



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 18 October 2012

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Memories of War

In late October, the History Society is hosting an evening of memories of war comprising two personal accounts of military & naval conflict spanning almost a century from 1888 to 1982. The evening takes place on Friday 26th October 6.30pm (Doors open 6pm) at Beaulieu Village Hall. Admission is free to BHS members, guests £4 on the door.

Part I THE ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON

History Society member, *Colonel Henry Cadogan RWF*, will present an illustrated account of the military career of his grandfather, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Cadogan, RWF. Hal, as he was known to his family, was commissioned as an infantry Officer in 1888. Trained for the Imperial Wars, he rose to become Battalion Commander and lead his troops in October 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

Using his grandfather's letters and photographs, Henry presents a fascinating account of those times, also available as a book.

Part II HMS ARGONAUT IN THE FALKLANDS WAR

In the second part of the evening, *Rear Admiral Christopher H. Layman, CB, DSO, LVO*, also a History Society member, will give an illustrated presentation about his time in the Falklands War as captain of the frigate, HMS Argonaut. The task force departed from the U.K. in April 1982 to take part in a battle in the South Atlantic, 8,000 miles from home.

As we approach Remembrance

Day, we will be reminded of our debt to the brave men and women who have fought for our freedom throughout the world.

A Social Evening



In late November, we have teamed up with the Master Builder's Hotel, Buckler's Hard to provide a social evening for History Society members.

The evening, taking place on Thursday 22nd November at 6pm, includes a talk on the New Forest's origins **THE NEW FOREST FROM CONQUEROR TO NATIONAL PARK** given by local historians *Peter Roberts* and *Georgina Babey*. Both have written books on the New Forest which will be available on the evening.

Before the talk there will be a supper of traditional local fare: New Forest sausages and mashed potato (vegetarian sausages by prior request) followed by home made apple crumble with New Forest ice-cream and coffee or tea. You will be offered a glass of wine on arrival.

Tickets for the evening for members and guests are £12.50 each. To book, post your name, contact phone number and email address with a cheque for the number of tickets to The Chairman, Beaulieu History Society, Hill Top House, Palace Lane, Beaulieu SO42 7YG. Booking closes 31st October, but numbers are restricted so book early.

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Dates for your Diary

26 October 2012 6pm

Memories of War,
Beaulieu Village Hall

22 November 2012 6pm

Social Evening and Talk
on the of New Forest's origins,
Master Builder's Hotel,
Buckler's Hard

1 February 2013 6:30pm

AGM and Talk
on Sir Philip Hunloke,
Beaulieu Village Hall

Delivery of this newsletter

To save time and postage costs, the Society delivers this newsletter by email, If you can receive email, but have not given us your email address, please send it to Gill Hawkins, Secretary at jr.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk. If you cannot receive email, other delivery arrangements can be made with Gill Hawkins (details on back page).

Chairman's Column

Our meetings this year have been enjoyable and well attended. Many of you came to **Ralph Montagu's** archive film show **Beaulieu goes to Hollywood** at the John Montagu Building, and to the **Buckler's Hard Museum Visit and River Cruise** accompanied by **Mary Montagu-Scott**, which was blessed with wonderful weather. We are grateful to Ralph and Mary for their hard work and generosity in putting on these events.



Rosemary Johnson

We launched modestly a **Junior Branch** of the History Society: the children of **Beaulieu Village School** attended an archaeological dig at **Buckler's Hard** by permis-

sion of the New Forest National Park. The children seemed to be enthusiastic about digging for artefacts and in taking part in a quiz. They were encouraged to pick up, feel and smell the objects which seemed to fire their imagination so that many of their guesses were correct. We hope to continue our link with history and Beaulieu School.

For the first time in July we set up a **History Society stall** at the village fete which raised money from a treasure map and other games. Children were invited to bring along their 'treasure' and we were able to display, for example, fossils and pieces of pottery which they had found.

Now that autumn has arrived, we are looking forward to seeing many of you on **26th October** in Beaulieu Village Hall for presentations by

two of our members, **Colonel Henry Cadogan** focusing on WWI and **Rear Admiral Christopher Layman** about the Falklands War. We are fortunate in having accomplished members who are prepared so generously to share their knowledge with us. It should be a fascinating evening.

On **November 22nd** we thought it would be pleasant, as Christmas approaches, to have a social evening. Together with the Master Builder's Hotel we have organised a traditional New Forest supper, followed by a unique approach to the origins of the New Forest—**From Conqueror to National Park** presented by local historians **Peter Roberts** and **Georgina Babey**.

For more on these two evenings, see the front page.

Rosemary Johnson

Beaulieu School visits Buckler's Hard Dig

Beaulieu History Society Juniors was launched modestly in July when sixty children from Beaulieu Village school attended a 'dig' at Buckler's Hard organised by the New Forest Park Authority.

The visit was keenly enjoyed by the children who had the opportunity of hands-on use of trowels and sieves on the site at Buckler's Hard. Some of them found coins and bits of pottery, as well as the chance of touching, smelling, picking up and



trying to guess the age and identity of ten real archaeological items. There were fragments of Roman pottery, a stone age axe head and scraper, pieces of a wreck found in the Solent and parts of bombs and fighter planes from WW II.

The children were accompanied by five BHS volunteers: your chairman and four others who were mothers of children at the school. The Head Teacher Jane Noble attended with several staff, and it was felt by all that the children



benefited from the visit. Plans are going forward for further participation between BHS and the school.

Rosemary Johnson

Sir Philip Hunloke (1868-1947): Resident of Beaulieu

One in a series of articles about interesting Beaulieu residents

Sir Philip Hunloke lived at Hides Close in Beaulieu between 1939 and his death in 1947. He was well regarded by kings.

George V made him a groom in waiting in 1911 and he was an extra groom in waiting to both Edward VIII and George VI. He wore the silver greyhound in World War I as a king's messenger. He became a Grand Commander of the Victorian Order in 1936 having been made a member in 1916 and a Knight Commander in 1928. The King of Belgium granted him Chevalier Legion d'Honneur and King of Greece made him a member of the Orders of St Stanislaus of the Redeemer of Greece.

Keen sailors would know of Sir Philip. By all accounts he was an excellent tactician and a supremely capable yachtsman.



Elected a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1890 at

the age of 22, he was on the Council two years later and in 1894 was made member of the sailing committee. He was eventually elected Commodore in 1945. Having been Commodore of the Island Sailing Club between 1901-3, he was again elected in the critical years of 1944-46. He won a bronze medal in the 1908 Olympics, mastering the Sorais owned by Shelagh, then Duchess of Westminster. He was the first Admiral of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, served the RYA as Vice President for 47 years and pioneered the smaller-rater classes at Cowes.



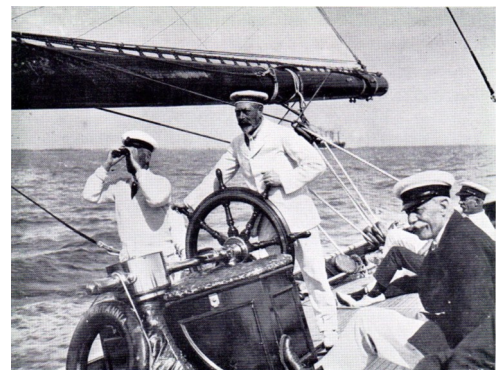
However, he was best known as the George V's sailing master which he became in 1911 and held till the death of the king in 1936. George V trusted him. The king, a known tricky man, was reported to be never happier than when sailing with Hunloke. There are tales of the king jesting with the crew, of hauling ropes with the men, of wearing a seaman "round" cap rather than the "cheese-cutter of an officer." Nevertheless it was an enormous responsibility not just to ensure the King enjoyed himself but to keep him safe.

Hunloke was the perfect courtier. He was both distinguished and decorated. He was a special constable



in London in 1897, a captain in the Boer War, a landowner in Derbyshire, was on the staff of the First Army in France with the rank of Major, in the Second World War was he was the Welfare Officer of the Southern command, and he was a Justice of the Peace in Oxfordshire.

For historians, it is not just Hunloke's own story that is of interest, but the context and his contribution to contemporary events. There are many questions that Hunloke's career pose: was his influence on George V critical in the re-commissioning of Britannia in 1919, thereby ensuring the revival of big yacht racing? How much credit does he deserve for encouraging smaller-raters and thereby opening racing to a wider field?



King George V at the wheel of 'Britannia' with Philip Hunloke

Perhaps most intriguing for us who live in Hides Close, why was Hides Close not requisitioned in the Second World War when the whole of Hartford Wood became a secret training area for the Special Operations Executive? Did King George VI pass by when he reviewed the invasion fleet at Cowes in 1944? Did the great tactician have a greater role in organising subsequent events than we realise? Maybe he did.

Christina Dykes

A Visit to Buckler's Hard Museum and Beaulieu River

In May the society went on a field trip to see the new exhibits at Buckler's Hard Maritime Museum and the historic sights along the Beaulieu River. The visit was at the invitation of Mary Montagu-Scott, who also kindly accompanied the river trip.

The Museum

James Brown of the National Park Authority and Susan Tomkins, Beaulieu's Archivist, were on hand at the Maritime Museum to show us the latest archaeological finds at Buckler's Hard, and its admirable new layout.

Members were given a preview of the latest artefacts from the cellar chapel and the boatbuilding wharves on the Hard. Also on display were the fascinating SS Persia exhibits: this P&O cruise liner had



been sunk near Crete in 1915 by a torpedo from a German U-boat, drowning most of its

passengers. Miraculously, passenger Lord John Douglas-Scott-Montagu was saved although his companion Eleanor Thornton, model for the Rolls Royce 'Spirit of Ecstasy', was sadly lost.

Several members, who had not seen the museum since its redesign in 2011, commented how absorbing it had become.

The River Trip

We were blessed with one of the finest days of the summer for the field trip. The river cruise took members, comfortably fortified with a glass of wine, gently down the Beaulieu River on the Oliver B river boat. Mary Montagu-Scott gave a detailed and illuminating talk, describing landmarks and giv-

ing a brief history of the part played by the river over the centuries since the area was chosen for hunting by William the Conqueror.



Mary told us how King John had bequeathed the Beaulieu lands and the river to the Cistercian order in 1204 for a monastery to be built. The monks made a prosperous business for several centuries from running their estates and trading wool and bricks by river. However, after King Henry VIII demolished the monasteries in 1538 the monks were forced into retirement. Through the new owners, the Earls of Southampton, down to the present day, the ownership of the Beaulieu Estate has been in the same family. Unusually, the monks and later their successors, had been granted the ownership of the river bed. This right of ownership was tested in law in 1927 by Mary's grandfather, John, second Lord Montagu, after a visiting yachtsman had refused to pay landing and booming charges. Lord Montagu's rights were upheld by the High Court.

Mary also told members something of the history of Buckler's Hard village, originally to be called Montagu Town. It was to have been built in a grid system and planned as a large port to trade sugar and spices with St Lucia and St Vincent in the West Indies. Unfortunately, owing to military and naval intervention from the French, Duke Montagu's dream was not realised. Only the wide main street was built with the rows of houses and the large Master Builder's House, looking much as it does today. Later in the 18th century however the village did become the centre of a busy boatbuilding industry. Warships for Nelson's Navy were built there,

three of which took part in the Battle of Trafalgar. In 1788 Nelson's favourite ship HMS Agamemnon was built in Buckler's Hard with timbers sourced from the New Forest by Henry Adams, the Master Builder. Henry's two sons continued the business but by 1847 boatbuilding had declined to the extent that they had to surrender their lease.

Not until the outbreak of WWII did Buckler's Hard become busy again as a centre of the preparations for the D-Day landings in 1944. Mulberry Harbours and various craft were

built and hidden in parts of the river during a top-secret operation designed to make the enemy believe that an invasion would be targeted on the Pas de Calais area.



In latter years the river became a centre for yachting and pleasure boating, providing a lucrative visitor attraction for the Beaulieu Estate. Wetlands and the shores of the river are protected for the conservation of wild life and birds. The river is still farming oysters and is home to mullet, eels, dabs and other fish.

I would like to thank Mary and all the Museum and Buckler's Hard staff as well as the Oliver B crew, for their helpfulness and for the warmth of their welcome to all our members.

Rosemary Johnson

The full text of Mary's talk on the river is available to members by email from the editor, John Pemberton at johnlpemberton@compuserve.com

Memories of World War II

The National Park’s project to research and document the New Forest’s involvement in World War II is proceeding apace. Its work includes recording personal recollections and remains, and identifying wartime sites from aerial surveys and maps.

Gathering recollections and wartime remains

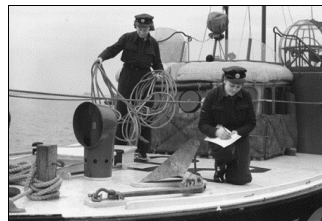
The team at the National Park undertaking this project, James Brown and Gareth Owen, are asking for

first and second hand recollections of WWII, where military facilities were located and how they impacted on the personal and social life of the Forest. Volunteers to the project are being trained to interview you and record your recollections.

Also wanted are: photos, documents, toys, ration cards, evacuation papers, uniforms, finds from crashed and bombed aircraft and vehicles, and other military and personal objects. These will be recorded, photographed and returned.

A few members from the History Society are included in the interview training, so if you do have such recollections and mementos, please in the first instance get in touch with the Society’s Secretary, Gill Hawkins at jr.hawkins@tiscali.co.uk 01590 611 143.

Many volunteers have already come forward to contribute to the project; yet more are still being accepted. If you want to get involved, contact Garth Owen at garth.owen@newforestnpa.gov.uk direct line 01590 646652.



Photos of military activity in the New Forest courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

LIDAR aerial survey of the Forest

Because the 'open forest' has largely been spared from development and agriculture for the last thousand years and more, it still contains many traces of past activities which remain visible as 'lumps and bumps', ranging from prehistoric burial mounds to WWII installations.

Finding and recording these features can be difficult and time-consuming for archaeologists – using traditional field survey it is estimated that it might be more than one hundred years before we have an understanding of the number and range of sites.

An aerial LIDAR radar survey, made from a light aircraft, is making it possible to speed up the process. LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, uses a pulsed laser beam measuring up to 100,000 points per second to produce very accurate digital models of the landscape. These can be stitched together by specialist computer software to form an accurate

image of the surface.

The ability for LIDAR to 'see through' vegetation is one of its strengths. Traditional archaeological survey is difficult in woodland as vegetation makes sites difficult to reach, to see, and to record. Because LIDAR pulses filter through the leaves and branches of trees,



we are able to strip away the vegetation and look at the ground and the archaeology beneath, often with spectacular results. See the comparison here of a conventional aerial photograph and a LIDAR image of the same area revealing ancient field boundaries.

LIDAR data can be combined with

other information, such as historic mapping dating back to the 18th century, aerial photography and records of known archaeological sites. This allows accurate identification and interpretation of sites, for checking on the ground.

The survey is identifying thousands of interesting sites, the ma-



majority of which have not previously been publically recorded. They cover over four thousand years of history from Bronze Age barrows to WWII airstrips.

John Pemberton

With thanks for material from the New Forest National Park Authority

The First Diamond Jubilee – June 1897

June 2012 saw the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Only one other monarch, Queen Victoria, has been on the throne for such a long period of time and, not surprisingly, it was celebrated in a similar way to this year's.

The *New Forest Magazine* for June 1897 outlines the form that the celebrations would take.

BEAULIEU.

Clergy:—R. F. Powles, Vicar, The Curtle.
J. H. Thompson, Hill Top House.

Churchwardens:—Lord Montagu of Beaulieu; Mr. W. E. Winsey.

CHURCH SERVICES.

SUNDAYS: Holy Communion, 1st Sunday, 8, and 11.45
2nd ,, 8, and at Park, 11
3rd ,, 7, and 10.0
4th ,, 8, and at Buckler's Hard, 8.0
5th ,, 8.0

Matins, 11: Evensong, 6. Evensong at Park, 6.0.
Children's Service 3rd Sunday in Month, 3.0

Saints' Days and Thursdays, Matins 7.30. Holy Communion 8.0. Evensong on Saints' Days only at 7.0

Daily Matins 9.0. Evensong 6.30.

June 11th,—St. Barnabas, Holy Communion, 8.0.
13th,—Holy Communion at Park, 11.0.
24th,—St. John the Baptist, Holy Communion, 8.0.
27th,—Holy Communion at Bucklers Hard, 8.0.
29th,—St. Peter, Holy Communion, 8.0.

Our Commemoration of the Queen's Long Reign is to take place on Tuesday, June 29th; there will be a whole holiday. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu will deliver a speech at 3 o'clock in the Park, afterwards tea will be given to the whole parishes of Beaulieu and East Boldre, various games and amusements will be provided during the afternoon, and in the evening there will be a grand display of fireworks; all the arrangements will be under the supervision of a Committee of 18 members who will be assisted by 12 stewards.—“God save the Queen.”

On Easter Monday, the Black and White Minstrels of Beaulieu gave a very successful Entertainment. In spite of bad weather there was a good attendance, and the singing and performance was of a very high order. The whole credit of the success of the evening was due to our indefatigable musician, Mr. Tom Gregory, who well deserves our best thanks.

The School Children at Park on May 4th and 5th, gave a most excellent theatrical performance; it is quite the best that they have ever given. There was no hitch of any kind and the crowded room repeatedly showed their appreciation. Miss Coates and Mr. and Mrs. Grove have surpassed themselves in the wonderful way in which they have trained the children.

The August edition of *The New Forest Magazine* reports on the success of the day's celebrations.

Our Commemoration of the Queen's long reign has come and gone, and by universal consent the arrangements of the day were all that could be wished. Lord Montagu came from London specially to be present; he was met at the Clock House by the Band and a large number of people, who escorted him to the Park, while the guns in the Palace House grounds fired a salute. Lord Montagu here made a speech, dwelling on the great events of the Queen's reign and the noble example that Her Majesty has always set her people. At the end of the speech the National Anthem was sung, and an oak tree was planted by Miss Montagu on the top of the mound. Tea was ready at 3.30 and upwards of 1200 had a good meal. There were games and dancing all the evening, and the day finished with a display of fireworks, which quite eclipsed anything that has been seen before in Beaulieu.

Judging from the report, the weather they enjoyed was rather better than ours! Captain Widnell in *'The Beaulieu Record'*, published in 1973, provides us with more detail, in particular concerning the planting of the oak tree.

‘...A word for those of today and tomorrow as to Miss Montagu and the oak-tree and the mound. The young lady in question was Helen, the seven-year-old daughter of Lord John; and by the

mound is indicated the ramp which runs from the vineyards ditch and forms the conduit which once carried the water to the wine press to be found in the Park. The oak-tree stands today for all to see, and has done what was intended i.e. spread its branches over a wide area, with the result that all its growth has gone into its girth which today measures some eighty-eight inches...’

I remember the oak-tree in my youth as we used to play there. In fact, there were two oak trees on the mound and I wonder whether the other was planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. On that occasion they also had festivities at the same venue and, in Susan Tomkin's excellent photographic record of Beaulieu *'An Album of Old Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard'*, there is a photograph of the celebrations.

Unfortunately there was no plaque to indicate the significance of either tree and neither exists today. One wonders whether, had there been a plaque, one or both would be standing today.

Below is the Mound as it is today.



The September 1897 edition of the *New Forest Magazine* showed how the celebrations were financed.

QUEEN'S COMMEMORATION FUND.			
RECEIVED.		EXPENDED.	
	£	s.	d.
Lord Montagu of Beaulieu	30	0	0
Lady Montagu of Beaulieu	5	0	0
Hon. J. Scott-Montagu, M.P.	5	0	0
Mr. C. W. H. Braun	5	0	0
Miss Payne's list...	18	2	0
Mr. Winsey's list	3	12	2
Mr. Steven's list...	10	6	0
East Boldre list	12	5	6
Tumblers & Mugs sold	2	13	6
Cask of beer sold	18	3	0
Winsey, cake, buns, &c.	6	5	2
Stevens, bread, tea, butter, &c.	4	6	6
Do. Coal	1	2	0
Miss Burden, milk & butter	1	5	8
Hire of boilers and urns	1	19	6
Carriage of same & boarding &c. for tents	1	0	0
Help at Tea	9	6	0
Winsey and Stevens, bread and cheese	3	3	8
Billing for beer	3	11	0
Help with beer, &c., and cleaning pavilion cups, &c.	6	0	0
Gregory for the Band	5	0	0
Prizes	2	10	0
Robinson & Co., mugs and tumblers	8	0	3
Carriage of mugs & tumblers	6	6	0
Miss Burden, ribbon, &c., bought	6	4	0
Brock & Co., for fireworks	36	10	0
Erecting tents & shed, &c.	5	10	0
Balance in hand	2	9	11
	<u>£83</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>

continued

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Captain Widnell, in *The Beaulieu Record* gives a break-down of the accounts...

'Looking at the figures, one finds that Lord Montagu had as usual borne the lion's share. Miss Payne at the Post Office had done well to collect over £18 and the East Boldre list strikes one as particularly good, for that parish was desperately hard up. Messrs Robinson and all concerned must have been much disappointed as to the poor sale of tumblers and mugs, which unfortunately had not been

sent on 'sale or return'. As to the expenses, the rival grocers, Winsey and Stevens [respectively the Abbey Stores, adjoining the Montagu Arms and Blunt's just north of Whitehall] had as for many years supplied the groceries, with Miss Burden of the Mill coming to the rescue with the milk and butter, the latter most probably having been made with her own hands. The expenditure on the prizes too appears on the light side, especially if compared with the stupendous sum of £36.10.0 for fireworks. Little wonder that they had

eclipsed anything that had been in Beaulieu before.'

An observant reader will notice the slight discrepancy in the figures in these accounts!

The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of 1897 must have been a very memorable occasion in the lives of the villagers of the time.

Anthony Norris

Tips on researching Beaulieu

One in a series of articles about researching the history of Beaulieu

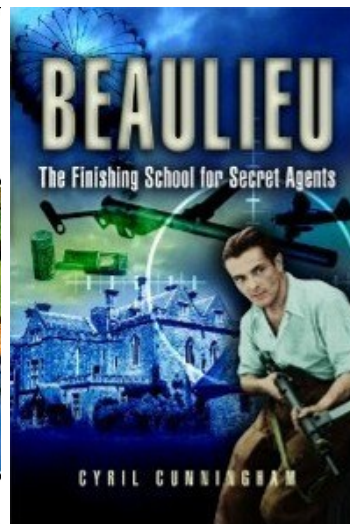
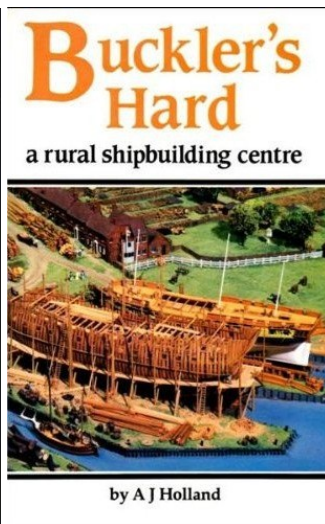
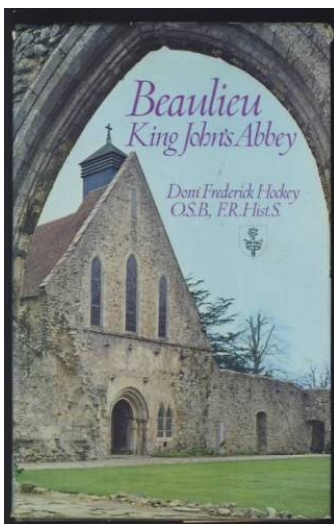
Are you interested in learning more about the history of Beaulieu? Or doing your own research on the village and its environs?

Here are some published works that may be helpful to start you off, depending on the period you are interested in. Beginning with the foundation of the abbey, there is *Beaulieu, King John's Abbey (1204-1538)* by Dom Frederick Hockey (Pioneer Publications 1976). A companion volume is the *Account-Book of Beaulieu Abbey* (The Royal Historical Society 1975), edited by the same author. It gives the monastic accounts for a year in the second half of the thirteenth century. Sadly, for most of us, the actual accounts are in the original Latin but the introductory material provides a fascinating picture of abbey, its granges (farms) and their occupants. Captain H.E.R. Widnell, who was the Beaulieu Estate's agent for 35 years from 1918, wrote *The Beaulieu Record* (Pioneer Publi-

cations 1973), a post-Reformation history of the manor of Beaulieu from 1530-1962. It is an absolutely essential compendium of factual material – but don't try to read it at a sitting – use the index!

Then there is A J Holland's *Buckler's Hard: a rural shipbuilding centre* (Kenneth Mason revised edition 1993) a 'must' for all sailors. A visit

to the museum at Buckler's Hard (splendidly refurbished in 2011) is also very informative. Fast forward to the early twentieth century. The present Beaulieu archivist, Susan Tomkins, has produced a charming small book of photographs, *An Album of Old Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard* (Ensign Publications 1990). The first chapters of Elizabeth Montagu's autobiography *Honourable Rebel* draw a delightful picture of a Beaulieu childhood (Montagu Ventures 2003). Beaulieu's role in the Second World War is told in three publications: two by Cyril Cunningham *The Beaulieu River Goes to War 1939-1945* (Montagu Ventures 1994) and *Beaulieu: the Finishing School for Secret Agents* (Pen and Sword Books 1998 and 2005) - and the late Walter Elsworth's *Beaulieu in World War II* (A Philpott Publication 1982), though, sadly, this may be hard to find.



Maybe you already have a clear idea of the research you would like to do. If I can be of help, do contact me at anne@johncoles.plus.com

Next time, I will write about local archival sources.

Anne Coles

Stan Seaman - an obituary

The death occurred on 9th June, at the age of 93, of one of the oldest members of the History Society, Stanley Walter Seaman.

Stan, as he was generally known, was a loyal supporter of the Beaulieu History Society and regularly attended meetings, often adding valuable information to discussions with his extensive memories of local people and events.

Stan was born in 1919 at Thorns Beach near Beaulieu, but moved to Buckler's Hard as a young child where he grew up among many relatives in a tight-knit community. He started work part-time at the age of 7, rowing people out to their moored boats and generally helping in the boatyard. He became expert in tying knots, ropework and rigging and later in his life was called upon to rig the yachts of Sir Francis Chichester and Clare Francis.

Stan left school at 14 and worked for the Beaulieu River Sailing Club, skippering members' yachts by the age of 17. When war broke out in 1939 he joined the merchant navy as a winchman on Admiralty salvage ships, reaching the rank of chief engineer. When the war was over, Stan returned to Buckler's Hard, where he continued to work in boatyards and also specialised as a pile-driver in the Solent region. He married Valerie Abrahams in 1946 and was happily married for over 50 years. In retirement Stan would often entertain groups of



adults and children at Buckler's Hard Festival, telling yarns about the old days, displaying his great variety of knots and showing his enormous collection of photographs, saved over many years.

Stan was an entertainer at heart and was well-known for his skills as a musician, especially on the accordion. From an early age he was asked to play at hops and functions both for family and friends and within the community. He was generous in his support of local groups, playing his accordion for the children at the Countryside Education Trust in Beaulieu. For many years Stan played his accordion in the street for the Victorian Evening, lending an authentic at-

mosphere to the occasion. In 1997 Stan started a regular musical social evening, bringing together many older, traditional musicians from the Forest region to play for a paying audience, latterly at East Boldre village hall. Paul Marsh was an enthusiastic member of the group and became a friend and supporter. Some nine years ago Stan met Eileen Ryan and also encouraged her to play the melodion keyboard harmonica. Although previously Eileen had played only the mouth organ she soon discovered her musical talent, joining Stan's musical group and playing regularly at local gigs. Stan and Eileen became close friends and she was able to give Stan great companionship as well as assistance in his later years when mobility became a problem.

Despite advancing age and illness, Stan did not lose his zest for living and maintained his interest in music and local matters until the end. He even played the accordion earlier this year at his 93rd birthday party. Although Stan's cheerful presence will be much missed, his memories are preserved for posterity in 60 hours of recollections and tunes which he recorded and donated to Beaulieu Archives.

Rosemary Johnson

With thanks for permission to extract from the obituary written by Paul Marsh and published in the Lympington Times.

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