



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patron: Ailsa Montagu



No. 15 September 2011

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

(1) Friday September 9th

The History of St. Leonard's Grange

By kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Neil McGrigor, the Society will meet at St. Leonard's Grange, Buckler's Hard at 6.00 p.m. on Friday, 9 September.

There will be a talk on the history of the property and a walking tour which will include the chapel and, subject to permission being obtained, the Great Barn, plus an opportunity to see the grounds.

The event will begin promptly at 6.00 to take advantage of the light before sunset.

There will be room for a maximum of 60 people and places must be booked in advance.

If you wish to attend please inform the Secretary, Gill Hawkins, on 01590 611143 or e-mail ir.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk

(2) Friday December 2nd

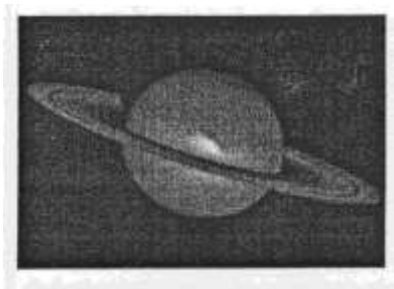
Hollywood comes to Beaulieu

The Society will meet at 6.30 p.m. on Friday, 2 December at the John Montagu Lecture Theatre when our Patron, Ailsa Montagu, will give a talk entitled 'Hollywood Comes to Beaulieu', an illustrated account of the history of film-making in Beaulieu.

Can you help?

In 1949 a mysterious Beaulieu person acquired the famous 6-inch Cooke refractor telescope of the comedian Will Hay after Hay's death in 1949. Hay discovered the Great White Spot on Saturn with this very telescope in 1933.

After Hay died (April 1949) the instrument was dismantled by Charles Baker Ltd, of Holborn, moved to their showroom, and then, after a few months, sold.



David Wallis, the person who installed the refractor (now 80) can't recall the name of the address, but is 100% sure that it was at Beaulieu. He does remember that it was a large house with a walled garden.

When Hay's telescope was moved to Beaulieu there was already an empty dome in a walled garden waiting to accept it, so I'd guess the Beaulieu owner had been there for a while, had been waiting for a suitable refractor and then bought Hay's when it was seen in the showroom of Charles Baker. Whoever bought it must have been wealthy as he paid £600 for it in 1949.

The question is...Where is the property? It is quite likely the property has changed hands many times since 1949 but perhaps someone reading this newsletter might have heard a story about this telescope, or even if the dome still exists. If any member of the society can shed any light, could they please let me know. They could make a couple of astronomers very happy indeed!

Anthony Norris [Newsletter Editor]

Death by fighting

From the Hampshire Chronicle April 23rd 1791

Monday another inquisition was taken by the same coroner, on the body of Robert Earl Pearse, who was killed in a fight, at Beaulieu, in the New Forest, by John West, and after the examination of several witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, when the coroner issued his warrant to commit him to gaol, to take his trial for the same.

Death by drinking

From the Hampshire Chronicle April 7th 1792

On Wednesday an inquisition was taken at Leap, near Fawley, in this county, by Mr. Corbin, coroner, on the body of Stephen Wareham, (a labourer of Mr. Woods's, of Exbury,) who died by excessive drinking.—He drank upwards of a quart of gin, out of a six-gallon tub, which was found, with three more tubs, by two of Mr. Woods's labourers, near the sea-shore at Leap.

On the next page: *The peasants meet the King!...*

King George III paid an extended visit to the South in 1789; he included Beaulieu in his holiday.

Taken from the Hampshire Chronicle July 1789

SOUTHAMPTON, SATURDAY, July 4.

Saturday, notwithstanding the weather was unfavourable, their Majesties and the Princesses went to see Rufus's stone, from thence to Boldre Lodge, the seat of Lord Delewar; and after partaking of some refreshment and staying sometime, they returned to Lynnhurst to dine. After dinner they went to Lymington, where they honoured the Corporation with a visit at the town hall. They next went to Hard Cliff, and were so much delighted with the extensive view of the Channel, the Isle of Wight, the Needle Rocks, &c. that they there determined to make an excursion round the Island before the end of the summer.

Sunday they went to church, and heard an excellent sermon by the Rev. Mr. Compton; and indeed we may say the above gentleman never before had more hearers at one time, people of every denomination found their way thither some how or other.

Monday the royal party went thro' the forest to Biuleau, and remained a considerable time at Lord Biuleau's, where they were much diverted by the excessive loyalty of the peasants, who had dressed themselves in white shirts, round hats, blue ribbons, &c. in an uniform style, and sung and danced on the green to the great satisfaction of their beloved Sovereign. They were within three quarters of a mile of Backler's-ward, where a 74 gun ship is ready to launch, and Mr. Adams, the builder, had got every necessary in readiness in case he had been honoured with a visit; but they returned to Lynnhurst, where, after dining, they walked about half a mile to Lynnhurst Mount, the country seat of Robert Ballard, Esq. who has displayed great taste in the situation, architecture, and garden ground. His Majesty was delighted with the whole plan, particularly the colonade, and after asking Mr. Ballard by what name it was called, and being informed, his Majesty graciously said he would new christen it, and called it "Mount Royal," which name it will doubtless bear to latest posterity.

were occupied by coastguards in 1860, when the Admiralty took over a 21 year lease for them at £68 5s a year plus £2 10s for the reservoirs.

Presumably there was accommodation prior to the building of these cottages as registers record the marriage at Beaulieu Church on December 8th 1844 of Edwin Chandler and Jemaine Morgans, both of whose addresses are given as Coast Guard Station, Beaulieu. Likewise on December 27th 1846 widower David Varner whose occupation is given as Preventative Service and address as Station at mouth of Beaulieu River.

The coastguard cottages at Need's Ore, and at Lepe were closed in 1922, but the cottages remain.

BEAULIEU NAMES

If one trawls through the Burial Records from 1653 —1993 the following are the most common surnames (not necessarily from the same single family):

Name	Number of records	Date of first record	Date of last record
Gregory/Grigory	111	1658	1998
Carpenter	76	1670	1900
Read/Reade	70	1677	1982
Rawlins/Rawlings	67	1659	1918
Payn/Payne	66	1720	1963
Crouch	58	1799	1984
Jones	57	1666	1966
West	56	1752	1992
Smith	55	1659	1943
Biddlecombe	52	1658	1968
Thomas	51	1818	1976
Hendey/Hendy	50	1823	1990
Fry	48	1725	1936
Cox	45	1657	1858
Drover	41	1653	1875

Readers will remember Nigel Bryant writing two articles on growing up in Beaulieu. He has now produced the third of the trilogy.

RAMBLINGS OF A SIXTIES CHILDHOOD IN BEAULIEU (PART 3)

by Nigel Bryant

This is my concluding ramble along the path of growing up in Beaulieu during the fifties and sixties. When I left Beaulieu in 1970 to venture into the real world I was convinced that one day I would return to Beaulieu to live out my old age and spend my final years with all my old chums from yesteryear, how naïve?

I visit Beaulieu quite regularly to tend to the grave plots at the church of my father, mother, sister and niece plus I usually just tidy the plot of Ron and Gertie Hendy. I am sure that my memories have developed a degree of "rose-tintedness" over the years but I would maintain that overall I could not have had a better childhood in every sense e.g. the location or the people I grew up with. I make no apology for thanking people such as Walt and Margaret Elsworth and Tony Norris for contributing to my memories (and in some cases adjusting them to be more in-line with the truth!).



Pondside Cottage — where it all started for me in 1949!

The changes (like everywhere) over the years have been incredible, Beaulieu has shifted from being a "self-contained" village where one could buy most of one's requirements (except fish which was delivered by Mr Foot on a Friday) to a successful part of the tourist industry, it is not for me to judge the merits of the changes other than to say we cannot live in the past.

Beaulieu has gone from a village that contained amongst other things, a farm directly in the middle of the village, a large playing field with a football pitch and tennis courts, a butcher shop, several hardware stores, green grocers, newsagents, a British Legion Club, a Young Farmers club, a Youth Club, a garage, allotments and a regular bus service to well as I said it's not for me to judge as I am an exile now living near to Winchester.

I would like to just spend a little while reminiscing about people who were part of the village during my youth, I can break people into groups for the convenience of this article, firstly those associated with the Fire Brigade because as was so wonderfully described in Walt Ellsworth's history of Beaulieu Fire Brigade my father, Harold Bryant was in the fire Service for 21 yrs so a lot of my early years had some connection to the Fire Brigade, as pointed out by Walt my father was the Sub Officer in charge of the station and his two leading firemen were Eddy Aldridge and Ron Hendy. I can just remember the old fire station but certainly spent a lot time at the new one. As a child one is very impressionable and one is inclined to be aghast when given "facts" e.g. that Mossy Harding was the best fire engine driver ever! Until Teddo Witt came along!!!! One would hear all sorts of stories about the almost "comic book" feats of the drivers and they became our heroes in a way.

The next group of people to influence my childhood were my fathers co-workers on the estate, again some of them were also firemen as well. My father worked very closely with, amongst others, Pete Warne who was very close to our family and probably kept an *eye* on me when I first played cricket for Beaulieu in the early / mid-sixties, Dave Kitcher, Cliff Harvey, Doug Reid and Reg Adams.

A third group to influence my early years were the cricket team, I would like to say that in good village tradition most of the players lived in the village but alas that was not the case, although some did live in the village i.e. Bill Jenkin, Robert Jenkin, Pete Warne, Tony Norris, Tony Aldridge, Walt Ellsworth but others came from surrounding villages i.e. Chris Martin, Chris Munden, Ted Parsons, Joe Phillips, I am not sure where John Hopkins lived.

There were of course lots of other people who played cricket for Beaulieu during the period I played including my brother Michael but those listed above were the mainstay of the team. I played cricket for Beaulieu in the era of "village cricket" where one could have an honourable draw or one would have a "beer" match in the event of a quick conclusion to a match as opposed to the now ubiquitous league cricket where one plays in the "Hampshire" or the "Forest" league and where youths under the age of 16 must wear a safety helmet.

Call me old fashioned but I still believe that without the protection that is now universally worn you became technically a better cricketer (if you survived!!!).

I always remember my father telling me "go to the ball, do not let the ball come to you because if you do it will hurt" a tip which I still believe was the best advice I ever had regarding cricket. I was lucky enough over the years to play against some pretty good fast/medium bowlers e.g. Julian Shackleton, John Rice, Bob Herman and Kevin Shine (by far the quickest) and I always felt sorry for people who played cricket and were afraid of the cricket ball, what torture? I am fortunate that I still play cricket as a guest for London Transport on their annual tour of Sussex. I cannot imagine a childhood today spent in Beaulieu in an age of "Health & Safety" and the need to sue someone if you get a splinter in your little finger (slightly cynical view).



Above: The author

I wonder what Health & Safety practitioners would have made of the uncut outfield with generous deposits from cows scattered around where we played cricket for years or the annual "Mud football" match played each year between Beaulieu and Hythe fire brigades?

Another event that would bring howls of derision today was the appearance of the Otter hounds as they went about their business on the river north of the bridge and they would pass directly past our garden at Pondsides.

Having said all of the above I would not change one thing and believe Beaulieu is a magical place that has given me such a rich tapestry of memories.

Nigel Bryant



Classified Advertisement [from Hampshire Advertiser January 3rd 1914]

FOR RENT

Classified Advertisement [from Hampshire Advertiser January 3rd 1914]

FOR SALE



FOOD AID

Distribution of Gift Food from Krugersdorp, South Africa to old people of Beaulieu, Hampshire, 28th April 1949.

Nowadays we are generous in providing aid to countries in need. In the time of austerity that followed the end of the Second World War, this country was a recipient of aid from South Africa.

I have recently been given two photographs on the reverse of one is the following commentary:

'In the very heart of the New Forest lies the little village of Beaulieu where one Monday in April was made quite different from any other afternoon by the arrival of gift food parcels from Krugersdorp in South Africa for some of the old age pensioners. It was a great occasion for these old people who received their parcels outside their own homes from Major R.B. Warton, D.S.O., a member of the New Forest Urban District Council who was deputising for the Chairman, Captain the Hon. Edward Pleydell-Bouverie, M.V.O. R.N., who was unable to be present. Krugersdorp have sent 1000 parcels of mixed food for free distribution to deserving people in this country and the parcels received by the old inhabitants of Beaulieu were part of this magnificent gift.'



The picture shows three old Beaulieu residents receiving their South African gift food parcels from Major R. B. Warton. Seventy four years old Mrs Fred Crouch (left) a very old Beaulieu resident who lives at Home Farm Cottages; 84 year old Mrs Pike, widow of a Chelsea Pensioner of the Hampshire Regiment who lives with her daughter and son-in-law and 87 year old Mr. William Willis who was 25 years a guardian of Beaulieu Abbey. Mr A.C. Ashmead (right) helped to distribute the parcels.

PROPERTY SALE 1913

[from the Hampshire Advertiser August 23rd 1913]

BEAULIEU.

The sale of properties and building sites held at the Montagu Arms Hotel on Tuesday, by the instruction of Lord Montagu, was well attended. Messrs. Richard Austin and Wyatt were the auctioneers. A plot of building land adjoining the Royal Oak, at Hill Top, was sold to Mr. David Duncan, of Curdrige, for £115. A mud wall and thatched cottage, fronting to Beaulieu Heath, was purchased by Mr. Frank Kitchen, East Boldre, for £65. Cottage building plot, adjoining, went to the same purchaser for £20. Three mud wall and thatched cottages, fronting Beaulieu Heath, were secured for £140 by Mrs. Emily Dunkason, Holly Bank House, near Brockenhurst. Paddock and cottage building site was purchased by Mr. Smith, of Beaulieu, for £45. A similar plot, paddock and cottage building site, was bought by Mrs. Alice Vere Duncombe Shafto, Lyndhurst, for £47 10s. A brick and slated cottage was purchased by the same lady for £275; and also two cottage sites for £80 and £72 10s. Cottage building site adjoining the ground of East Boldre Church was bought by Mr. Henry House, Beaulieu, for £20. A meadow was secured by Mr. Wm. E. Davis, of Bishop's Waltham, for £105; and two other meadows, suitable for small holdings or building sites, were bought by Mr. Charles Biddle, of Beaulieu for £125 and £190. A tract of land known as Cowley's Heath, and a cottage and two meadows known as Pepper's Gate, were withdrawn, and can be treated for privately.

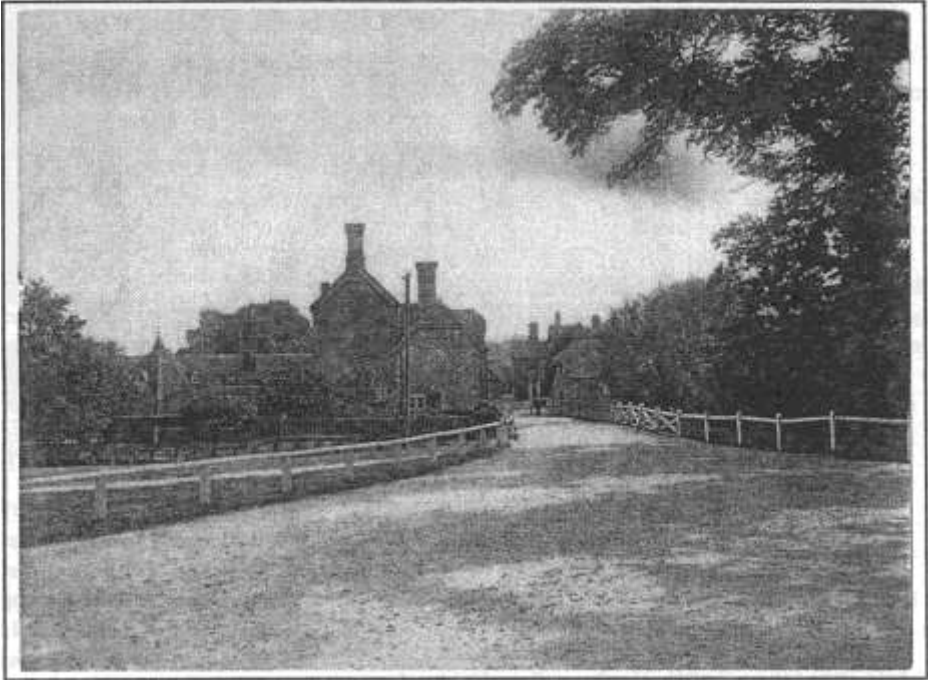
BEAULIEU IN WORLD WAR II

by Walter Elsworth

Part 2: Threat of Invasion

In Beaulieu all thoughts were centred on home defence, invasion from France being the obvious threat. The most vital part of the village was judged to be the bridge over the river, it being the first crossing point up from the Solent. Defences were to include four blockhouses, or strong points:

1. In the Mill Yard
2. In the Mill House Dairy (both these are still in existence.)
3. The Mangold House opposite the Mill
4. Behind the Clock House where Mrs Betteridge now has her lawn. (This was demolished completely at the end of the war.) [*The Clock House is now unoccupied Ed*]

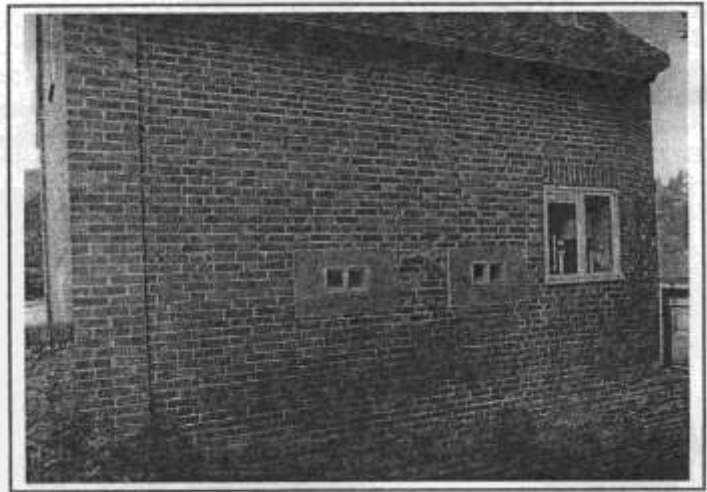


Above: the strategically important bridge. On the left is the dairy, on the right of the road the Mangold House. This photograph was taken from *The Clock House*.

These blockhouses had walls between two and three feet thick made of reinforced concrete and the concrete roof was about two feet thick. Inside, down the centre was a blast wall and, all in all, they made pretty formidable obstacles. On the timberyard a line of 'Dragon's Teeth' stretched from the river wall across to the edge of the road. This fortification was continued across the road by means of large concrete-filled trenches with slots in them to take sections of railway line bent almost at right angles. These slots were four feet deep and much strength was needed to drop the irons into position. Two rows at the Clock House and two more between Mill Race and the Mill Yard with a 'Dragon's Tooth' at either end completed the road defences.

Opposite:

The Mangold
House opposite
the Mill



Across either end of the archway at Clock House were two more of these irons and, together with more 'Dragon's Teeth', the entrance was quite secure.

At this time nearly all the men who were not engaged in Civil Defence were formed into the Local Defence Volunteers - or L.D.V.s. Captain Cubitt, Major Penn-Gaskell, Sir Phillip Hunloke and Captain Widnell were the leaders of this force, and their arms included almost any fire arm that could be found. Shot-guns, revolvers and a few sporting rifles, and also a supply of 'Molotov Cocktails' were assembled ready for action. At first the L.D.V.s manned a look-out post at Beufre, in a field just on the Beaulieu side of the lane leading to Bailey's Hard. Watch was kept at night for any signs of parachutists or gliders, this being thought to be the first stage of intended invasion. Back at the bridge the galvanised iron roof behind the wall at Clock House was strengthened with planks and scaffold poles to form a firing position for riflemen to cover the approaches to the bridge, and to add weight to the firepower. Lord Montagu's punt-gun was set up on a mounting beside the Clock House chimney. Jack Crouch (a gamekeeper on the estate) took charge of this weapon, whilst quite large numbers of petrol bombs were laid out behind the wall running down to Abbey Gate

Cottage, ready for use. Even large boxes of broken bottles were kept alongside the road blocks, ready to be used against rubber-tyred vehicles and transport.

All this may seem to be quite funny now, when looking back. Believe me, it was done in all seriousness and it was all nearly needed one weekend when the 'INVASION ALERT' was given and defences were fully manned until the 'STAND DOWN' came two days later.

As a further precaution against enemy gliders and airborne forces large trenches were dug on the forest at Hill-top criss-crossing the open heathland with banks and ridges. In other open spaces poles were dug into the ground and in some large fields old farm machinery was scattered around to make some form of obstructions to hamper the enemy.

It was hereabouts too that another completely different reminder of real war came to everyone. Food rationing was introduced, the first items being butter, bacon, tea and sugar, with meat following soon after. I do not propose to write at any great length on this subject though the real burden fell on the housewives and all that I can say is - however they made a couple of ounces of butter and a few ounces of other things stretch over a week, I really don't know. Perhaps some of these wartime housewives would like to tell us about their experiences. I'm sure some of their recipes and stories would be really interesting.

The first taste of real war that Beaulieu experienced came in the form of daylight air raids of Southampton Docks and the aircraft works at Woolston. Large formations of bombers, escorted by fighters, flew in from the direction of the Isle of Wight almost directly over the village, to be fired on by the anti-aircraft guns all around in the attempt to break up the formations. All this was quite noisy, but in daylight and good visibility there was little danger to the village itself. One or two enemy aircraft flew low over the area pursued by defending fighters with the sound of machine-gun fire often heard, but that was about all. As a result of one of these early raids a very large cold storage warehouse filled with butter was hit by dive bombers and set on fire. A large column of black smoke rose in the sky and despite all efforts by the fire brigades it burned for almost three days before the fire could be extinguished.

Much damage was done to the aircraft works as well. As a result most of the jobs of making the vital components were farmed out around the area in garages and small premises so that production, though affected for a short while, soon returned to normal. Enough has already been written about the Battle of Britain itself, so I don't think there is any need for me to add to that except to say that the vapour trails high in the sky became quite commonplace here as well, but after a short while no one took much notice of them anymore.

As the summer gave way to autumn, night raids were beginning to be mounted. These were quite a different thing as far as the village was concerned, the local searchlights lighting up some of the aircraft for the anti-aircraft batteries to fire on them. This

resulted in some of the first bombs being dropped in the area. The very first were about a dozen small bombs dropped between Beaulieu Road Station and Yew Tree Camp, possibly aimed at the anti-aircraft battery. All the local boys jumped on their bicycles and before long were searching for craters for splinters and such like.

Soon after this quite a number of larger bombs fell between Beufre Farm and the Brickyard. One blew a large crater in the middle of the road on the Beaulieu side of Beufre. Another very large bomb fell opposite the searchlight site at Harlick's Hill blowing a crater about thirty feet across and fifteen feet deep. Fortunately no casualties were caused and the only damage done was to the nerves and confidence of the villagers. This was certainly quite a bit different from anything previously experienced and when, shortly afterwards, two more bombs were dropped on the searchlight site itself, killing one soldier and injuring another, the site was closed. People in the village realised then that the war had indeed come quite a step closer to them.

Another thing which caused a little consternation in the village area was what were then known as Mobile Anti-Aircraft guns. These were quite large guns mounted on trailers and towed around by heavy trucks, and they would pull into any suitable site and, if there happened to be an air raid, would add their noise to all the rest. It was quite alarming if one happened to be near to their chosen pitch for that night, usually the first indication of their presence being an almighty bang which rattled doors and windows — in fact, in many cases they were worse than the actual bombs themselves. Whilst on the subject of noise, quite a different one heard during the winter was the sound of shell splinters falling on the ice which at times that year covered the Millpond. It was a sharp crack which set up a long echoing hollow ringing, something unlike anything I have ever heard before or since.

About this time the local Fire Brigade unit had its baptism of fire. During one of the early night raids on Southampton incendiary bombs fell on Dibden church, starting a serious fire. In spite of all the efforts to bring it under control the church itself was almost completely gutted, thereby achieving the distinction of being one of the first churches in the country to be destroyed by enemy action.

The crew from Beaulieu worked all night at the incident and, as some of the men said afterwards, with the noise of bombs and guns it was quite an alarming experience for them, being only about three miles from Southampton itself, in direct line across Southampton Water.

Soon after this the very heavy night raids on Southampton began. On two weekends following, large clusters of flares were dropped over the centre of the town, looking just like large chandeliers as they floated slowly down on their parachutes. Then came the incendiary bombs to start the fires intended to form the target for following aircraft carrying high explosive bombs. Great damage was done, especially to the lower part of the town and the dockland area. Southampton Water itself on moonlight nights was just like a long finger pointing up to the town lying at the top.

Of course, living out here in Beaulieu village, we were far enough away to be out of real danger but even so, now and then, stray sticks of bombs fell close enough to the village to be uncomfortable. Luckily, no real danger was caused — just a few cracked windows and ceilings, and an odd tile or two off a roof here and there. In fact, it was quite some time later that the first houses in the area were damaged. They were Oxleys and Gardiner's Ground, both large houses adjoining in Dock Lane. Each one suffered quite serious damage from bombs which dropped only just a few yards away from them. The occupants escaped serious injury but were badly shaken, as were many of the villagers too. The only other incident causing damage to property occurred when a large bomb fell in the middle of the road up to North Gate. A huge crater was blown, spanning the whole width of the road and about ten feet deep, but two cottages just a few yards away were only slightly damaged. It was almost unbelievable, as our tractor driver Dennis Read will bear out as he was living there with his family at the time.

In the next edition... Part 3 –All in it together

HELP!

Can anyone identify the venue of this photograph of the late 1800s or early 1900s? It shows Teddy Payne (behind horse) and on his left, his father Walter Payne (Parish Clerk). Walter died in 1912 aged 67. The family were wheelwrights and the village blacksmith for generations.



Picnic for the Palace House Workmen
from the Hampshire Advertiser August 23rd 1R7?

BEAULIEU, Aug. 23.

A DAY IN THE FOREST.—On Saturday the mechanics, workman, and others employed in rebuilding the Palace House, had a delightful day in the New Forest. The weather was all that could be desired. They met in the Palace grounds at 9 o'clock, formed a procession, and marched, headed by the band, to Castle House, where some hearty cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Richardson; thence for Halfpenny Green, halting at Pennerley Lodge, and giving three cheers for Capt. Hartopp, who kindly responded, and wished them a pleasant day. Then wending their way through some lovely Forest scenery, they arrived at their destination, and a well contested match at cricket was immediately begun between sixteen married men against sixteen single. The single went first to the wickets, and were disposed of by the married for seventy-one runs. The time being 1 o'clock dinner was announced, which consisted of a cold collation, provided and served up by Mr. Cherrett, of the Royal Oak, in a spacious tent, lent by Lord Henry Scott. The tables were tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens. About 120 sat down and thoroughly enjoyed the good things set before them.—The Rev. G. C. Stenning presided, and nothing could have been more satisfactory than the arrangements made and carried out through the exertions of a committee of the mechanics. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk, the chairman proposed the healths of Lord and Lady Scott, who, he understood, had not only supplied them with the excellent tent, but had given directions that their day's wages should also be paid to them.—This was received by a burst of applause, and "Long live Lord and Lady Scott," followed by "The health of the house of Buccleuch," which was responded to with musical honours.—Several other healths were given and responded to in quick succession, in order that the game at cricket might be resumed.—Mr. Warren, one of the mechanics, proposed "The health of the Rev. G. C. Stenning," who had so kindly come among them. He knew that there was not one present who did not consider it a very great honour to have their new minister presiding over them on this occasion.—This was very heartily responded to, and Mr. Stenning, in reply, said he came among them almost a stranger, but happily that was a disadvantage which would become less every day, and it gave him much pleasure to see such a body of men so well enjoying themselves, and he would take this opportunity to thank those among them who had been employed at the parsonage.—Everything had been done to his entire satisfaction, and he would beg the committee to accept a couple of sovereigns from him towards the expenses of the day.—(Loud cheers).—The married men then went to the wickets, and the single were declared winners by the small majority of 3 runs, having scored 68. Many of the wives and friends of the guests arrived in the afternoon, and dancing and other amusements were indulged in. Tea was provided, of which upwards of 100 partook. Shortly before 8 o'clock the procession was re-formed, and reached Beaulieu about 9 o'clock. Three hearty cheers were again given, and each went his way home, much pleased with the day's pleasure.

Report on previous meeting

On 14 and 15 April the Society met at Curtle House by kind invitation of Ian and Caroline Maiden.

John and Anne Coles gave a joint presentation on the history of the house. It had been listed as a Grade 2 building in 1975 when English Heritage described it as seventeenth century in origin with later rebuilding and alterations. But the site had a far longer connexion with the history of Beaulieu. The origin of the rare word "Curtle" might derive from the curtilages or kitchen gardens which lay within the precincts of the Cistercian Abbey. Curtle was not a monastic kitchen garden at the time of the Beaulieu Abbey Account Book of 1269/70 but it may have become one later.

The earliest surviving Beaulieu Estate rental of 1546/7 shows that the then tenants, Simon and Anna Curlyng, were leasing a property called Curtilgrange. Again, Curtle was not one of the monastic granges listed in the Account Book but it may have become a lesser kind of grange producing some commodities for the monks. By at least 1578, when the tenant was Henry Wells, there is evidence that there was a farmhouse on the site with some 76 acres, and 17th century documents confirm this.

Beaulieu's first known apothecary rented the house from 1645 to 1664. When the late. Dr. David Markby wished to hold surgeries at the house in the 1980's he was able to persuade the planning authorities that, given this historical precedent, no change of use was involved.

An inventory of the house in 1678 shows a substantial residence, and other documents reveal that the late owner, John Vinn, paid tax on twice as many hearths as his predecessor. This evidence makes it highly likely that the present Curtle House originated in the few years before 1678.

Among a series of interesting occupants of the house were Balthazar and Edward Adams, sons of Henry Adams, the master-builder of Buckler's Hard. They rented the house in the early years of the nineteenth century. The first clear reference to Curtle House, as distinct from Curtle Farm occurs in 1836. Between 1845 and around 1890 four agents of the Beaulieu Estate lived in the house successively.

From 1891 to 1942 the Reverend Powles, vicar of Beaulieu, occupied it. There was much discussion in 1947 about the possibility of the house becoming a permanent vicarage but it was decided that it was too large and too far from the Church.

continued overleaf

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Examination of architectural evidence showed large beams in the attic which were almost certainly 17th century in origin. Other features appear Georgian, possibly owing to improvements made by the Adams brothers whose lifestyle suggested a familiarity with architectural good taste and who would have had access to skilled carpenters from the boatyard.

The house was sold freehold in 1958 to Mr. and Mrs. Cordner, in 1969 to Dr. and Mrs Markby and in 2000 to Ian and Caroline Maiden.

The Maidens kindly entertained members of the Society on both evenings and invited them to tour the house. The Chairman thanked them warmly for their generous hospitality.

Anthony Norris

Don't miss...

Charles Sykes, everyone knows, designed the *Spirit of Ecstasy*, the car mascot of the Rolls Royce. What is not generally known are his connections to Beaulieu and the two features in Beaulieu which he designed. One was, of course, *The Tryptych*, which adorned the space of the central window in the South Wall of the Abbey Church until 1942. But what *is* the other, which, incidentally, celebrated its centenary last year?

In Palace House there is an exhibition showing Charles Sykes' work. It is well worth a visit... and the answer will be found there!

An article on Charles Sykes' contribution to Beaulieu will appear in the next newsletter. - *Editor*

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