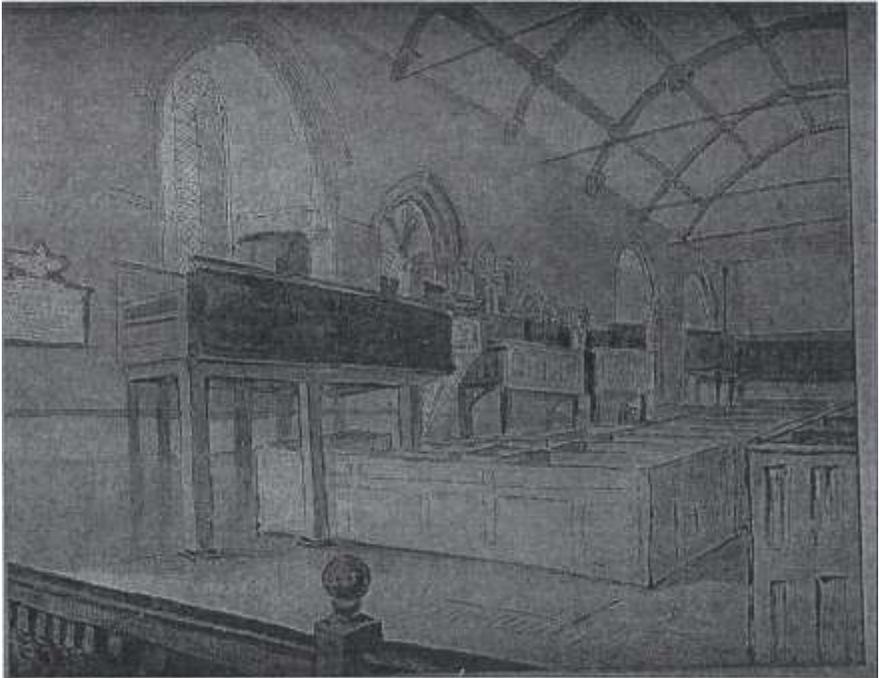
As Minister of ye Parish Church of Bewley I do institute and appoint John Payne as Clerk of the Parish Church as Witness my hand this fifth day of May 1760.
Henry Robinson.'

The year 1762 saw the appointment of William Payne as Parish Clerk. The burial records show that one John Payn was buried on *February 5th 1763*. John Payn's son was also a John Payne and the baptismal records show he was baptised on *Nov 10th 1747*. It is highly likely that it was his father who was appointed Parish Clerk in 1760. It is worth noting that the Payne family continued as Parish Clerks right down to Edward Payne who died in 1938. [N.B. In the early records Payne was spelt Payn]

One wonders from which branch of Payne family the James Payne 'whose death was occasioned by a fall from a cart' and was buried on *December 27th 1815* came. The baptismal records do not help, though one James Payne married Mary Seager on *October 7th 1810*. The Walter Payne who was buried on *September 9th 1815* at the age of fourteen weeks was the son of Benjamin and Charlotte Payne. Benjamin Payne was the son of the William Payne above and was also Parish Clerk. It must have been a sad year for the Payne family.

The Church in 1834

In the previous edition a drawing of the church in 1834 was included. This other drawing, below, from the same time, shows clearly the north and west of the church prior to the 1840 alterations.



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.