



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

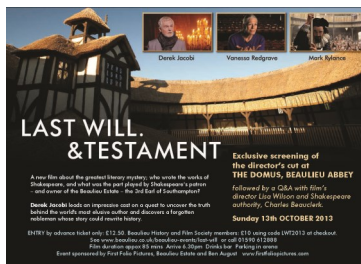
NEWSLETTER

No. 21 October 2013

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our autumn series of events comprises on Friday 18th October **Voices from the Past**, an opportunity to share fascinating new recordings of local peoples' memories of living in Beaulieu, and on Thursday 21st November a **Social Evening and Talk** with supper at the Master Builder's Hotel. The talk will be on 'Beaulieu and its River' by the engaging local speaker Richard Waters.

On Sunday 13th October committee member Ralph Montagu is presenting two events, the intriguing new film **Last Will. and Testament** and a **Tour of Titchfield Abbey**. These events celebrate the fact that former holder of



the Beaulieu Estate in the 17th century, Henry Wriothesley, who also lived at Titchfield Abbey, was a patron of playwright William Shakespeare. For details of the events and tickets for the film, see separate posters and www.beaulieu.co.uk/beaulieu-events/last-will or phone 01590 612888, using discount voucher code LWT2013.

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Chairman's Column

Many of you enjoyed the highly successful outing in May to Keeping Farm, when James and Belinda McGill gave us a warm welcome and a fascinating talk in their historic barn (see the report on page 6). Next year we hope to visit Otterwood, by kind invitation of Ian and Gillian Strathcarron who are busy researching their ancient property. Our thanks to Anne Coles for contributing to the research on these occasions. If any members have special knowledge or memories of Otterwood, please contact any committee member.

On October 18th we return to Beaulieu Village Hall for an evening of local peoples' memories of Beaulieu, 'Voices from the Past.' The programme, led by Gill Hawkins, will start with recollections by Fredrick Norris of his father Fred, who sadly died this year. Ralph Montagu will contribute film clips from the Beaulieu archive and introduce some fascinating new recordings of local people made by society members. Short excerpts,

edited by your newsletter editor John Pemberton, will be aired on the night and all recordings will be stored in our archive. We hope that the memories will stimulate other recollections and discussion from the audience.

Following the popularity of our 'social' evening last year, you are invited on November 21st, to supper at The Master Builder's Hotel followed by a talk by Richard Waters on 'Beaulieu and its River'. Richard is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker and you should expect a few seasonal surprises!

As an added bonus on October 13th, committee member Ralph Montagu has invited members at a discounted rate to an evening showing of the intriguing new film 'Last Will and Testament' and to a free afternoon 'Tour of Titchfield Abbey' (see details above).

I look forward to meeting you all again at the events.

Rosemary Johnson

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 13 October 2013
2:30pm Tour of Titchfield Abbey,
St Peter's Church, Titchfield
6:30pm Last Will. and Testament,
The Domus, Beaulieu Abbey

Friday 18 October 2013 7pm
Voices from the Past—Memories
of Beaulieu,
Beaulieu Village Hall

Thursday 21 November 2013 6pm
Social Evening and Talk,
Master Builder's Hotel,
Buckler's Hard

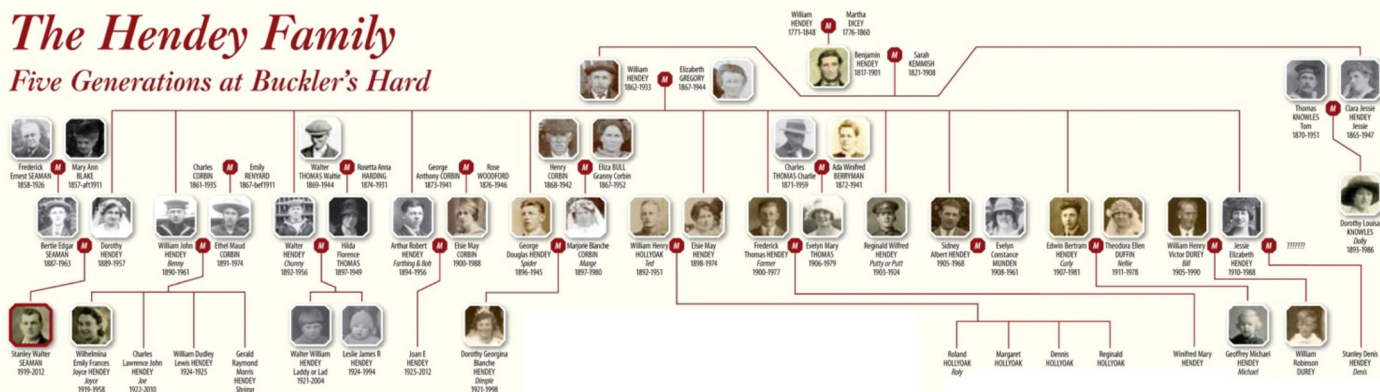
Subscriptions

Membership fees were due at the start of the year. If you have not yet paid, please send a cheque for £5 per member payable to 'Beaulieu History Society' to: Gill Hawkins, Membership Secretary at her address on the back page.

Five Generations at Buckler's Hard

The Hendey Family

Five Generations at Buckler's Hard



The Maritime Museum at Buckler's Hard has a fascinating new exhibit about the families who lived in the cottages at Buckler's Hard over two and a half centuries. At the bottom left of this family tree is Stan Seaman, who recently died and is fondly remembered by many, featured in the museum, in this newsletter and in our talks. Photos of Stan's wider family are below.

Mary Montagu-Scott, who has project-managed the recent refurbishment of the museum, tells me she has become completely absorbed in the lives of these families and collected a huge amount of material. We hope

she will be able to write down some of these histories as articles for forthcoming newsletters. Mary has also kindly offered to give a talk to the society on the families next year – something to look forward to.

Meanwhile the now refurbished museum, in the opinion of this author, sparkles and is a definite for a visit if you haven't been recently.

John Pemberton

Many thanks for permission from the Maritime Museum to use these images.

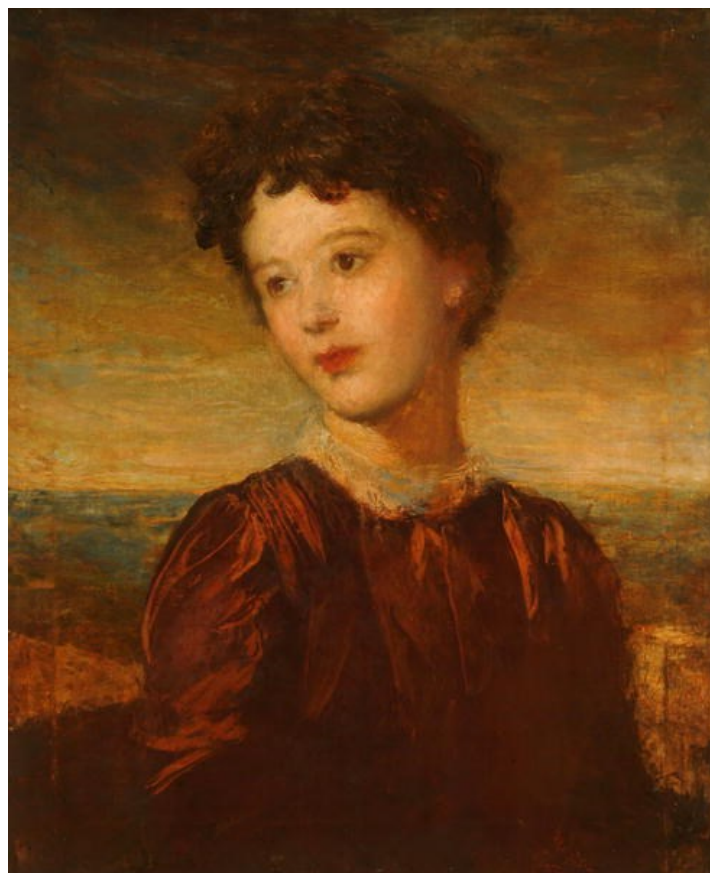


One in a series of articles about interesting Beaulieu residents

Lady Troubridge: Mistress of Etiquette

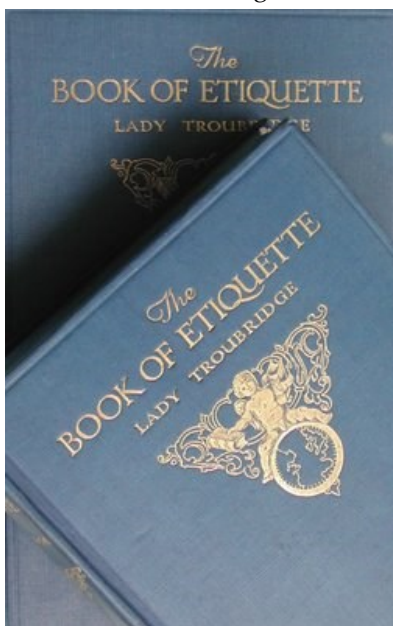
According to an unauthenticated blog when the cast of the film Gosford Park had to learn how to conduct themselves as a shooting party in the 1930s they were told to read Lady Troubridge's *The Book of Etiquette*.

Laura and Thomas Troubridge lived in Oldways, Beaulieu so they would be near John Montagu, 2nd Lord Montagu, Tommy's great shooting friend. Tommy acted as antiquarian to John while Laura wrote. Her obituary in *the Times* referred to her as "an author of many popular novels which were gay and amusing. She wrote with a lightness of touch that never degenerated into slovenliness." Her main field was romantic fiction and a quick read of one (she wrote several) shows that, although



Laura Gurney - Lady Troubridge by George Frederick Watts c.1880

published in 1916, her writing were typical of the genre that Mills and Boon were to adopt. She co-authored, with Archibald Marshall, a more serious book on John Montagu described as *A Memoir* and in 1925 she published her own *Memoirs (Reflection and Memories)* which give a detailed description of society leading up to and in the early years following World War One. Towards the end of her life she wrote for the women's magazine *Home Chat* as an agony aunt – a role about which she was secretive.



It was her book on etiquette that made her name. First

published in 1926 it was a tacit acknowledgement that the rigidity of Victorian society was breaking down. The 1914-18 war had crashed through class barriers as men and officers fought together in the trenches or on the production lines. The continuing shift from agriculture to manufacturing as the basis for economic growth gave rise to the nouveau riche who claimed their place in society not from inheritance but by money; and ease of travel meant that there was an ever increasing flow of Americans in London who brought with them a fresh attitude to manners and hospitality. Something was needed to ensure that people could do "the right thing". Lady Troubridge's book on Etiquette became the vade

mecum of what she called "the technique of the art of social life". It was reprinted thrice in 1926 and again in 1927, 1928, 1931, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1941 and also during the 1950s.

Lady Troubridge was well placed to advise on the mores of society. Born in 1866, she was the younger daughter of Charles Gurney and Alice (nee Prinsep). Alice was known to Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales (and her sister Rachel Dudley was to become an acknowledged mistress of Edward VII as Prince of Wales). When her parents' marriage foundered, Laura was effectively brought up by her grandmother Sara Prinsep. Through the artistically inclined Prinsep family, Laura knew the artist G F Watts, an active member of the Holland Park Circle. Watts painted both Laura and Rachel in 1885. Married to Sir Thomas Troubridge fifth baronet in 1893 she had a son and two daughters (both daughters lived on in Beaulieu; Louise Shennan at Oldways and Rosemary Wentworth Dilke at Whitehall). Laura died in 1946 having survived Tommy by eight years.

Christina Dykes

Isabella: The mystery of her burial

Isabella was wife to Richard, son of King John who founded Beaulieu Abbey. She is thought to have been buried at the abbey, but where? A piece of detective work was needed...

King John who reigned from 1199 until 1216 had five children, Henry, Richard, Joan, Isabella and Eleanor. On King John's death, Henry acceded to the throne as Henry III. His younger brother Richard (1209-1272) was, at the age of sixteen, given Cornwall as a birthday present by his brother Henry III.

Richard, in 1231, married Isabella Marshal, the wealthy widow of the Earl of Gloucester. At 30 years old, Isabella had been widowed young and, just five months later, was married to Richard, at Fawley in Buckinghamshire on 30th March 1231. They were the parents of four children, three of whom died in infancy. Isabella died of liver failure shortly after the birth of her fourth son, Nicholas, on 17th January 1240 at Berkhamsted Castle.

Isabella's burial

When Isabella lay dying she asked to be buried next to her first husband at Tewkesbury Abbey but Richard had her interred at Beaulieu Abbey with her infant son instead. As a pious gesture, however, he sent her heart, in a silver-gilt casket, to Tewkesbury. Isabella was the first person to be buried in the new Abbey Church which was still incomplete, the dedication ceremony not taking place until 1246.

Isabella was buried in the Presbytery in front of the High Altar at Beaulieu Abbey and, after the dissolution, was concealed under earth until excavations organised by the 5th Duke of Buccleuch. The report opposite appeared in the April 22nd 1863 edition of *The Hampshire Independent*.

The puzzle of Richard

What puzzles me is that Richard was crowned 'King of the Romans' by the Archbishop of Cologne in Aachen, in May 1257. So how could a tombstone of someone who died

in 1240 have included the words 'RICARDI ROMANORUM'? There are a number of possible reasons.

Perhaps the second word was not ROMANORUM – the article does say '...is much worn, may be faintly traced...' – but a similar word. However it is known that Richard directed that, on his death, although he was buried alongside his second wife, in Hailes Abbey, his heart should be interred at Beaulieu. It is believed that a heart-coffin found in 1872-3 could have once contained his heart. However, this coffin was found alongside the east side of Palace House. It is quite possible that mention to the fact that Richard's heart was interred at Beaulieu, though not with Isabella, could have been made on the side of Isabella's tombstone.

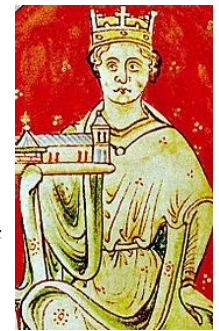
Isabella's tombstone

References as to what happened to Isabella's remains were not recorded but fortunately there is a newspaper report which gives us a clue.

The August 7th 1872 edition of *The Hampshire Advertiser* includes a re-

port on a visit of the Royal Archaeological Society to Beaulieu. The section which interests us is that when Rev. Baker showed the party around the Abbey and in particular the Parish Church. It reads...'The next place visited was the church, which Mr Baker explained was the refectory of the old abbey. At the south end stood the abbot's table, and leading up to the pulpit, which was a very fine one, was a beautiful arcade with black marble pillars. There were two periods of architecture in the building, the lower part very much earlier than the upper. The roof was embellished with some fine shields which he explained. There were two tombstones, one of Isabella, wife of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans and the monumental slab might have been the second wife of the same. They were now three feet above the proper level of the floor.'...

A Hampshire Independent report of 1863 about Isabella's tombstone



King John presenting a church, painted c.1250-59

port on a visit of the Royal Archaeological Society to Beaulieu. The section which interests us is that when Rev. Baker showed the party around the Abbey and in particular the Parish Church. It reads...'The next place visited was the church, which Mr Baker explained was the refectory of the old abbey. At the south end stood the abbot's table, and leading up to the pulpit, which was a very fine one, was a beautiful arcade with black marble pillars. There were two periods of architecture in the building, the lower part very much earlier than the upper. The roof was embellished with some fine shields which he explained. There were two tombstones, one of Isabella, wife of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans and the monumental slab might have been the second wife of the same. They were now three feet above the proper level of the floor.'...

So it would appear that on the discovery of the grave, the stone slab covering the coffin was removed, together with another, and placed in what is now the Beaulieu Parish Church. But what happened to the female body wrapped in lead?

One might think at this stage, knowing the significance of the tombstones, the remains themselves might have been removed and placed in the church, with the tombstones covering them. It is well known that a number of people have been buried in the church, or at least the Chancel, though the latest recorded is 1839. At this stage it seemed to me probable that, as the remains were that of a member of the royal family, they would have been safely re-interred on holy ground, probably in the church.

continued ...

... continued

However I have lately discovered this was not the case and the answer is provided from two sources.

Firstly, in a chapter entitled *Beaulieu and its Abbey* in *The New Forest Handbook of 1876* we read... 'There had been transferred to this building, at a comparative recent date, two old tombstones – one being that of the first wife of Richard Earl of Cornwall and King of the Romans, and the other assigned by tradition to Eleanor, mother of King John, but as she was buried at Fontevraud, it may refer to Richard's second wife. They have now been removed to part of the old ruins or domus conversorum, where they are preserved.'

So we now know to where the tombstone was removed. This probably occurred when major alterations took place in the church in 1875. Indeed in the 138 years since, the tombstone has not been moved further and since the 1950's, if not earlier, is as it at present appears in the Abbey Exhibition in the Domus building.



The tombstone at present appearing in the Abbey exhibition in the Domus

Secondly, The November 6th 1886 edition of *The Hampshire Advertiser* contains a long article about the history of the Abbey, but it was a letter sent by Lord Henry to the newspaper in response to this arti-

cle which appeared in the November 13th edition of the same newspaper which answered the question of the coffin. The letter is below, though we do know now, that it contains an error.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BEAULIEU ABBEY AND CHURCH.
To the Editor of the Hampshire Advertiser.

Sir.—Having read the interesting account given in last Saturday's *Advertiser* about Beaulieu Abbey and Church, I should be glad to correct it on three points, in which there is some error.

First, the body found near the high altar of the Church some twenty-five years ago, and only last year brought to view again by the foundering of the ground over it, was not enclosed in a stone coffin, but simply wrapped in sheets of lead. The body is supposed to be that of the second wife of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, king of the Romans (his first wife was Isabella, the daughter of the Earl of Pembroke). She was sister of Eleanor of Provence, the wife of Henry the Third.

Your article also states that Dr. Short became Bishop of Newcastle, in Australia, and had been perpetual curate of Beaulieu. This is not so. It was Dr. Tyrrell who was incumbent of Beaulieu, and became Bishop of Newcastle, in Australia, where I myself paid him a visit in the year 1853.

It is also a mistake to say that the Rectory of the Abbey was retained by the Crown; it was so at first, but a few years after the grant of the Abbey and lands to Sir Thomas Wriothesley the Rectory was purchased by him from the king for a small sum of money, and the incumbent of Beaulieu, therefore, is a vicar, not a rector, as stated.

Your obedient servant,
MONTAGU.

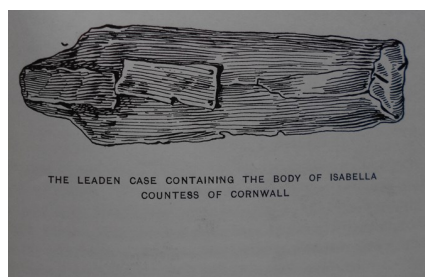
November 11th, 1886.

A letter in the *Hampshire Advertiser* of November 1886 about the coffin

The body's resting place

So, it would appear the body was returned, probably to its original resting place after its initial discovery. The position of the final resting place is probably exactly where it was first revealed in 1863.

In Fowler's book '*A History of Beaulieu Abbey*' written in 1911 he writes '...The slab remained over the grave in the original position for centuries, but was subsequently removed to its present position. There are persons now (1911) living at Beaulieu who can remember it lying at the spot marked by the small cross in the middle of the Presbytery. The site of the grave was forgotten after the removal of the slab, and



was accidentally re-discovered on September 29th 1885, when a colt belonging to the neighbouring farmer put its feet through the covering of earth and grass to the grave beneath. Within the grave was found a leaden sheeting enclosing the body of a woman. The covering and remains were at once re-interred, and a small cross marks the site of the grave'.



The present position of Isabella's grave, the red cross marking the spot

The photograph shows the position of Isabella's grave, just to the left of the High Altar, the red cross marking the spot.

So it appears that Isabella's remains still lie where she was interred in 1240.

Anthony Norris

STOP PRESS

National Park's LIDAR photos online

Photos from the the National Park's Aerial (LIDAR) survey, in which several members have taken an interest, are available online <http://lidar.newforestnpa.gov.uk/lidarmap.htm>

Click on the section of the New Forest map you wish to view, and again on the detailed map. You can zoom into, copy or print the resulting LIDAR image. See other associated webpages for infrared and aerial photography and other 'heritage mapping' material.

The history of Keeping Farm

The society made a visit to Keeping Farm, Buckler's Hard in May, hosted by James and Belinda Gill. It entailed James giving an entertaining talk on its history. This page, abridged from his notes, reminds up of just how interesting older houses of the New Forest are.



The name

The spellings of the name of this farm have varied from cyppers to Chipping to Chippige in Anglo-Saxon (old English) to middle English - Cypping to Kyping, Kyppnges to Kippinges, Kipin, Keepin to Keepings or Keeping from 1893 onwards.

A keeper would have had a residence: cypper's cottage, house or farm. In the Domesday Book, there is mention of cyppers. So this farm would have been a keeper's or cypper's farm.

Monks

When King John under the foundation charter of 1204 gave the Beaulieu area to the Cistercian monks, trees were cut down and buildings and farms re-established. They established farm layouts that exist to this day. Keeping was probably part of the Beaufrie grange. As the roads were so bad at this time, the farms were either situated along the river banks as this farm is, or near the great barn of St Leonards. Produce was shipped along the river to Ginns where there was a crane, transferred to a barge and taken up the creek to St Leonards.

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, the Earl of Southampton paid £1350.66 for the manor of Beaulieu, and Thomas Knight the first tenant taking the

licence of Beaufrie and Ginns at £60 for 40 years. He had to supply yearly 40 capons, and fish from Sowley Pond to Titchfield and wool at 6 pence a todd. Keeping would have contributed to this.

Tenants

The first recorded rent of this farm dates from 1538, being 40s a year. Rent increased to £211-6-7 by the time of John Wheeler in 1874, varying with inflation and the amount of land rented. The inventory of Edmund Stansby suggests that this was a mixed produce farm.

There is a long recorded list of tenants, yeoman farmers, from this time till 1974, who played a part in Beaulieu society being church wardens, village constables, and having their own pew in Beaulieu Abbey. Usually they were law abiding citizens, except for two tenants were accused of stealing wood. Recorded wills of Richard Rogers 1815 and John Carpenter 1837 show that they accumulated wealth, and were concerned that their goods were thoughtfully distributed, including the best bed, bed clothes and bolster each to their unmarried daughter "for their natural life or until such time as she be married".

The building

The exact time when a building first

existed on this site is uncertain; there are no definite early records, so evidence has to be obtained from other records, such as the Domesday book quoted above. Nor are there records of what the original building looked like, but at some stage a timber frame house was built, facing south with 2 reception rooms and bed rooms over, with a great hall, and kitchen to the rear with a well. To the side of the hall was a buttery and cheese store over.

In 1538, the records show that there was a chamber next to the hall, an inner chamber, a buttery, a chamber over the hall, a kitchen, a kitchen loft and farm yard; more or less what exists to this day. The building was then bricked over: the large size of the bricks used incurred the brick tax of 1784-1850, which penalised large bricks. This suggests that the house was built of them, and must have been bricked over before that date. At some stage the front door was swung round to face southwest as it is now, and the hall had a ceiling added to form the present master bedroom. There were 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th century additions. The roof tiles date from the 16th century. The barn and cart shed (now the garage) both date from the 16th century.

In conclusion the history of Keeping Farm shows how the area altered with time, how the tenants fared and played their part in society, how the building's origin is uncertain possibly dating from Norman times or earlier, and how it was a originally a timber frame house, before being bricked over.

James McGill
abridged by John Pemberton

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