

BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patron: Ailsa Montagu

No. 16 February 2012

NEXT MEETING

'The Cadland Estate and Lepe Beach'

Presented by Giliy Drummond O.B.E.

Friday February 17th

Beaulieu Village Hall

6.30 p.m.

*Drinks will be available from 6.00 p.m.  
The Annual General Meeting will follow the  
talk. Please see overleaf for agenda.*

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FINAL MEETING OF THE SEASON

'Hollywood Comes to Beaulieu' Presented by

Ailsa Montagu Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>

John Montagu Building Lecture Theatre 6.30 p.m.

*Drinks will be available from 6.00 p.m.*

The Society's next meeting will be on Friday, 17 February in the Village Hall when there will be a talk followed by the Annual General Meeting. Doors will open at 6.00 p.m.

The talk, beginning at 6.30, will be on the subject of "The Cadland Estate and Lepe Beach". The speaker will be Gill Drummond O.B.E., D.L., former Commissioner for English Heritage, who has held, and holds, many other posts—local, regional and national—connected with historic houses, parks and gardens, environmental and maritime affairs.

The agenda for the AGM, which will begin at approximately 7.30 is: 1.

- Chairman's Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for 2011
4. Appointment of Auditor
5. Annual Subscription
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other business

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The current Chair, Sir John Coles, will be standing down after the AGM. The committee recommend that Rosemary Johnson, the present Vice-Chair, be elected Chair, that Emma Page, the current Treasurer, be elected Vice-Chair while continuing to hold the post of Treasurer, and that Gill Hawkins be re-elected Secretary.

Tony Norris will stand down from the Committee. The other Committee members (Ralph Montagu and Anne Coles) are standing for re-election. (Honorary officers are ex-officio members of the Committee).

Should anyone wish to nominate a candidate for one of the honorary officer posts or for committee membership, please give to the Secretary or the Chair by Friday, 10 February the name of that person accompanied by his or her written indication of willingness to stand for election (in accordance with clause 8 of the Constitution). All proposals

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*Recent meetings (1)*

Meeting of the Society at St Leonard's Grange

The Society's opening meeting of the new season was held at St. Leonard's Grange on 9 September at the kind invitation of Neil and Christine McGrigor. St. Leonard's is the site of one of the granges or farms established by the Cistercian monks of Beaulieu Abbey. In a period of uncertain weather we were fortunate that the evening was warm and dry so that the largely outdoor visit could go ahead unaltered.

Neil and his father-in-law, Dr. Michael Little, conducted some 60 of the Society's members first to the Great Barn, a Grade 1 listed building ( which has been studied in detail in "The Barns of the Abbey of Beaulieu at its granges of Great Coxwell and Beaulieu-St. Leonard's" by Walter Horn and Ernest Born).

Our guides suggested that the Barn had been built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century, before the Abbey of Beaulieu itself, and that at that time it must have been one of the largest barns in England, being approximately two thirds of the length of the Abbey, which in turn was one of the largest Cistercian monasteries in the country.

The siting of the barn could be explained by the easy access afforded to the sea via Ginn's. It is likely that it was used for the storage of grain and wool. One of the original entrances had been moved at a later stage to become incorporated in the Gatehouse to the Abbey.

The charming ruined chapel was thought to have been built from 1260 onwards and then partially destroyed at the dissolution of the monasteries. It is not known why the name "St. Leonard's" was applied to the chapel or the grange in general though this was a popular name for mediaeval chapels.

Neil and Michael suggested that the ground floor of the house itself was probably constructed in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the second floor then being added when the chapel was erected in the 1260s.

The house was extended in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then again in 1910. It had been retained by the Beaulieu Estate until 1964, since when there have been three freehold owners.

*continued on next page*

Meeting of the Society at St Leonard's Grange (*continued*)

The Biel family had been tenants for over two hundred years from 1654 till 1867. It was possible that the extensive use of brick, for example in framing windows, in an otherwise stone house is explained by an estate decision to use the original ashlar stones for other buildings, filling the resulting gaps with bricks.

Following the tour, Neil and Christine generously entertained members to drinks and canapes, rounding off an evening which provided great interest and enjoyment.

*John Coles*

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*Recent meetings (2)*

Meeting of the Society on 2 December

Dan Snow, television history lecturer and presenter, and author, spoke to members on 2 December on *The Challenges of Making Television History*.

He explained that he believed strongly in the value of this form of history despite compromises that inevitably had to be made owing to the nature of the medium. The majority of people who watched such programmes would not have a history GCSE. You had to assume that they knew nothing about the subject and therefore present it in suitably broad terms. They could not be expected to sit through long monologues. In an hour of TV perhaps only 9000 words would be used, about the same as in a single scholarly article. Exciting pictures and interesting words were essential. Persuading the channels to put on history programmes was not easy.

The process of making programmes could be very educational. Words on the written page were all very well but when you actually interviewed participants in events you not only heard their words but felt the emotion behind them. The case of John Moffat, a pilot who bombed the Bismarck, was a good example. He had given Dan a fascinating account of the incident.

*continued overleaf*

Meeting of the Society on 2 December (*continued*)

Some people were critical of televised history and accused those who made it of "dumbing down". But the fact was that these programmes could reach an enormous audience. Sometimes one in ten of the British population i.e. five or six million were watching, while most history books would sell only a few thousand copies.

In the 1990's, Fukuyama's hook on "The End of History" had seemed to coincide with a general disinterest in the subject. But today history was much discussed. The current financial and economic crisis had created an appetite for accounts of earlier periods of economic depression. In some countries e.g. Serbia, Palestine and Northern Ireland historical events still resonated sharply. The internet was a powerful tool for spreading historical knowledge. A piece Dan had done about the discovery of a gun in an Irish hog and its refurbishment had attracted around a million readers.

There was now "a huge thirst for history". Tony Blair had told the Guardian at the end of his term of office: "I wish I had studied history". Properly understood, knowledge of history enabled us to work out how human beings were likely to behave in a given set of circumstances.

Dan then use a number of images to illustrate how he had come to develop his passion for history, beginning with trips with his father, Peter Snow, to historical sites, and later working with him on a number of programmes of military history. Later, he moved on to naval history.

A lasting impression from his work and travels was the massive impact that aspects of British society had had on the rest of the world, from the spread of the English language to our early industrial and financial achievements.

Over half an hour of rapid questions followed this fascinating and colourful presentation. The speaker had communicated to a large audience his powerful passion for the study and presentation of history.

*John Coles*

200 Years ago...

*Disastrous Fire*

*from the Hampshire Chronicle May Le<sup>h</sup> 1812*

On Tuesday night, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock, the noble mansion of Lord Montague, in Ditton Park, near Windsor, was discovered on fire. The family had just retired to bed, and before they could well extricate themselves, the whole of the house was in flames, and in less than an hour was entirely burnt to the ground. Fortunately no lives were lost, but the whole of the family plate and jewels, together with the valuable furniture and paintings, were entirely consumed. The fire was occasioned by the bursting of a flue which projected from a patent stove. The flue burst in the room adjoining that in which Lord and Lady Montague slept, the furniture of which was nearly consumed before they discovered the danger they were in. His Lordship immediately gave the alarm, and on the door being opened the flames burst forth with such violence, that it was with the utmost difficulty the family escaped. His Lordship and family retired to an adjoining farm-house until they obtained carriages to convey them to Windsor.

Lord Montagu (of Boughton) was the second son of Henry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Buccleuch and Elizabeth. On Elizabeth's death in 1827, Lord Montagu of Boughton inherited the Beaulieu Estate and proved to be a great benefactor to the village until his death in 1845. As he did not have a male heir, the Estate then reverted to his nephew Walter Francis, 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Buccleuch.

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### A LIST OF CENTENARIANS.

The following list of persons who are said to have attained their 130th year is taken from the *Morning Post* of Tuesday, December 25, 1804:—

Year.	Name.	Age.	Year.	Name.	Age.
1795	David Cameron...	130	1785	Mary Cameron ...	139
1766	John de la Sornel	130	1752	William Laland...	146
1766	George King ...	130	—	Countess Desmond	149
1767	John Taylor ...	130	—	mond	149
1774	William Beatie ...	130	1770	James Sands ...	149
1778	John Watson ...	130	1773	Swarling A. Monk	142
1780	Robert McBride	130	1773	Charles McFindlay ...	143
1780	William Ellis ...	130	—	lay ...	143
1764	Elizabeth Taylor	131	1757	John Effingham...	144
1795	Peter Garden ...	131	1782	Evan Williams ...	145
1761	Elizabeth Merchant ...	133	1766	Thomas Winsloe	146
1772	Mrs. Keith ...	134	1772	J. C. Drahakenberg	146
1767	Francis Aque ...	134	—	berg	146
1777	John Brookey ...	134	1652	William Mead ...	148
1744	Jane Harrison ...	135	1768	Francis Conhi ...	150
1759	James Theile ...	136	1542	Thomas Newman	152
1708	Catherine Noon...	136	1635	Thomas Parr ...	152
1771	Margaret Forster	136	1650	James Bowles ...	152
1776	John Moriat ...	136	—	Henry West ...	152
1772	John Richardson	137	1648	Thomas Dawnie	154
1793	— Robertson ...	137	1761	A Polish Peasant	157
1757	Wm. Sharpley ...	138	1797	Joseph Surrington ...	160
1768	John McDorrrough	138	—	ton ...	160
1770	— Fairbrother...	138	1668	Wm. Edwards ...	168
1772	Mrs. Clum ...	138	1670	Henry Jenkins ...	169
1766	Thomas Dobson..	139	1782	Louisa Truxo ...	175
—	—	—	1588	Thomas Carn ...	107

It is stated that this last case is authenticated by an entry in the parish register of St. Leonard, Shore-ditch. In the *Hampshire Chronicle* of Monday, Oct. 13, 1800, occurs the death of Ambrose Bennett, aged 106 years, at Tetbury.

R. G. DAVIS (Coves).

[In a recent Note about centenarians in the last century we pointed out that registers were not so carefully kept then as now, and stated that we had some suspicion the evidence as to the ages given were not reliable. The above list gives point to our remarks.]

— R. G. DAVIS.

## BEAULIEU IN WORLD WAR II

*by Walter Elsworth*

Part 3: All in it together.

I think I must now leave the air raids and bombs for a while and try to recall something of the Home Guard. The force was formed from the old Local Defence Volunteers. All able-bodied men between the ages of seventeen and about sixty who were not already engaged on war service were directed either to Civil Defence, Fire Service or Home Guard duties. This meant that in a village the size of Beaulieu (with East Boldre) quite a large number of men were involved. Army uniforms were issued to everyone, also rifles ( these being American .300 models, not very modern but quite useful weapons from the First World War).

Up in the Winepress in the Abbey grounds was a small-bore rifle range for preliminary training while Old Park gravel pit was used as range for the larger weapons. The single detached room at Clock House was taken over as guardroom, bunks being installed so that a small detachment could mount guard on the bridge each night. The other areas covered consisted to a large extent of woodland, including the Ashen Wood an Old Park beats and a quite ingenious system was used, naming all the main paths and crossroads after London streets and Circuses. Some of the name boards were still in existence until long after the war when they finally rotted away.

At this time, in and around the village, quite a number of large houses were requisitioned by the Army authorities. All of them were unoccupied, scattered all around the estate, but usually in pairs. No one seemed to know quite what was happening; the army units involved being quite a mixture of different regiments, quite small, but with an unusual number of fairly high-ranking officers.

The local boys discovered a small-arms range in the woods between House in the Woods and North Gate, but were soon chased off by soldiers, if discovered there. Quite a lot of secrecy always seemed to cover just what was being done and it was not until the end of the war that it was revealed that Special Operations Executive (S.O.E.) had operated a school here for training agents for service in occupied Europe. Quite a bit was afterwards explained with the making of the film `Odette' much of which was filmed on location at The Rings which turned out to be the headquarters of the school. Unfortunately the large house was later demolished, only the kitchen and the staff quarters being left. They were made into a small residence by Mr and Mrs Stobart.

It was then too at that period of the war that food production was the order of



the day — DIG FOR VICTORY! Large areas of the New Forest were cleared of gorse and heather, and ploughed up to produce crops of corn and potatoes. Very good crops were grown on these patches, all being cultivated by the War Agricultural Executive, a government body which controlled most of the agricultural work done, even to ordering the local farmers what to grow, and where on their own land. A little friction was caused here, mainly because many of the 'War Ag.' Officials were farmers themselves who could not make a living from farming but were given well-paid jobs to see that other farmers did as they were ordered by the people in authority who seemed to have almost unlimited powers.

I suppose that this was the beginning of the more hungry period when many foods had become quite scarce. Most of the foods off-ration had disappeared and rationing itself was quite severe. Most people kept a few chickens in their gardens, fed on scraps from neighbours as well as their own, and the eggs were carefully shared. Pig keeping also proved to be quite popular—individually or in the form of 'Pig Clubs', and the local butcher was kept quite busy during the winter months killing pigs for the villagers to salt down and use later as they required. Down at Palace House a cow was purchased to supply cream to make butter (some of the lawns being fenced off to provide grazing). This continued for some time after the war until food became more plentiful and then the lawns were put back to normal use. Chickens were also kept, surplus eggs being preserved in water glass to cover the non-laying period. Fruit and tomatoes from the gardens were bottled and preserved — in fact nothing at all was allowed to go to waste.

At this time two bombs were dropped in what is now the rally field, one demolishing one of the farmer's chicken houses, killing quite a number of birds, and the other in the ditch at the bottom of the vineyard, killing three or four rabbits. The farmer allowed the village children a couple of chicken each to take home with them so, with a rabbit was well, it was quite a 'Red Letter Day'. They certainly made a nice change from dried egg and 'Woolton Pies'. Still, with fresh vegetables from the gardens and fruit when in season, things around Beaulieu were not quite so bad as in the towns. Bartering became the order of the day and it was quite amazing just what was exchanged. Quite a number of novel recipes were used too, such as cakes made with apple in the place of dried fruit and Christmas Puddings with chopped prunes, dates and goodness knows what else besides. The bread was what was known as the 'National Loaf', brown in colour but highly nutritious we were told, though not all that appetising.

At that time the sailors stationed at Exbury held quite a few dances in the Domus. As in the Navy the bread was always white, it was one of the great delights when we went down and cleared the floor and lit the fire, to be rewarded with a loaf of white bread and a share of one of the large tins of

fruit salad which they used as part of the refreshments. 'Big Eats' the sailors called it, and to us it most certainly was. Enough of food and rationing, let us return to events happening around the village.

Just after the days of the heavy night raids, towards the end of 1941 a number of Royal Air Force personnel were billeted in houses and cottages around the village. Each day they were collected by lorry and taken up to Hilltop where, between the Hythe and Fawley roads, quite large installations were being erected, a series of tanks connected by pipes and a lot of odd-looking bits and pieces. It was all kept secret but eventually it was found to be a dummy target to divert bomb attacks from Southampton.

In the event of a raid, oil fires were to be ignited out on the heath to confuse the bomber crews, but fortunately (to the best of my knowledge) was never used in earnest though it stayed until the end of the war. The men became quite popular with the village folks, two of them married local girls and settled down to live here, while some of the others still keep in touch with the families with whom they were billeted even today.

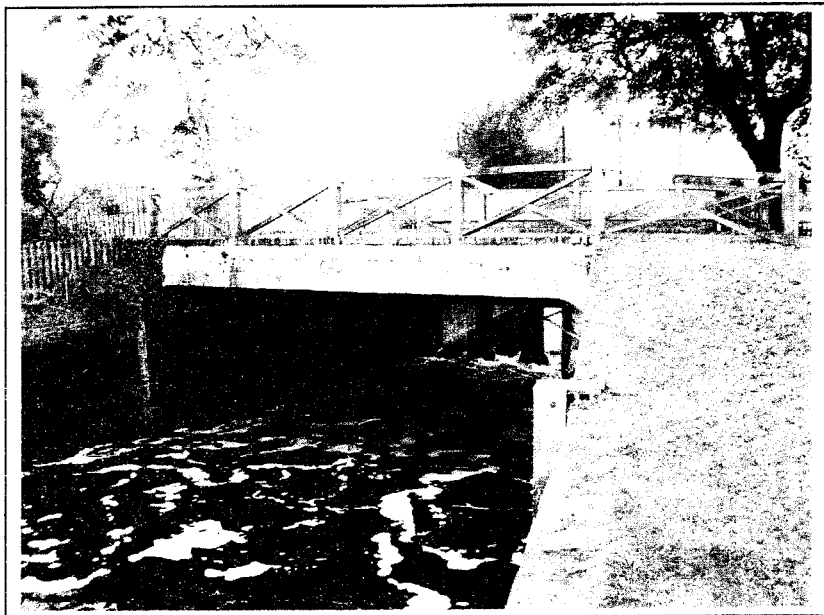
At this time a battery of heavy Anti-Aircraft guns took over the old searchlight site at Harlicks Hill, the men in a hutted camp and the Officer's Mess was in the Lodge House. Although most of the heavier raids were over, there was always sporadic enemy air activity and in one of these raids one of the gun pits received a very near miss — which resulted in one man's death and several others injured. It was almost a repeat of the incident earlier with the searchlight crew, but in this case the guns remained until the end of the war. However they were never called upon for any prolonged action.

Meanwhile back on the civilian front great emphasis was put on war savings. Special campaigns were laid on, the first being called 'Salute the Soldier Week', followed later by 'Navy Week' and finally 'Wings for Victory' week. During these weeks each village, town or area set themselves a target sum to be raised by war savings. Dances, Whist Drives and quite a number of other functions were held, and in most cases the targets were exceeded — sometimes by quite large amounts. All these things proved very good for the social life, especially in the small villages such as Beaulieu, where travel facilities were very limited. Indeed, it was quite a closed little area and any such function was eagerly looked forward to by everyone.

During the middle period of the war much attention was given to the bridge across the river. This was a little shaky, certainly when buses and such-like crossed, and eventually it was deemed necessary to build a new one. As the road could not be closed, it was decided to build a temporary bridge above the existing one, and then work underneath on the new structure.

The Royal Engineers moved in and very soon erected one of the first Bailey bridges. These proved very successful later in the war, especially during the invasion of Europe when so much importance was placed on this bridge that a permanent guard was mounted on it all the time it was in operation.

The Military Police (Blue Caps, or Vital Points Police) was a small detachment quartered in The Lodge Cottage, and they soon made friends with the local folks, even though after dark the villages were quite often challenged with 'HALT, WHO GOES THERE?' followed by the click of a rifle bolt. This became a little frightening at first, especially with the black-out, but it soon became part of village life.



*Above: The Mill bridge, rebuilt in 1943 to take large military vehicles in the D build up.*

By the time the new bridge was opened, large gangs of workmen were being used to widen most of the roads in the area, especially the ones leading down to the beaches at Lepe and Calshot.

In Beaulieu itself the road from Hatchett Gate through to Hilltop was widened, in some places by as much as eight to ten feet, and at Abbey Gate Corner, Palace Lane Cottages, Ropeways and Parson's Mead in particular.

Lay-bys were also made and these can still be seen today in many of the local lanes and roads, East Boldre and Pilley Bailey having two of the very largest. (After the war when the Water Authority laid their water mains through the village, they encountered some of this work, and as a result some of the tire

hydrants and stop-cocks had to be in the middle of the road instead of along the side, as is normal practice.) This, of course, was part of the initial steps taken before the build-up of military strength in the area prior to the D-Day landings and the invasion of Europe. Above:



*The road leading to  
military vehicles*

*the High Street to the bridge, along which all the*

Work was also started at Park Farm on clearing trees and hedges, filling in ditches, etc. and laying acres of large mesh. (heavy gauge wire netting) form temporary forward-landing ground for 2nd Tactical Air Force fighters.

These aircraft were Hawker Typhoons, very noisy and powerful, and equipped with heavy cannon and anti-tank rockets. The landing ground itself ran from Buckerley's Copse almost down to Park Farm. When flying operations were actually taking place, the road between Leonards And Bergerie Farm had to be closed.

soon after the landings in France, when sufficient ground was taken, the whole unit crossed over and operated from the bridgehead and activities here virtually ceased. The landing ground was left open for emergencies only

Meanwhile, up at Beaulieu Road Station a large area was laid out as a dump for all types of war equipment. Large amounts of every conceivable article as stored in stacks between the railway line and the road, ready to be picked up and taken to any part of the district where it was required.

Also, alongside the road from close to Beaulieu Road to Pig Bush, tons of brick rubble from bombed areas of Southampton were laid to form continuous lay-bys. They were for use by military vehicles passing through on exercises and rehearsals of landing tactics. These came to light again a few years ago when the Forestry Commission took out ditches to prevent cars parking on the roadside verges — another small reminder of war-time days.

Huge camps were laid out between Culverley and Penerley, and also at High Wood. The soldiers stationed there were, for the most part, British — many of them Eighth Army men brought back from North Africa to rest and re-train for the coming invasion of France.

Smaller camps were set up at Otterwood, Bulls Wood and Ranns Wood, in Furzey Lodge, and into these moved American troops, many of them coloured.

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*125 years ago...*

*Medical Notes*

*from the Hampshire Independent December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1887*

**HOW TO CURE THE GOUT.**

The following is a very ancient recipe for the cure of a complaint from which it would almost be too much to hope every reader of this column is free:—"The ingredients for this remedie cannot bee had without a little theft, but as no one's stocks will be endangered, the sufferer will be contented too run a little risk in order to obtain great relief. 1st,—He must pick a handkerchiefe from the pockett of a maide of 50 years, who never had a wish to change her condition. 2nd,—He must wash it in an honest miller's pond. 3rd,—He must dry it on a parson's hedge that was never covetous. 4th,—He must scent it in a doctor's shop who never kill'd a patiente. 5th,—He must mark it with a lawyer's ink who never cheated a cliente. Applie it to the part affected, and a cure will speedilie follow."

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**NOTICE**

A marriage has been celebrated between Mr. John Henry Adams, of London, and Miss Alice Mary, of Beaulieu, the daughter of Mr. Lloyd and Lady, of Tynney Hall, Hampshire, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

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**FATAL ACCIDENT TO A POSTAL EMPLOYEE.**

On Monday morning, about 9.30, Mr. Ernest A. Martin, of Northam-street, Southampton, engaged in the Telephone Construction Department of the Southampton Post Office, was engaged in making a connection with the Estate Office at Beaulieu, and, unfortunately, missing his footing, fell headlong from the roof of the house. Dr. Wilson, a visitor at the Montagu Arms' Hotel, witnessed the accident, and gave immediate attention to the unfortunate man, and Dr. Gosse arrived within a few minutes. It was at once evident that the injuries were of a most serious nature, and eventually the sufferer was conveyed to the house of P.C. Buckland, where every attention was given by Dr. Child, the P.O. medical attendant, but the unfortunate man passed away on Tuesday evening, about 9.30. Much sympathy is felt for the widow and four children. On Wednesday evening the body was conveyed to Southampton for interment.

The Estate Office was the building= which is now the Art Gallery in Beaulieu High Street.

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## THE HISTORY OF HILL TOP HOUSE — Revisited

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 the Beaulieu History Society were entertained by Brett and Rosemary Johnson at Hill Top House and a presentation on the history of the house and farm was given by them. Since then, further research has revealed more of the history.



On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 The Beaulieu History Society were entertained by Brett and Rosemary Johnson at Hill Top House and a presentation on the history of the house and farm was given by them. Since then, further research has revealed more of the history.

Members will be aware of the spate of arson attacks in the early years of this century culminating in the part destruction of the old mill. It seems that the village was plagued similarly over a hundred years ago.

Hill Top Farm was the first casualty as the newspaper cuttings from the *January 7<sup>th</sup> 1885* and *January 10<sup>th</sup> 1885* editions of the *Hampshire Advertiser* on the next page reveal.

Such was the seriousness of the fire that only Hill Top House itself remained. One wonders the effect it had on Leonard Horlock as he left the house and farm soon afterwards. In fact, in 1890 it was relet as Hill Top House itself with just three acres. The farm was let separately, and has been so ever since.

BEAULIEU, JAN. 7.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE occurred on Friday evening at Hill Top-farm, occupied by Mr. E. L. Horlock. It seems from a statement made by William Harris, of Millbrook, the driver of a mail cart, that at a quarter to 7 o'clock he was passing by the farm, and saw a man, dressed in a light coat and trousers, with some lighted straw in his hand, which he applied to the thatched roof of one of the farm buildings, after which he ran off and was not seen again. The roof at once became a mass of fire in consequence of the wind that was blowing, and Harris gave an alarm. The fire spread with great rapidity, but Mr. Horlock, with assistance, managed to get out the horses and other live stock. The whole of the farm buildings, with the exception of the farm house, were destroyed, together with the farm implements, corn, straw, &c., the entire damage being estimated at £1200. Mr. Horlock's loss is covered by insurance, and the farm buildings, the property of Lord Henry Scott, were also insured. A number of the county police were present, and rendered efficient service. The police have made every inquiry, but up to the present have not been successful in apprehending the incendiary, who, it is to be hoped, may yet be caught and brought to justice.

BEAULIEU, JAN. 10.

THE INCENDIARY FIRE.—The police have up to the present been unable to apprehend the person who set fire to Hill Top-farm on Friday evening, and thereby caused such serious damage, as reported in Wednesday's impression. It should be stated that among those who rendered valuable assistance in preventing the fire spreading to the farm house was Mr. John Scott, a son of Lord Henry Scott, J.P. No motive can be assigned for the action of the incendiary unless it was spite or pure wanton mischief.



It was not until the following year that the next fire occurred. It was at Palace Farm, which was later renamed Home Farm, situated at the foot of the hill leading into Beaulieu from Hill Top. The local newspaper carried the grim report... *...but the buildings, composed chiefly of wood and thatch, were consumed before efficient help could arrive, and every animal therein was burnt to death, viz., two valuable horses, a splendid Jersey bull, also nine pigs, eighteen geese, forty-eight pigeons and about 300 head of chicken...*

Soon after there were two hayrick fires, one by the mill, then rented by the Burden family.

A hayrick fire in early 1889 at Bouverie Farm led to Edwin Lowe, a labourer from Bucklers Hard being arrested for arson. At the Winchester Spring Quarter Sessions he was convicted and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. Apparently there had been some ill-feeling between an uncle of the prisoner, the tenant of an adjoining farm, and Lord Montagu, and the prisoner was supposed to have shared in the feeling against his lordship.

Whether Edwin Lowe was responsible for the earlier fires we will probably never know though, as he would have only been 17 or 18 at the time of the Hill Top Farm fire, it is doubtful.

Returning to the History of Hill Top House, members who attended the talk will remember that the tenant at the end of the nineteenth century was the Reverend James Thompson, Curate at Beaulieu Church, his mother and his wife.

A sad accident befell his mother at Hill Top House in February 1896 when, having a fit, she fell on the oil stove. It led to her death soon afterwards. The new spaper report of the incident adds that her husband was murdered in the Indian Mutiny before her eyes and two of her three children died due to the privations they had to undergo during the mutiny. She indeed had a fraught life.

The Reverend Thompson's career came to an abrupt end he was discovered having a relationship with a local girl, one Maud Young. Just prior to him moving to Fawley as the new priest, his wife caught him kissing Maud Young. It was quite a serious offence as Maud was under 16 years old. In November 1900 the case was heard at the Winchester Quarter Sessions and Reverend James Thompson was convicted and sent to gaol for 12 months.

In spite of Rev Powles' intervention, on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1901 the Archbishop of Canterbury decreed that he should not be permitted to act as a priest again. The notice on the next page was published at Winchester Cathedral.

## The Late Charge Against a Fawley Curate.

### AN INTERESTING SEQUEL.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has caused to be published at Winchester Cathedral the following notice:—

"By his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury—  
Diocese of Winchester.

"The Rev. James Henry Thompson, Clerk.  
"Clergy Discipline Act, 1892.

"Whereas the Rev. James Henry Thompson, Clerk in Holy Orders, now undergoing his sentence in his Majesty's Prison at Winchester, in the County of Hants, and the Diocese of Winchester, was on Monday, the 19th day of November, 1900, convicted on indictment of a misdemeanour, and was on that conviction sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for the space of 12 calendar months; and whereas the conviction has become conclusive within the meaning of the Clergy Discipline Act, 1892, and whereas the Bishop of Winchester has failed to declare the said James Henry Thompson incapable of holding preferment within 21 days of the conviction becoming conclusive; Now, therefore, notice is hereby given, that the Archbishop of Canterbury, through the Right Hon. Sir James Parker Deane, Kt., K.C., D.C.L., his Grace's Vicar-General, or official principal, a person acting under the authority of the Archbishop, will declare the said James Henry Thompson to be incapable of holding preferment, at Lambeth Palace, in the County of Surrey, on the 17th day of April, 1901, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

"Dated this 29th day of March, 1901.

"HARRY M. LEE, Registrar.

"Vicar-General's Office,

"3, Creed-lane, Ludgate-hill, London."

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*Correspondence column...*

*Overleaf is a letter that appeared in the Hampshire Independent of February 22nd 1890*

One would never imagine that a Ball arranged to raise funds for the Crick Club could cause such a furore!

## THE BEAULIEU BALL.

### A LESSON TO THE SNOBBISH.

Sir,—With reference to the Beaulieu ball, noticed in your columns of the 15th, which was under the patronage of Lord and Lady Montagu, the Hon. John Scott-Montagu, Lady Cecil Montagu, and the Hon. Rachel Scott-Montagu, and was held for the benefit of the Cricket Club. By the way, I believe a satisfactory sum was realised for the object in view. Perhaps it is not generally known that a ball was at first suggested, on rather a different basis to the one which took place on the 13th. The committee was formed, meetings were held, various proposals agreed to, invitations—or rather notices—were sent out. But, alas! it was confined to a select circle! And when a few heard that Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So were going, who, those sticklers for etiquette, hardly considered eligible for their society, they immediately exclaimed—“Oh, no, we could not think of going.” The result was that the affair was thrown up altogether, when the real *elite* of the village kindly came to the rescue, nobly overthrew the whims of the so-called “aristocracy of the 2nd class,” threw the doors open to any who cared to come, by paying a nominal price, for their tickets. That the undertaking was a marked success is acknowledged by everyone, and great credit is due to the stewards for the excellent arrangement of everything. I was pleased to notice the Hon. John Montagu dancing with his dependents, and if he does not think it beneath his dignity to do so, surely those far beneath him in rank need not be so scrupulous. It is a noteworthy fact that such narrowness of mind is invariably found amongst the middle classes of society. Many have yet to learn that true “*noblesse oblige*” lies neither in dress nor circumstances. The character, which alone makes real greatness, is altogether independent of either birth or social position. A king may be no more worthy of honour than the meanest of his subjects, and, of course, *vice versa*. We wonder who was most disappointed, the select few who denied themselves the pleasure of a good dance, in the plea of having to mingle with “everyone,” or the gay and happy throng who did not seem in the least to miss their small-minded, pedantic, microscopic critics. In conclusion, let us hope our friends will profit by the lesson which they have learnt.

Yours,

ON-LOOKER.

The letter elicited the following response in the next edition... Ant

### THE BEAULIEU BALL.

Sir,—Kindly allow me space for a few remarks in reference to a most uncharitable letter inserted in your issue of February 22nd concerning the "Beaulieu Ball" of the 15th ult., written by "Onlooker," who should first cultivate for himself the spirit of *noblesse oblige* before trying to impress the lesson upon other people, as his letter was evidently written in a spirit of vindictiveness. Why should persons be termed "snobbish" for preferring to spend an evening at home to rambling round a schoolroom in the arms of perhaps a groom or footman, or encircling the form of a buxom cook, who are under the delusion they are waltzing? No slight is intended to these estimable personages, but the "second-class aristocracy," as "Onlooker" sarcastically calls them—no doubt imagining himself facetious—have as much right, even at Beaulieu, as the first-class aristocracy to chose society most congenial to their taste, and are not quite overwhelmed at the loss of an honour they perhaps might have had, viz. that of performing a few evolutions with a supposed future M.P.

**SECOND CLASS ARISTOCRAT.**

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#### THE BEAULIEU' HISTORY SOCIETY

##### Officers and Committee:

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

125 years ago...

from the Hampshire Advertiser June 18<sup>th</sup> 1887

**BEAULIEU, JUNE 18.**

**LAUNCH.**—On Saturday morning last the usually quiet village of Beaulieu was all astir by the launch of a new boat, belonging to and made by Mr. W. D. Gainsford. Great praise is due to this ingenious and energetic gentleman, who, we believe, made it almost entirely himself. The weather was charming, and a very pretty sight it was to see it launched from the Mill-bridge. The boat bears the name of "Toby." We believe it is the first launch that has taken place at Beaulieu since the year 1815, when one of our men-of-war was built at Beaulieu Hard, which was then famous for shipbuilding. Let us hope that Mr. Gainsford and his family will enjoy many a pleasant sail in such a creditable specimen of his own handiwork.

**EXBURY, JUNE 18.**

**CRICKETERS FOR AUSTRALIA.**—Mr. H. W. Forster has been invited to join Messrs. Shaw and Shrewsbury's mixed team of cricketers for Australia, which will leave in September.

William Gainsford was the tenant of Curtle House prior to Rev. Powles, and was a prominent member of the community during his stay. He lost his son Robert, aged 17, in January 1887. I expect he built his boat on the quay adjacent to the Fire Station. I remember Palace Quay Boat Builders in the 1960s, run by Peter Rowley. He used to take us Beaulieu children down to Seagull Island where we used to collect seagulls eggs which he sold, I believe, to The Montagu Arms and other hotels.

The cricket report is also interesting inasmuch as it mentions Henry Forster. Henry Forster, of Exbury Hall, married Rachel, daughter of Lord Henry Montagu-Douglas-Scott on Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1890 at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, the ceremony being conducted by the Rev Robert Frazer Powles. Vicar of Beaulieu.

Henry Forster, later Lord Forster of Lepe was an accomplished cricketer. Alfred Shaw, mentioned in the cutting, used to come to Exbury to coach the young Henry Forster. It was Alfred Shaw who bowled the first ball in the first ever cricket Test Match against Australia in 1877. It must have come as a great pleasure to him to be invited by his coach, Alfred Shaw to join the tour.

Henry Forster was a member of the Hampshire XI from the 1880s up to 1895. He was described as a strong right handed batsman, a slow left arm bowler and a splendid fielder at mid-off. In 1919 he was made President of the M.C. C., in 1919 was elevated to the peerage, becoming Lord Forster of Lepe, and in 1920 became Governor General of Australia.

Henry Forster played cricket occasionally for Beaulieu. The scorecard shown is of a match played in 1894, at Beaulieu, against South Hants.

SOUTH HANTS v. BEAULIEU.			
This match was played at Beaulieu on Monday last, Beaulieu winning by nine wickets. Score:—			
BEAULIEU.			
H. W. Forster, b Cave	...	26	
R. H. Pemberton, c Hinks, b Hay	...	4	b Steele ... 0
F. Read, b Hickman	...	32	
H. B. Dyke, c and b Cave	...	10	
J. Tuck, b Cave	...	8	not out ... 5
W. R. Williams, b Hickman	...	5	
A. G. Renshaw, b Steele	...	0	
H. Bennett, c and b Hickman	...	2	
Willajor, c Hay, b Hickman	...	0	not out ... 2
Dr. Hutchinson, b Steele	...	0	
W. Bowyer, not out	...	0	
Extras	...	9	Extras ... 7
		106	14
SOUTH HANTS.			
D. A. Steele, b Forster	...	4	c Williams, b Forster ... 0
F. R. Wilkinson, b Read	...	7	b Forster ... 37
Cave, b Read	...	1	b Forster ... 0
R. N. Hinks, b Forster	...	4	b Dyke ... 0
W. Furze, b Forster	...	3	c Williams, b Dyke ... 8
G. Passmore, run out	...	0	b Dyke ... 7
C. T. Hay, b Forster	...	3	not out ... 6
H. J. Hickman, not out	...	9	c Renshaw, b Forster ... 7
F. G. Colas, b Dyke...	...	6	b Forster ... 0
W. F. Watson, b Dyke	...	0	c Renshaw, b Forster ... 4
E. M. C. Ede, b Forster	...	0	run out ... 1
Extras	...	3	Extras ... 2
		40	72

South Hants were one of the premier cricket teams of the county and played at the County Ground. As can be seen, Henry Forster played a significant part in Beaulieu's victory, being second highest scorer and taking eleven wickets. In the South Hants team were three county and future county players, Messrs Steele, Cave and Ede.

In the Beaulieu team were Ralph Pemberton and Henry Dyke, the Steward and Under-Steward of Beaulieu Estate, and Walter Williams was the Headmaster of the Beaulieu Boys School. Some of the other players are identified as Fawley players, notably Dr. Hutchinson, and it is evident Beaulieu strengthened their team for such high profile matches. These were indeed heady days for the Beaulieu Cricket Club.

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*125 years ago...*

*Old Age*

*from the Hampshire Independent June 1887*

### ANOTHER HAMPSHIRE CENTENARIAN.

Early on Monday morning last there passed away at Boldre, near Lymington, a man named George Read, who had attained the great age of 101 years, he having been born on October 10, 1786. During this long period he had enjoyed the best of health, and it was only a few weeks ago that he was laid aside by failing strength. For years he was employed by the Crown as a Forest keeper and woodman, and 20 years ago he received a well-earned pension. "Old George" was a great smoker, and seldom was to be seen without his "clay." He was not a member of a total abstinence society, being what is termed a "moderate" man. He was exceedingly industrious, and the garden at the residence of his son, with whom he resided, was a pattern to the neighbourhood. Two years ago he was an important witness in the Lady Cross rating appeal case—a dispute between the parish of Boldre and the Lyndhurst Board of Guardians as to the parish boundary—and his evidence was a strong point for Boldre. He lived to see four generations, and full of years has passed away. He will long be remembered by numerous relatives and friends.

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## RULES OF THE ROAD.

### Lord Montagu of Beaulieu on the Duty of the Pedestrian.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu suggests that the rule of the road should be taught in the schools. In a letter to the "Times" he says the following three might be taken as covering the greater part of the pedestrian's duty.

1. Look to the right before you cross a street or road.
2. Do not step off a vehicle without looking behind you.
3. Cross streets or roads in a direction opposed to the stream of traffic, and not with it.

There are other hints which also might be given, such as—Do not hang on to moving vehicles, and then suddenly dart out into the road. Do not stop to read in the middle of a busy street. Do not hold your umbrella so as to obstruct your view of approaching vehicles, etc.

In addition there might be taught ordinary common-sense rules for the drivers of vehicles, whether horse-drawn or mechanically propelled, such as:—

1. Keep as near as possible to the correct side of the road in the direction in which you are travelling.
2. Always keep to your proper side when rounding a corner.
3. Never turn to the right or left without holding out your hand to warn vehicles coming up behind you.
4. Look round before starting out from the kerb.

May I also add another reflection? While a good deal of trouble is taken by private and public employers to see that their motor-men understand the mechanical part of the vehicle which they are driving, but little attention, comparatively is given to teaching traffic rules. Would it not be as well that another excellent idea of the London General Omnibus Company—that of giving their men instruction in traffic matters—should be extended to taxi-cabmen and drivers of all kinds of vehicles?