



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 17 April 2012

Chairman's Column



Rosemary
Johnson

Thank you for electing me as your new chairman. I shall do my best to follow the shining example of **Sir John Coles** and continue to arrange meetings and events which will be of interest to you. I am very fortunate in having an inspiring committee that includes: Vice Chairman and Treasurer, **Emma Page**, who is currently studying for a doctorate in history; Secretary, **Gillian Hawkins**, who set up the 'D day' meeting in 2010 and is organising the November meeting; **Anne Coles**, who has a doctorate in social history and will be organising research groups and archive material; **Christina Dykes** with an MA in medieval history will be taking over from me as events co-ordinator; **John Pemberton**, who among other positions is on the board of the New Forest National Park Authority, will be undertaking production of the newsletter.

Finally, I feel very fortunate in having **Ralph Montagu's** guidance on our committee: he has helped to open many doors and his advice and local knowledge is extensive and profound. We could not do without the help of our spouses and volunteers who ensure the smooth-running of our meetings.

A list of committee members and contact details can be found on the back page and I hope you will let us know of any ideas and information which you think might be of interest.

Some of the ideas I hope to include in the next few years are: to invite members to take part in workshops such as: assisting the owners of historic houses to discover and record their history; adding to and archiving research already done by the Society; joining digs and courses run by the New Forest National Park and others; assisting in 'field days' which might involve parents and children; paying visits to historic sites. Your suggestions will be most welcome and appreciated. Please let any committee member know if you would like to volunteer for any of these activities.

At the next meeting on 27 April 6pm **Ralph and Ailsa Montagu** will give a presentation entitled **Hollywood Comes to Beaulieu**, to be held in the Lecture Theatre at the John Montagu Building. There will be a licensed bar. An early summer meeting is in the pipeline, and an October talk **Stories of Conflict** will contain fascinating recollections of military conflicts from eminent BHS members, **Col. Henry Cadogan** and **Admiral Kit Layman**.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Rosemary Johnson

Contents

| | Page |
|--------------------------|------|
| Chairman's Column | 1 |
| New Forest Remembers | 2 |
| A Fascinating Gravestone | 2 |
| The Cadland Estate | 3 |
| Annual General Meeting | 4 |

Dates for your Diary

27 April 2012 6pm

Hollywood Comes to Beaulieu, John Montagu Theatre

25 May 2012 6pm

Members Visit to Buckler's Hard including river cruise, details to follow

26 October 2012 6pm

Stories of Conflict, Beaulieu Village Hall

Subscriptions

Membership fees are now overdue. If you have not yet paid, please send a cheque for £5 per member payable to 'Beaulieu History Society' together with a SAE to: Gill Hawkins, Membership Secretary at her address on the back page.

How to get this newsletter

To save time and postage costs, the Society is now sending out newsletters by email, where we have your email address.

If you are reading this and have not given us your email address, please send it to Gill Hawkins, Secretary at jr.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk. If you cannot receive the newsletter by email, copies will be available to collect at Society meetings or at Queensmead Newsagents in Beaulieu High Street, or by arrangement with Gill Hawkins (see back page).

New Forest Remembers

The New Forest National Park Authority has created the **New Forest Remembers** project to address the



lack of survey work, recording and understanding of the New Forest's role in World War II.

"Few people realise the important role that the New Forest played in World War II. Its strategic location on the south coast meant that

the New Forest was crucial in a range of operations and was home to a wide range of World War II installations."

The Beaulieu History Society held a **Memories of D-Day** evening in November 2010 at which Beaulieu residents recollections of World War II were sound recorded. Several houses and buildings around Beaulieu were locations in World War II of the **Special Operations Executive** (SOE) in-

volved in military intelligence and covert operations.

These are two examples of the wealth of information Beaulieu can contribute to this project, and the History Society has been invited with other New Forest history and archaeology societies to be a 'stakeholder' in the project. A talk on the project by officers of the National Park Authority is planned in the near future.

John Pemberton

A Fascinating Gravestone

Recently, all the walls of the graveyard of Beaulieu Abbey Church were cleared of long-standing ivy.

The removal of the ivy on the North Wall of the east side of the church revealed a number of gravestones adjacent to the wall which were not visible before. There were also some which were actually positioned in the wall itself. Does this mean that the wall could not have been built before the earliest date on these gravestones? On one of these graves it is possible to read the inscription. That burial stone is shown in the picture.

The stone is that of Timothy King who died on the 19th of May 1715. The burial records state that he was an Innkeeper and died of the smallpox. You will notice that the burial stone is headed by a skull and crossbones. I believe that this was often the case when the person died of smallpox. There are

others in the churchyard, many dated around this time. Beaulieu must have been hit badly by the epidemic.



The Overseers accounts for 1714 include... 'Payd Timothy King Bill for necessarys for old harrod and his Wife 01.00.08' and 'Payd for expenses in moving Richard Harrod and his wife when he had the small pox 00.05.00'.

Richard Horrod and his wife Margaret died and were buried on December 10th and November 22nd 1714 respectively.

The burial records show that John Young, an apprentice to Timothy King died on February 1st 1714. This was in fact after that of the Horrods. Until 1751, the New Year started on March 26th. Often this period from January 1st to March 26th was written, as in this case, 1714/15.

Timothy King himself was to be buried on May 27th 1715. One suspects they both succumbed to smallpox as a result of Timothy being required to provide a shelter for the Horrod family.

It is likely that the Inn Timothy King kept was The George, later to become The Montagu Arms. If so, he would have been one of its earliest tenants.

Anthony Norris

The Cadland Estate: The Places and the People

The 'Shock of Recognition'



On 17 February Gilly Drummond O.B.E. D.L. gave a talk to the Society about the Cadland Estate.

For 12,000 years ways of life in the area, where Southampton Water meets the Solent, has been shaped by the long shoreline, constantly changing sea levels and river patterns. Except for communication by water the area was isolated for most of that period. There was even no metalled road until 1924.

Gilly demonstrated the rich archaeological content of the area with, among other things, slides of a c.8000 B.C. Stone Age Hand Axe from Stanswood Bay and a Bronze Age hoard of 70 mint condition Palstave Axe Heads from the Estate, the latter having been the biggest hoard ever



Palstave Axe Heads

(Courtesy of Jason, Cadland Metal Detectors Club)

found in Southern England until a recent find in Dorset. For the Celtic period, the Estate had yielded a Durotriges Celtic silver *stater* coin.

The speaker showed a series of maps to illustrate changes in the area over time. The Great Storm of 1703 wreaked havoc across Southern England, changing the configuration of the coast along the Solent dramatically. Gilly put forward a personal theory that the road down to Stone Point at Lepe was built by the Romans to enable them to hold the Isle of Wight, using the short crossing to Gurnard on the Isle.

In 1241 the Manor of Cadland acquired Titchfield Abbey. In the 16th century Thomas Wriothesley obtained both Beaulieu and Titchfield Abbey, turning the latter into a mansion called Place House. In 1772 Robert Drummond bought the Manor of Cadland from William, Lord Talbot. In further slides Gilly showed the Holland and Brown drawing for the original Cadland House on Southampton Water (now the site of the Exxon oil refinery) and Capability Brown's

1777 plan for the Double Octagon Fishing Cottage.

Among modern photographs of the Estate was one showing Cadland House surrounded by a stockade of Scots Pine to protect it



The original Cadland House

against shrapnel from anti-aircraft guns.

In conclusion, Gilly explained that the 'shock of recognition' was the realisation of the historical origin of things, for example she had not known that thatching of cottages on the Estate had its origins in Saxon times. She hopes to begin work on a book on the Estate's history.

Gilly was thanked warmly for her stimulating and finely illustrated talk.

John Coles

The Annual General Meeting – 17th February 2012

Retiring Chairman **Sir John Coles** noted that it was precisely five years since the inaugural meeting of the Beaulieu History Society. He said that the Society was flourishing and there had been no shortage of subjects for the well-attended lectures. Beaulieu was an area of historical richness. Seven older houses of Beaulieu had been visited, lectures had included two on World Wars, two on archaeology, one on Beaulieu Abbey, two on Ship-building and excavations at Bucklers Hard as well as talks on the High Street, the School, Farming, the Black Death, Ghosts and making history for television! Sir John thanked the committee and their spouses for their hard work and dedication, in particular **Tony Norris**, who was retiring from producing the excellent newsletter, which he had written, printed and delivered himself, often on foot. He thanked the members for their continued interest and support.

Society Secretary

The Secretary reported that sometimes, where space on evenings had been limited, a pre-booking system had need to be introduced, which would apply in future where demand exceeded space. Members were invited to contact a committee member if they had ideas or information of interest to the Society.

Society Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that the accounts had been audited by the hon. auditor, Christine Dare, and the finances were in good order. The £5 subscription would continue this year.

Lectures had included two on World Wars, two on archaeology, one on Beaulieu Abbey, two on Ship-building and excavations at Bucklers Hard as well as talks on the High Street, the School, Farming, the Black Death, Ghosts and making history for television!

Sir John Coles retires

The Society's first chairman, **Sir John Coles**, stood down from the committee after five years in the chair. **Ralph Montagu**, standing in for the patron, **Ailsa Montagu**, paid tribute to Sir John's skill and expertise in steering the society from its initiation, as the brainchild of local resident **John Beaumont**, to its current thriving position with over 200 members. We had been fortunate in having a person of such stature and learning to set the society running on such smooth lines and he hoped that Sir John would continue to give us his support as a member.



Sir John Coles

Rosemary Johnson, who has served as vice-chairman and event's organiser for the last five years, was elected new chairman in place of John Coles.

Rosemary presented to Sir John, on behalf of all the members, a crystal goblet engraved with his name and that of the society.

Many thanks to Tony Norris

Tony Norris retired from the committee after five years as editor, publisher and distributor of the BHS newsletter. Many will have enjoyed the scholarly and

lively articles which have distinguished the publication and they will remain a monument to his unstinting research into local history. Tony also gave several illustrated talks to the Society: large audiences enjoyed the fruits of his research into the Rev. Powles, the School, and the Ghosts of Beaulieu. We are delighted that Tony will continue to contribute articles to the newsletter. Tony was presented with an engraved crystal goblet by the new chairman.

Elections to the Committee

Two new members were elected and welcomed to the committee: **Christina Dykes** as event's organiser and **John Pemberton** as newsletter editor.

Rosemary Johnson

Committee Members

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rosemary Johnson – Chair | bretrosrj@aol.com | Anne Coles – Research | coles@johncoles.plus.com |
| Emma Page – Treasurer | emma.page@lepe.org.uk | Christina Dykes – Events | christina@exalon.net |
| Ralph Montagu | ralph.montagu@beaulieu.co.uk | John Pemberton – Newsletter | johnlpemberton@compuserve.com |

Contact: Gill Hawkins – Secretary jr.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk
11 The Hummicks, Dock Lane, Beaulieu SO42 7YU 01590 611 143