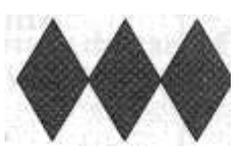


**BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Patron: Ailsa Montagu



No.10 April 2010

**EDITORIAL**

With the upcoming two meetings both away from the usual venue it has been felt necessary to bring forward the June newsletter so as to inform members of the arrangements. The next newsletter will be in September which will give in detail the arrangements and topics to be covered in the Autumn 2010 programme.

*Beaulieu History Society*

*The Older Houses of Beaulieu Series*

*Members are invited to a Reception at*

*Hill Top House*

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010*

*by kind invitation of Brett and Rosemary Johnson*

*6 pm - Drinks and Canapes*

*6.30 - 8 pm - Short talk and guided tour*

*French Twinning Guests staying with Members of BHS  
are cordially invited to attend*

*RSVP by 15<sup>th</sup> April on the enclosed form*

**Friday, 14 May at Buckler's Hard at 6.00 pm (please note change of time)**

**"Shipbuilding on the Beaulieu River: excavations and experimental  
archaeology at Buckler's Hard".**

**by Dr. Jonathan Adams**

**Please see overleaf for arrangements**

Friday, 14 May at Buckler's Hard at 6.00 pm (please note change of time)

## **"Shipbuilding on the Beaulieu River: excavations and experimental archaeology at Buckler's Hard".**

**by Dr. Jonathan Adams**

**Dr. Jonathan Adams, Head of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, will address the Society on "Shipbuilding on the Beaulieu River: excavations and experimental archaeology at Buckler's Hard".**

**PLEASE NOTE that, since members will be conducted round the excavations before the talk, it is essential to restrict numbers to a manageable size.**

**Should you wish to attend please let the Secretary , Gill Hawkins, know before Friday, 7 May (tel. no. 01590-611143. E-mail: jr.hawkins @tiscali.co.uk). FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.**

**Those attending are asked to park in the usual Buckler's Hard car park (free, by kind permission of the Estate) and proceed to the cafe.**

**A first group of up to 30 members will leave the cafe at 6.00 with the speaker for a twenty minute tour of the excavations. The second group of up to 30 will leave the cafe at 6.15 for their tour.**

**The Captains Cabin Tearooms will be open for members. There will be no charge for teas and coffees.**

**The talk will be in the Sir Francis Chichester Room at the Master Builder's Hotel and will begin as soon as the two tours have finished (around 6.50). The Hotel bar will of course be open after the meeting.**

*Bunkers Hill again...*

**Lord Montagu as contacted me regarding the debate on the origins of the name for Bunkers Hill.**

**He confirms that Bunkers Hill was not named after a local person as was evident from the absence of people of that name living locally.**

**Many local residents will recall The Reverend Tubby Clayton, founder of Toc H, preaching at Beaulieu Church. Apparently, as was graphically described in post war sermons by The Reverend Tubby Clayton, 'Bunkers' was the slang name given by the monks for a steep hill, being one that needed a 'strong heart', namely a 'bonne coeur'.**

**Reverend Clayton explained that monks on their way from Beaulieu to St Leonards would need a 'bonne coeur' to survive the trip.**

**The pronunciation of 'Bunkers' was probably Norman French. So**

**Bunkers is a corruption of 'bonne coeur'.**

**It still remains to be explained why Henry Adams, Beaulieu curate and minister 1790-1839 always used Bouvery Hill and his successor William Tyrrell always Bunkers Hill, in the births, marriages and deaths registers.**

**I am grateful to Lord Montagu for bringing this to members' attention. Another Beaulieu question answered!**

*Sad demise...*

On Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, an inquisition was taken by Mr Newlyn, coroner at Bewley, in the New Forest, on the body of James Woodford, a child about two years old, who being left by his mother to the care of another child about four years old, while she went from home, it accidentally fell into a well, and was drowned.

[*Hampshire Chronicle March 1st 1790*]

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### PARK CHURCH

The existence of a Chapel at Park is well known. Whether it was a Monastic Chapel like that at St. Leonard's is uncertain. In the First Edition of John Wise's book *The New Forest: Its History and its Scenery* published in 1863, he includes the following:

'Near Bucklershard is Park Farm, another grange, where fifty years ago stood a chapel, smaller even than the one we have just seen, (i.e. St. Leonard's) partly Early-English and Decorated. It was divided into two compartments by a stone screen reaching to a plain roof. The piscine in the south wall was finally used by the ploughmen to mix their wheat with lime, until the whole building was pulled down to enlarge the farm-house from whose south-east end it projected.'

In 1885 Lord Henry Scott had paid for a much needed improvement in the school room with a plan that included space for an altar, a chancel and a small vestry. The *September 1885* edition of *The New Forest Magazine* expresses the hope that parishioners 'in that part of the Manor will show their appreciation of Park School Church by attending the services there regularly'.

#### PAROCHIAL CALENDAR.

- 1 S *Feast of the Circumcision*. Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins and 2nd Celebration, 10.30; Evensong, 4.30.
- 2 S 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins and 2nd Celebration, 11.0 ; Evensong, Park, 3.0 ; Evensong, 6.0.
- 3 M Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Hill Top, 3.0.
- 4 T Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 5 W Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Buckler's Hard, 6.30.
- 6 Th *The Epiphany*. Celebration, 8.0; Matins, 8.30; Evensong, 4.30.
- 7 F Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 8 S Matins, 10.30; Evensong, 4.30.
- 9 S 1ST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY. Celebration, 8.0; Matins, 11.0; Evensong, Park, 3.0; Evensong, 6.0.
- 10 M Matins, 10.30; Evensong, 4.30; Evensong, Hill Top, 3.0.
- 11 T Matins, 10.30; Evensong, 4.30.
- 12 W Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Buckler's Hard, 6.30.
- 13 Th Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins, 8.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 14 F Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Coast Guard Station, 3.0.
- 15 S Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 16 S 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY. Celebration, 8.0; Matins and Choral Celebration, 11.0 ; Evensong, Park, 3.0 ; Evensong, 6.0.
- 17 M Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Hill Top, 3.0.
- 18 T Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 19 W Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Buckler's Hard, 6.30.
- 20 TN Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins, 8.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 21 F Matins, 10.30; Evensong, 4.30.
- 22 S Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 23 S 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY. Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins, 11.0; Evensong, Park, 3.0 ; Evensong, 6.0.
- 24 M Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Hill Top, 3.0.
- 25 T *Conversion of St. Paul*. Matins and Celebration, 10.30 ; Evensong, 7.0.
- 26 W Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Buckler's Hard, 6.30.
- 27 Th Celebration, 8.0 ; Matins, 8.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 28 F Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Coast. Guard Station, 3.0.
- 29 S Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30.
- 30 S 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY. Celebration, 8.0; Matins, 11.0; Evensong, Park, 3.0 ; Evensong, 6.0.
- 31 51 Matins, 10.30 ; Evensong, 4.30 ; Evensong, Hill Top, 3.0.

If one looks at the parochial calendar for January 1887 one sees that services, as well as being held at the Abbey Church were also held at Bucklers Hard, Hill Top, Coast Guard Station and Park.

The services at Park were, as mentioned above, held in the School.

It seems likely that pressure from Rev. Powles encouraged Lord Henry Scott to set about the building of a church at Park.

So, a church was built and on its completion was dedicated in March 1906. The *April* edition of *The New Forest Magazine* reports ...

**‘THE BENEDICTION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PARK.** A long felt want has at last been supplied. The solemn blessing of St. John, the Evangelist was an event which affects the parish of Beaulieu as a whole, but most especially the people who live near and around the new church. The School has always up to now been 'the' church at Park, and how well it has served its purpose! There the lessons of faith, worship, and reverence have most certainly been learnt and practised by an ever-increasing congregation. But for some time past the school has been overcrowded and even many have not *been* able to find room, so a new church was longed for.

It is with feelings of real regret and yet of great thankfulness that the people move from the school which has been their sanctuary for so long to the new sanctuary built close at hand.

It had for many years been the wish of the late Lord Montagu of Beaulieu that a Church should be built in the district; but alas! Just as his wish was to be fulfilled and all was prepared for the building, he was taken from us. We thank the Good God for having put it into his mind to make the preparation "I will therefore now make preparation for it".

The Church itself is ideal — a beautiful building.

The Benediction of the Church which took place at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, was preceded by the laying of a stone to the memory of his father, by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu.

The choirs of Park and Beaulieu headed by the cross-bearer went in procession from the School to the East End of the New Church, singing Hymn 396 — there a short service was offered, by the Vicar, to God, and the memorial stone duly laid. After which the choirs and Clergy processed into the Church, singing Hymn 239 — then followed a solemn benediction of the new sanctuary, by the Vicar.

A short and helpful address was given by the Rev. S. Towle, Vicar of St. Clement's, Bournemouth, after which Hymn 215 was sung and a Blessing given.

A word of thanks must be given to Mr. Nash-Brown for his successful work with the Choirs, which showed itself by the reverent and beautiful way in which they sang.

A large number of people had gathered for the Service, all of whom must have felt the great blessing that has been vouchsafed to the district and parish and truly thankful to the late Lord Montagu of Beaulieu for his munificence in providing the means for building the Church.

May God's blessing always rest upon the work of St. John the Evangelist, Park, and on those who live around.'



The photograph above was taken prior to the Church's completion. The memorial window had yet to be put in, likewise the commemorative stone which was to be placed where the bricks have been removed.

A more detailed account of the service was published in *The Western Gazette* and is printed in detail in *The Beaulieu Record*. This report also states that the congregation numbered nearly two hundred and that neither the Dowager nor the actual Lady Montagu were able to be present but the telegram sent to Lord John by his mother contained these words 'Tell my friends and neighbours at Beaulieu among who I have lived for forty years, how much I am thinking of them today and how I sincerely pray that your dear Father's hopes and wishes in building this church for them may be fulfilled'.

The question of whether the new church should be consecrated was seemingly determined by the resulting need to provide an income for the curate. If the church was to remain unconsecrated such an endowment would not be necessary. The realization of the amount of money necessary for the payment of death duties seems to have been the deciding factor.

For the first half of the twentieth century the church remained as a focal part of the Parish but the numbers attending were soon beginning to diminish.

What to do with Park Church came to a head in the early 1960s. *The Beaulieu Record* has a detailed account of what was to happen. Precising the account: 'With the considerable liabilities associated with the upkeep of the Abbey Church, Park Church and Bucklers Hard Chapel, all which were paid for by Lord Montagu, a need to rationalise was necessary. Lord Montagu offered to hand over the church to the diocese or the parish. After considerable correspondence the diocese decided that there was not now sufficient need for a church in that area and that consequently they could not see their way to accept it. After a great deal of discussion at different times, the Parochial Church Council came to the conclusion that that they really could not afford to take over the expenses of keeping Park church in repair. There was also the question of the general running of the church, which proved a heavy burden on the vicar. It was pointed out that the numbers attending at services had really become negligible. It was therefore decided with the very deepest regret, at a meeting held on *February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1962*, that Lord Montagu's offer to present Park church to the parish could not be accepted.

Lord Montagu then said that he would try and see if he could get any other parish to remove the church for use elsewhere. What appears to be the end of the story was told to the annual meeting on

*April V 1963*, when Lord Montagu felt able to announce that Boldre parish would be glad to remove the church and erect it at Pilley as a memorial hall to the son of one of their parishioners who had been killed flying, and in whose memory money had been left for the provision of some such building. But, alas, this excellent plan came to nought and Lord Montagu was to find in 1965 that his only course would be to sell the church for the purpose of reconstruction as a house.'

*The Beaulieu Record* gives details of the disposal of the contents of the Church.

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25 Years Ago...

### BEAULIEU TWINNING WITH HAUTVILLERS

From the *Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre News*, July 1985

Wine and international friendship were the themes of the twinning of Beaulieu with the French Champagne village of Hautvillers.

A 30-strong Beaulieu delegation was led by Mr. Christopher Fairweather, chairman of the Parish Council. Lord Montagu and New Forest M.P. Patrick McNair Wilson joined the party. The Mayor of Hautvillers, M. Jean Couten, was a genial host at a formal lunch, where a specially labelled Champagne was served. After speeches by the visitors and French dignitaries, all adjourned for a service in the Abbey Chapel.

M. Couten and Mr. Fairweather were driven to the ceremony in the park by Lord Montagu in a 1909 Silver Ghost Rolls Royce. The Misses Georgina Fairweather and Emily Phipps in Edwardian dress were passengers along with two French beauty queens. After a fanfare by the Hautvillers Band dressed in local costume, the twinning documents were signed. There followed a champagne toast offered in a huge loving cup. After the signing two trees were planted — a cedar from France and an English oak from Beaulieu. Alongside the trees were buried bottles of Champagne and Beaulieu wine.

Finally, Lord Montagu, as President of the Beaulieu and East Boldre branch of the Royal British Legion, laid a poppy wreath on the war memorial. Lord Montagu and Mr. Fairweather presented gifts of Beaulieu prints, a bowl engraved with Forest scenes from *Secrets of the Forest* and a confectioner y model of the ruined arch of Beaulieu Abbey made by Alan Liversedge. At a lively buffet dance in the evening Lord Montagu presented the guests with the first tasting of the 1984 Beaulieu wine while the hosts kept up the flow of the local product... after all Hautvillers is called 'the cradle of Champagne' because the method was reputedly invented there by a monk, Dom Perignon in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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### EXBURY CHAPEL

I have discovered an interesting article about Exbury Chapel which appeared in *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, Vol. 10 1900. Quoting from the start of the article... 'About a century ago since the Rev Mr Powell who was a keen and observant antiquary, traversed the county making careful notes and drawings of almost every town and village. Through the kindness of Lord Northbrook, who is the possessor of Mr Powell's collection, I am able to lay some of them before the readers of this column'.

This article refers, therefore, to a visit which took place in the early 1800s and gives a good description of the Chapel at Exbury. I believe it stood at, what is now, Lower Exbury.

arating it from the churchyard is a stone with this inscription—'Anno Domini, 1648.' Here was the monastery of Wharwell erected by Queen Ethelred: demolished by the over-acted zeal or avarice of King Henry and of its last ruins here buried there remains this monument. The present parish church stands very close to the site of the monastery. Whether or no it was a part of its buildings, or of the church, I could not decide, nor can Mr. Iremonger, an antiquary and son to the owner of the estate. It is certainly a very ancient building consisting of two bodies, divided by a range of high-pointed plain arches, with circular pillars and capitals foliated (!) of Saxon or Norman work. There are three arches in the nave and two resting on one massy circular pillar. The capitals in the chancel, are foliated somewhat like those in St. Thomas Chapel, Canterbury. Across is a low broad arch to divide them off with a wood Gothic screen. The windows are of a much more modern date. In the chancel, on the north side of the altar, is an altar monument against the wall in a sort of Tuscan style. At one end are the arms of West, Delaware, Guilford, Mortimer, and Couteler (?). On the side are three panels with shields, bearing the arms of West, Delaware, and Carlelupe (!), with the inscription—'Of your charity pray for the soul off Syr Owen West, Knyght, and Mary hys wvfe who died.' On the other side—'the which died the 18th day of July. Anno Domini, 1551.' There are also two or three modern monuments to the West family.

## Exbury.

The Rev. Mr. Powell thus describes his visit to Exbury, which was then a chapelry of the parish of Fawley:—

Mr. Warner, agent to the Earl of Beaulieu, accompanied me in a most beautiful walk from Beaulieu to this place to dine with Colonel Mitford, of the Hans Militia, M.P., and brother to Lord Riddesdale, who at that time was building a fine house commanding a beautiful view of the sea and the Isle of Wight. His manor, a part of the New Forest, adjoins Beaulieu Manor. Mr. Mitford told me that the tradition of Exbury was

that once it was a town of some importance, and that from hence Lewis the dauphin (he mistook in calling him Dauphin), afterwards Lewis the Eighth, son of Phillip Augustus, King of France, embarked for his own country, when he found his residence in this no longer possible, after firing the town and church (so he said). Mr. Mitford said that in none of his histories he could find any mention of the place from which the prince took his departure, and that he thinks that this tradition is in no way improbable. (Matthew Paris, he says, does not mention it, another historian says Dover, but does not give his authority.) But on the contrary, and in further confirmation, he observed that in the neighbourhood on the sea coast is a small publichouse, which has had the sign of the Fieur de Lis times out of mind. He also observed that in the Chapter House at Salisbury are arms in painted glass of those barons who adhered to Lewis, and that at Boldre he saw in the chapel of the church built by Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albramarie, several coats of arms the same as those at Salisbury, which latter have since been much defaced. All this about the arms of Sarum, &c., is fine nonsense. As to the circumstance of Lewis, the arms of the King of France, St. Lewis, appear in both places, and this gives rise to the stupid conjecture that the others were adherents to the French prince. We visited the church (chapel), a small building, with a little wooden tower for a bell or two. We observed a plain rude Saxon or Norman font, and two

columns with coarse Saxon capitals, on which is a high pointed arch, which is said to be about the middle of the old church (like Park Chapel). Near this is an old Saxon window, as Mitford said, but it rather appears to be a door, and he said that he meant to have the accumulated earth cleared away from it. The east window is a lancet of three lights, with an arch turned in the wall above to give strength to it. There are several lancets about the walls, which were done at the repair of the church after the burning of it by Lewis, if ever such an event took place. Mr. Mitford pointed out to us a causeway running by the side of the church, but said that no absolute foundations of ruins have been found, but only building stones about his house, &c. Near the church is a farmhouse with some appearance of ancient buttresses. On my observing how this church, which has about it remains evidently older than the Conquest, as well as Park Chapel, came not to be destroyed when the Norman conqueror laid waste so many towns and villages to make the forest, Mitford said that there was no such thing, and that this devastation was supported by no authority whatsoever, and told me a circumstance or two to prove it. It is evident that the race of antiquaries was cast in the same mould when George the Third was king, as it is in these days of Field Clubs. There is a certain sense of satisfaction in dismissing all the theories of a learned brother of the craft, as being simply 'fine nonsense' and a 'stupid conjecture.'—G.N.G.



*Mass Confirmation...* At the Confirmation on March 26<sup>th</sup> a large number were confirmed, 65 from Beaulieu — 36 males and 29 females, 16 from East Boldre, and 7 from Exbury. The service was very quiet and reverent, and the addresses by the Bishop of Winchester were listened to with great attention. [From the *New Forest Magazine* May 1898]

No doubt the Rev. Powles was the reason for such a large number!

**HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BEAULIEU IN THE 60s?**

1. Beaulieu has a world renowned Autojumble, but... in what year was the very first Autojumble?

- A. 1961                      B. 1963                      C. 1965                      D. 1967

2. 1960 saw the arrival of a new vicar to Beaulieu. What was his name?

- A. Rev. S. Davies              B. Rev. K. Davies              C. Rev. K. Davis              D. Rev. K. Jarvis

3. Since 1956, Beaulieu had hosted an Annual Jazz Festival. In one Festival the B.B.C. was forced to abandon its live broadcast. The following year's festival was marred by crowd violence and it was decided to discontinue the Jazz Festivals. In which year was the final Jazz Festival?

- A. 1961                      B. 1963                      C. 1965                      D. 1969

4. In 1965 Park Church was sold and converted into a private dwelling. For how much was it sold?

- A. £4,500                      B. £24,500                      C. £44,500                      D. £64,500

5. The 1966 Academy Award winning film *A Man for All Seasons* was filmed at Beaulieu. Who played Henry VIII?

- A. *Paul Scofield*              B. *Robert Shaw*              C. *Orson Welles*              D. *Leo McKern*

6. In 1965 a School Class Locomotive with Pullman carriages was installed as an exhibit and restaurant at the Motor Museum. What was the name of this locomotive?

- A. *Epsom*  
B. *Radley*  
C. *Repton*  
D. *Stowe*



7. In 1967, Sir Francis Chichester returned to Bucklers Hard with his *Gipsy Moth* yachts. Which was the yacht in which he circumnavigated the globe?

- A. *Gipsy Moth II*              B. *Gipsy Moth III*              C. *Gipsy Moth IV*              D. *Gipsy Moth V*

8. In 1969, to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first motor car being taken by Lord John into the Yard of the House of Commons, Lord Montagu re-enacts the visit using the same car. Who travelled in the car with him?

- A. *Harold Wilson*              B. *James Callaghan*              C. *Edward Heath*              D. *Margaret Thatcher*

9. In 1960 how much was the Adult admission to the Motor Museum, Palace House and Gardens?

A. 1/-

B. 3/-

C. 5/-

D. 7/-

[N.B. 1/- =1 shilling = 5p]

10. Which of these events *did not* occur in the 1960s?

A. S.R.N. 1, the 1<sup>st</sup> hovercraft, is a new addition to the Museum.

B. The Beaulieu by-pass [all 300 yards of it] was opened by Peter Walker, Secretary of State for the Environment.

C. The first bottle of wine was produced at the Vineyards by Mr and Mrs Gore Browne.

D. The *Spitfire* which took pride of place outside the Motor Museum is removed.

### *Answers on Page 16*

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### A Walk around Beaulieu Church (8)

#### The Font

The present Font was erected on Easter Eve and dedicated on Easter Day 1881.

The first Baptism on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1881 was of James, son of Frederick and Elizabeth Tupper.

At the time the Vicar was the Rev. George Stenning who was to leave Beaulieu in 1886. His Curate was the Rev. Robert Powles.

An older Font from the Church can be seen in the Monastic Exhibition under the Domus, in the Museum complex.



Frederick Tupper's occupation is described in the 1881 census as Gas Manager, and he lived in Palace Lane. James was his fourth child, he already had three children Frederick (6), Ann (4) and Lily (2). James was to die in July 1909 aged 28.

Frederick's father, another Frederick, was, in 1881, a woodman and lived at Brick Kiln Cottage. As scorecards show, a number of successive generations of Tupper's played cricket for Beaulieu. A 1903 photograph of the cricket team shows Fred Tupper; I believe he died in 1910 aged 35. Jack Tupper captained Beaulieu Cricket Club from 1923 — 1928, and I remember interviewing him at Exbury when I was writing my book in the 1970s.

## FILMING AT BEAULIEU (1)

Beaulieu has been used many times as a venue for the filming of television programmes, adverts and feature films. In the next few editions I will, with the help of Captain Widnell, write an account of some of the occasions when the Abbey or the village itself has been used. In most cases the choice has been made due to unspoilt landscape of the village.

The first occasion when Beaulieu was used for what was hoped to be a major film was in 1922 and Captain Widnell gives a very good account of the visit of the filmers. I quote from his book 'What I Remember'...

'To come back to 1922. It must have been in the early summer that I got a visit from an unknown man who said he was acting on behalf of a film producer who wanted to find a suitable place to shoot some scenes of a film on which he was engaged called 'The Gipsy Cavalier', the hero of which was George Carpentier, the foremost light heavy-weight French Boxing Champion, and darling of the sporting world.

During our conversation I asked my new acquaintance what had led him to Beaulieu. He replied that he had known Beaulieu before the War [World War 1] for he was the Ferdinand Fissi who had made the drawings for Sir James Fowler when he was writing 'Beaulieu Abbey'.

The long and the short of it was that Ferdinand Fissi reported favourably on Beaulieu to his chief, Mr J. Stuart-Blackton who, within a few days, very much to the joy of Mr and Mrs McEntee brought down his company to The Montagu Arms, and started on his film 'The Gipsy Cavalier'.

Beaulieu was at that time totally ignorant of the ways of films and their producers, and in consequence the whole place was in a positive furore.

In addition to the foremost international figure George Carpentier, there was to be seen about the place, Miss Flora le Breton, and extremely engaging young actress for whom great things were envisaged. Then there was Miss Mary Clare, another rising young actress, who did fulfil her expectations. In addition to Carpentier, the other three principal actors were the three Maclagan brothers, then well known for their strong man rough and tumble and boxing exploits on the screen.



Nell St. John  
Montague

Authoress, Playwright, Stage  
and Screen Actress.

The latter includes important  
work in "General Post," "Handy  
Andy," and "The Glorious  
Adventure."

Now playing the role of Rhoda,  
Queen of Gypsies, in  
"AGYPSY CAVALIER"

Address:  
25, HARRINGTON ROAD, S.W.7.  
(Phone: Acton 412)

at the Levenson Club, 138, Piccadilly, W.



Flora Le Breton

DOROTHY FORREST

The HEROINE in  
"A Gypsy Cavalier"

The J. Stuart Blackton Super-Production

Another of much the same fraternity was one, Rex McDougal, along with several others whom I just remember, but whose names have escaped me, except for a dark but pleasant American, a Mr. Luff.

Several scenes were shot on the river below Harford Bridge when a suitable background was needed for situations requiring a love interest featuring George Carpentier and Flora le Breton. But the scenes which riveted the whole of Beaulieu to the bridge, the Timbrells and the riverside, were those depicting the post-chaise crossing the ford with Flora le Breton and Mary Clare as the passengers, and the hero George Carpentier who swam to the rescue in the very nick of time, literally so, in the final shot.

To produce this all-important scene a dummy coach was built, into which the heroine took her place (what had happened to her companion, the other heroine, I cannot now recollect). The dummy was fitted with two carrying poles, rather after the manner of a sedan chair, and was carried by four men, who, when they had placed it in position in deep water in the pool, came out of the sight of the cameras, leaving Flora le Breton with the water well above her waist, which flowed past the coach in an icy stream.

Once more, to cut a long story short, an old 18<sup>th</sup> century type travelling coach was produced and driven onto the Mill race below the Beaulieu Bridge. In the carriage were the heroines, Flora le Breton and Mary Clare.

Before the cameras opened fire we had previously shut the Mill sluice to pen up the maximum amount of water, then at the psychological moment we opened them as fast as possible to create the impression of a burst dam. These operations provided just what Mr. Blackton wanted, indeed so realistic was the effect of the rushing water that the horses were terrified and became unmanageable, so that their owner Mr. Frampton on the Home Farm was obliged to dash down on to the Mill Race and hold their hands for they were about to back the coach and its occupants over the end of the race and down into the deep pool below. But this was not the last of the river shots, for the heroine was required very nearly to suffer death by drowning and then be rescued, naturally by the hero himself.

I remember seeing Mr. Stuart-Blackton directing the operation from the Timbrells and finding it difficult to get just the picture he wanted. Poor Flora le Breton was kept in the water until she fainted from cold inside the coach, and the George Carpentier really did have to carry out his rescue work to Mr. Blackton's delight, in good earnest, and was filmed as he swam down the Mill race where the torrent was just deep enough to carry him. His trial, however, came when he reached the weir, which was then, as now, kept in position by oak stakes. Into this entanglement Carpentier swam, and very naturally and much to his annoyance, hurt his wrist. He was however, able to get free and reach the dummy and save the life of the heroine in the most realistic manner.

After this exhibition of callousness on the part of Mr. Stuart-Blackton, in keeping the plucky little actress in the tide for twenty-five minutes or so until she was half frozen and her life endangered, I never felt the same regard for the producer.

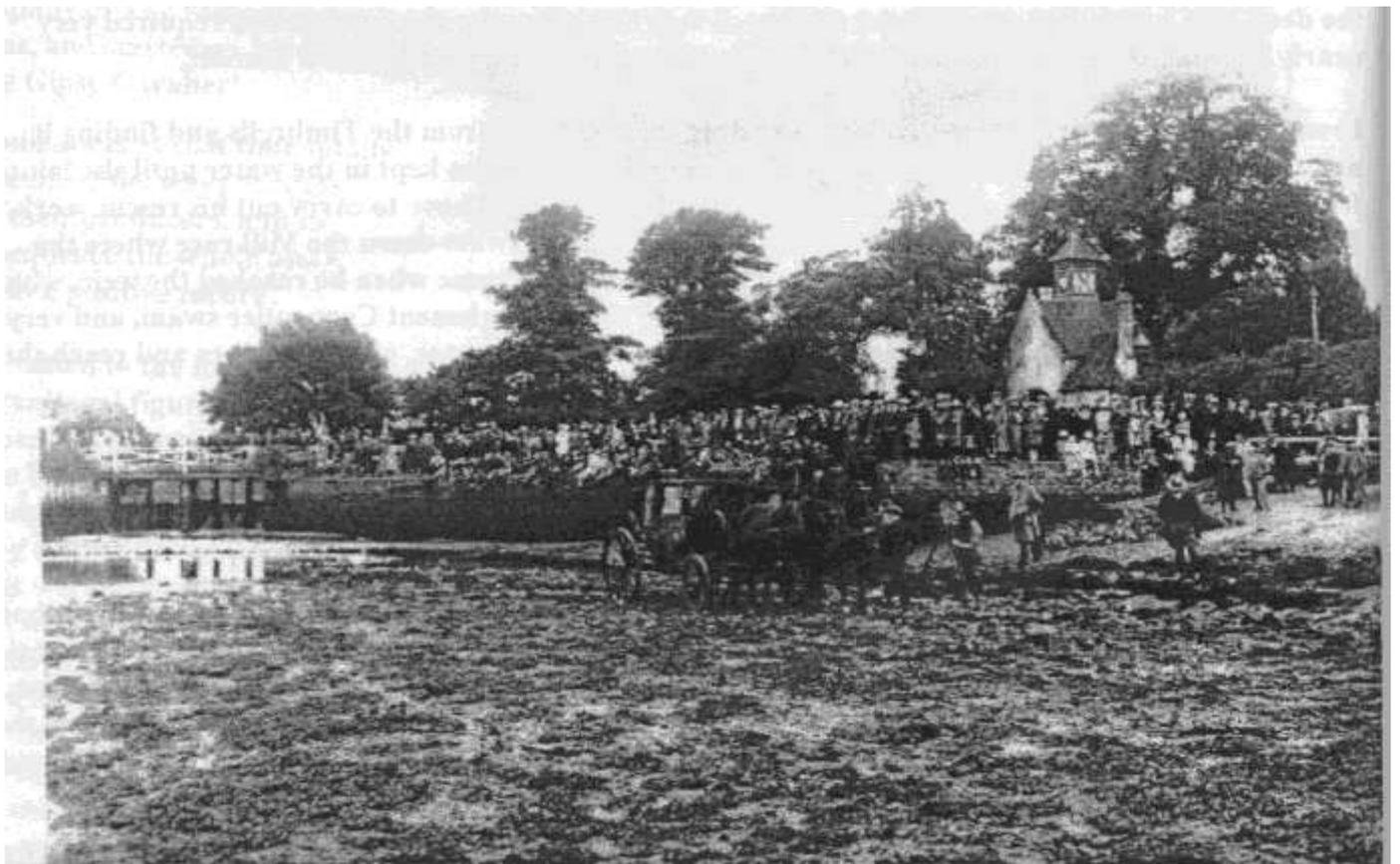
It is difficult to explain the position that George Carpentier held at that time, for I do not think that there is today any international figure, stage, screen or otherwise, who holds the public as Carpentier then held it, for he was young, handsome and the world champion heavy-weight boxer, and as that, secured an admiration of the male population, so his appearance, prowess and charm captivated the hearts of the ladies of Europe and America, as perhaps some of our excellent photographs may held to explain.

Perhaps the best and most interesting shot is of George Carpentier and Mr. Stuart-Blackton in the street outside Teddy Payne's blacksmith's shop where the posters used to be stuck. This shows the two men looking at a bill in which Sangar's Circus Boxing Elephant had issued a £10,000 challenge to George Carpentier.



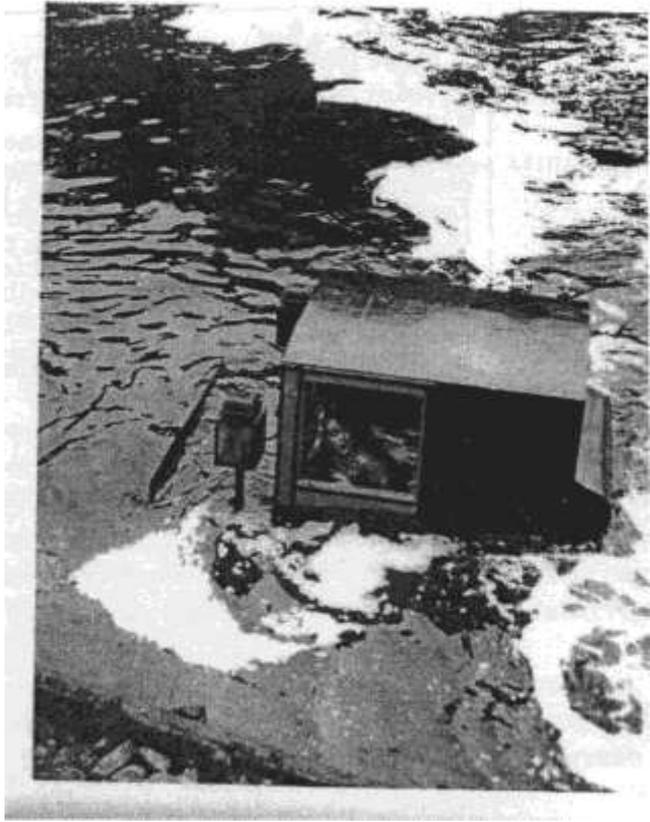
Outstanding and curious as was this photograph, there were a number of other pictures which should not be overlooked, as they all give a good idea of what, in military language might be termed 'Operation Beaulieu'.

Perhaps the first one should be the shot of the post-chaise on the Mill race with Beaulieu 'en masse' looking on.



To the crowd however, the most thrilling of all the pictures was when Flora le Breton was seen in the dummy chaise with the water almost up to her neck.

The final photograph, below, is an excellent one taken on the Mill race just below the Timbrells of a group, and reading from left to right we have:-Lord John Montagu, Flora le Breton, Mary Clare, Lady Montagu, Mrs. Stuart-Blackton and the producer himself.'



*July 25<sup>th</sup> 1922* **BEAULIEU.**

The new cinema was opened on Saturday, invitations being extended to the residents to witness the first performance. Lord Montagu's enterprise in the matter is much appreciated, and the performances will no doubt be well supported. The film shown was a colour production, "The Glorious Adventure," in which a number of artistes who are working on another film which is being made at Beaulieu, appeared.

**THRILLING FILM ACCIDENT.**

**COACH CARRIED AWAY.**

Georges Carpentier, the famous boxer, who is now cinema acting, figured in a thrilling incident at Beaulieu on Monday, in which Miss Flora Le Breton, the well-known movie actress, almost lost her life.

Beaulieu, which is quite an old world village, is being used by the J. Stuart Blackton Photoplays, Ltd., as the setting for the filming of a story based on the novel "My Lady April," in which Miss Le Breton figures as the heroine and Carpentier as the gipsy hero. It is an 18th century story, and the villagers have been enjoying the scenes laid in the coaching days and the gay costumes of the period. It was one of the coaching episodes that nearly ended in tragedy. The coach containing the heroine is carried away in the flooded river, the sluices being opened at Beaulieu Mill to give the desired effect, and it falls to the lot of the hero (Carpentier) to rescue the lady in distress.

On Monday afternoon, however, the coach was carried away in earnest by the rush of water into the river which is 15 feet in depth, and Carpentier too had to fight hard to overcome the current. In the meantime Miss Le Breton was imprisoned in the flooded coach and strenuous efforts had to be made by all to effect what was now a real rescue. The actress was removed unconscious from the coach and taken to the Montagu Arms Hotel, medical aid being summoned at the same time, and it was nearly an hour before she recovered. It was indeed a very narrow escape.

On the previous day too there was nearly a mishap, when the horses of the coach, alarmed at the rising water, dragged the vehicle almost into the river. But for the promptitude of the actors, the coach, horses and all would have fallen into deep water.

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

**Minutes of the AGM  
Held on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Apologies for absence were received from: Lord Montagu, Mr & Mrs Mills, Mr & Mrs Melhuish, Mr & Mrs Howard and Lady Ross.**

**Chairman's report**

**Sir John Coles opened the meeting by welcoming the largest gathering of members ever. He explained why we were having another AGM so soon after the last one. This was to adopt the Calendar year for our accounting. The Chairman then welcomed Emma Page to her first AGM and invited her to present the Treasurer's Report for 2009.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Emma reported there was a small surplus of £37 at the end of 2009 due mostly to the proceeds of a raffle; there was therefore a need to keep a tight rein on the budget. The current account balance was now £500 and Emma thanked members for renewing their subscriptions that evening.**

**John Beaumont raised the question of speaker's fees and membership numbers. The Chairman responded that so far our guest speakers had not requested any fees but that BHS would pay for reasonable expenses incurred. Referring to BHS membership the Chairman responded that the numbers were holding up well.**

**Approval of the accounts for 2009**

**The AGM approved the accounts.**

**Appointment of auditor**

**Christine Dare had been asked to continue as Auditor and was reappointed by the AGM.**

**Annual Subscriptions**

**The AGM decided that subscriptions would remain unchanged for now at £5 for a single membership and £8 for a couple, to be reviewed at the end of the year.**

**Election of Officers**

**The AGM re-elected John Coles as Chairman and Rosemary Johnson as Vice Chairman, Emma Page as Treasurer and Gill Hawkins as Secretary. Ralph Montagu, Anne Coles and Tony Norris were re-elected as members of the Committee.**

**AOB**

**First the Chairman was happy to report that we now have a group of members engaged in learning how to translate historical documents. Richard Reeves, an expert in this field, led two Saturday morning sessions. We are hoping that the New Forest Park Archive Department will find some funding for Richard to be able to continue to assist us in this. It is hoped to form small groups to research some of the older homes of Beaulieu.**

**Secondly the question of a later start time for the meetings had been discussed by the Committee and it had been decided that the meetings in principle would start at 6.30pm but we would be flexible when the event required it...**

**The meeting closed at 7.00pm.**

### Report on Previous Meeting

On Friday, 19 February John Levesley, Secretary and Education Officer of the Friends of New Forest Airfields, addressed the Society on "Aerial History and the Beaulieu Region".

To a packed village hall, John spoke first of the early pioneers, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century balloonists to the first pilots in the area, some associated with the Bournemouth Flying School which opened in 1909. The New Forest Aviation School, describes as "the finest flying ground in the country", opened a year later. Some of the local pioneers were every bit as significant as better-known international pilots.

In 1915 The Royal Flying Corps established a military training airfield at East Boldre. Later in the war this was regularly used by squadrons preparing to go to France. Some of the first women members of the Flying Corps were at East Boldre airfield.

Calshot was an even earlier military airfield. Used at one time by the Navy it became an RAF station in 1918 and a centre for boat operations and crew training. An RAF high speed flying boat based at Calshot won the Schneider trophy outright for Britain in 1931. T. E. Lawrence also spent some of his airforce career there. In 1943 Calshot was a Flying Boat Service Unit supporting RAF Sunderland operations. It had a role in the Berlin airlift and continued as an RAF base till 1953.

The RAF aerodrome at Beaulieu opened in August 1942, one of several in the area. It was one of the largest of the airfields opened by the RAF during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. There was some friction locally. The Verderers insisted on restrictions on the amount of barbed wire that could be used and that airfield staff should keep animals off the runway. Land taken from farmers for RAF purposes was given after the war to the Forestry Commission. The loss of the farms caused much sadness locally.

The airfield was initially used by Coastal Command, including notably 311(Czech) Squadron who had a reputation for being aggressive. In Spring 1944 the U.S. 9<sup>th</sup> Army Air force arrived. This included the 84<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in which served Bobby Jones, the "greatest golfer in the world". Later the U.S. "Hellhawks" (365<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group) arrived, to be replaced still later by the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomber Group who carried out combat operations on mainland Europe.

Beaulieu then became home to the Airborne Field Experimental Establishment until flying ceased in 1953.

Separately, in preparation for the Normandy Landings advance landing grounds were set up at Needs Ore and Lymington. Typically at these airfields there would be 75 aircraft and 700 airmen at any one time. For a few months in 1944/1945 there were 4 RAF Squadrons at Needs Ore.

John's excellent and thoroughly knowledgeable talk stimulated a lively question time. A notable History Society Evening.

Answers to: HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BEAULIEU IN THE 1960s:

1. D 1967
2. D. Rev. K. Jarvis
3. A. 1961
4. A. £4,500
5. B. *Robert Shaw*
6. D. 30928 *Stowe*
7. C. *Gipsy Moth IV*
8. D. *Margaret Thatcher*
9. B. 3/-
10. B [1972] [NB. A — 1968; C — 1967; D — 1965]

[References: Lord Montagu's books '40 Years at Beaulieu' & 'Beaulieu Scrapbook 1952-1977']