



# BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 25 February 2015

## Editor's Column

### Future Meetings

In May of this year Caterina van der Vorm has kindly invited the society to visit **Sowley** to hear a talk on the residents of Sowley House and the Ironworks that operated nearby for over three centuries.



### Past Meetings

In November of last year we had a talk by Nicholas de Rothschild on **The Swan of the East** – ‘an extraordinary tale involving the Exbury Parish Church’s lectern, a post card and the German light cruiser SMS Emden’. Well, so it turned out to be with the larger than life character of German World War I naval officer, Captain Julius Lauterbach, known to his friends as Julie Boom Boom. Christina Dykes has generously given us a summary of those strange times on the back page. The talk was at a new venue for the society; the Gins Clubhouse of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club on the Beaulieu River which we plan to visit again.

Following our Annual General Meeting in January, the society pre-

sented **Recollections of Belinda Montagu** in recordings and photographs.

Belinda, Lady Montagu, first wife of Lord Montagu, gave a fascinating account of her life in the New Forest from before World War II through to the present time. The interviews were undertaken by Rosemary Johnson and Gillian Hawkins, the editing by myself, and the many photographs from the Montagu family archive collated by Ralph Montagu. The evening seemed well-received and the video of the recordings and photographs will be available to History Society members in April.



### Website

Your society now has a website [www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk) and work is moving apace to load material on it. Recently added are charming images by local photographer Edward Mudge (1881-1964). Take a look and see what you think.



Please send suggestions for the website to committee member Peter Marling-Roberts [pmarlingroberts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmarlingroberts@hotmail.co.uk), who has been instrumental in setting it up.

John Pemberton

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## Dates for your Diary

Friday 29th May 2015 6:30pm  
**Visit to Sowley**  
Sowley House, Sowley Lane  
East End, Lymington SO41 5SQ

## Subscriptions

Membership fees of £5 per member were due at the start of the year. If you have not yet paid, you are encouraged to make an electronic bank transfer to Beaulieu History Society, sort code 20-53-53, account number 90157031. Please put your name in the Reference box, otherwise we may not know who sent it. If available to you, this is a preferable alternative in cost and convenience to sending a cheque to the secretary Gillian Strathcarron at her address on the back page.

## A Forgotten Memorial

**Anthony Norris relates with customary investigative flair the story of a neglected resident of Beaulieu.**

In my youth I would often cycle from Beaulieu to Beaulieu Road Station to go by train to Southampton. Trains used to stop there every hour in those days. I recall seeing, in the field on the right as one passes Saltmarsh, a large stone cross. In recent years I have looked for it in vain and thought that it had been removed.

In September, while at Hartford, I happened to meet Martin Dolbear who rents the field from the Beaulieu Estate and I asked him what had happened to it. He replied 'Oh, it's still there, behind those brambles', and he pointed to the far corner, nearest Saltmarsh. I gained Martin's permission to investigate as I had never known anything about it or to whom it was dedicated.

Over the next few weeks, I cleared the area around the cross and discovered it was enclosed by iron railings, many of which were absent or broken, together with a



gate. The stone cross was larger and more ornate than I had ever imagined. So, to whom was it a memorial?

Further removing of soil around the base revealed the inscription 'In Remembrance of William Wrey Hartopp, who died here 20th July 1874, Aged 38 years'.

### William Hartopp

I set about trying to find out who this William Hartopp was. As usual, one's first port of call is H. Widnell's 'The Beaulieu Record', published in 1973. The only mention of the family is in connection with a concert in December 1884. The parish magazine for February 1885 records that '...Miss Hartopp of Penderley Lodge plays solos on the violin...' Captain Widnell adds, in brackets, 'With regard to Miss Hartopp, it might be mentioned that it was her father who died in 1874 whilst out fishing near Harford Hole and to whom a little cross was erected and still stands surrounded by an iron railing in Field No. 74,25' O.S. LXXIII. 13, immediately north of Saltmead House'.

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## Research Notes

Since the Beaulieu History Society was started some eight years ago, we have had members working on fascinating themes. Perhaps we tend to think particularly of studies of the older houses of Beaulieu. But early topics chosen by members have been far-ranging: there have been evenings on ghosts, on films associated with Beaulieu, a panel on changes in farming and a splendid event on Beaulieu in the Second World War. There are so many more subjects that members could explore. Here are some off the cuff ideas designed to widen possibili-

ties: changes in land use since the Norman Conquest, local industries (examples are brick-making and milling), the uses and users of the Beaulieu River, its changing course, the Abbey Church – parish officials and congregations. Where did the village's water supplies come from at different times? Why did the monastery need a warehouse in Southampton – it is still in existence? How about wine-making and brewing? Then there are specific sources of information. What do the censuses reveal about the village's population? What do local newspa-

pers record about Beaulieu's past?

As always we welcome members' involvement. The long winter evenings perhaps give a chance to add a historical dimension to a subject which already interests you. Your findings can go in the Newsletter or become an evening's presentation. Gill Hawkins and Rosemary Johnson will continue to record people's memories of Beaulieu. Let them know if you would like to participate.

Anne Coles

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



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The presence of the iron railings around the cross set me thinking... Is he buried there, in front of the cross? This question was answered on researching The Hampshire Advertiser archives which revealed, in the edition of July 29th 1874, a report of the funeral and interment at Little Dalby Hall, Leicestershire.

**BEAULIEU, JULY 29.**

**DEATH OF CAPT. WILLIAM WREY HARTOPP.**—The death of this gentleman, which occurred somewhat suddenly, at Penerley, near Beaulieu, on Monday, the 20th inst., was much regretted in this neighbourhood, where he was highly esteemed. The remains of the deceased which left his residence on Friday morning, were conveyed from Totton by express and special trains, to Little Dalby Hall, near Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, the family residence, to await interment, which took place on Saturday, at 2.30 p.m. The following was the order of the funeral procession:—

Determining that the family's ancestral home was at Little Darby Hall, I discovered a report of the circumstances of his death in the July 25th 1874 edition of the Leicester Chronicle.

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT.**—Great excitement has been caused in Melton by the receipt of intelligence of the death of Captain Hartopp, eldest son and heir to E. B. Hartopp, Esq., of Little Dalby Hall. It appears that the deceased gentleman went out fishing near his residence in Hampshire. As he did not return within a reasonable time, his wife started in search of him, and found him dead, having apparently fallen over a stile or some obstruction.

Other newspaper reports state 'his body was found wrapped around a tree.' It is most likely, then, that the memorial at Saltmarsh marked the actual spot where he died – there is a large oak tree nearby.

William Hartopp, as an 18 year old, fought in the Dragoon Guards at the Battle of Balaclava on 25th October 1854, and was part of the Charge of the Heavy Brigade under General Scarlett. The 1871 census has William Hartopp living in Knightsbridge and a Captain in the Royal Horse Guards. By the age of 38 he had retired and bought Penerley Lodge.

He married Lina Howie in 1861 and had a son, Henry, and two daughters Florence and Dorothy. Tragedy was to return as four years after William Hartopp's death, in May 1878, their only son Henry died of 'congestion of the brain' at the age of 13.

William Hartopp was born in 1836, the surviving son of Edward Bouchier Hartopp who was M.P. for North Leicestershire for many years. As well as owning the parishes of Burton Lazars and Little Dalby in Leicestershire, he owned considerable property in Ireland. Edward was High Sheriff for Leicestershire carrying on a

tradition of the Hartopp family going back as far as 1625 when Sir Thomas Hartopp filled that position.

#### Edward's Children

Edward had a son George, then William, followed by five daughters and then a son Edward who was born in 1846. He also had another daughter Dorothy born in 1848. In August 1855, at the age of 21, George died of an illness from disease of the heart, during a visit to Germany to improve his health.

So Edward was to suffer, not only the death of his eldest two sons, but also his grandson. The Hartopp name was therefore in danger of disappearing. However, when William's daughter Florence married James Burns in the 1890s, they gained royal licence to change their surname to Burns-Hartopp. Like William, James Burns was also a Captain in the Royal Horse Guards. They were not to produce a son, but two daughters Laetitia (b1896) and Helen (b1898). Florence survived until 1970, an age of 102.

Following the death of her father-in-law, Lina Hartopp and her two daughters returned to the family seat at Little Dalby Hall where the family continued to live. The trail then goes cold though Little Darby Hall was sold and, I believe, demolished. Attempts to contact descendants have, as yet, proved fruitless, though I have learnt that one Mrs Orton of Little Darby was the originator c1720 of Stilton cheese!

#### Family Names

My research didn't stop there. I was interested in the unusual second names of both William Hartopp (Wrey) and his father and his son (Bouchier). It was often the case that the second name was a surname of an ancestor.



Now, Edward Bouchier Hartopp was the son of Edward Hartopp (b1808) and Anna Wrey which accounts for the name Wrey. Anna Wrey was the daughter of Sir Bouchier Wrey (b1757) and Anna Palk. Sir Bouchier Wrey was the 7th Baronet Wrey of Trebitch, Cornwall. So this accounts for the name Bouchier.

Following down the line, Sir George Richard Bouchier Wrey, 15th Baronet, married

Lady Caroline Janet Lindsay-Bethune, daughter of David Lindsay-Bethune, 15th Earl of Lindsay and Hon. Mary-Clare Douglas-Scott-Montagu on August 1st 1981. So, by a circuitous route we have found a tenuous link between the Hartopp and Montagu families.

Whether Commander Wrey O.B.E. (d1972) who lived at Boarmans House, is any part of the picture, was my next task. And what a surprise I had! He was the great great grandson of Sir Bouchier Wrey, 6th Baronet of Trebitch.

Anthony Norris

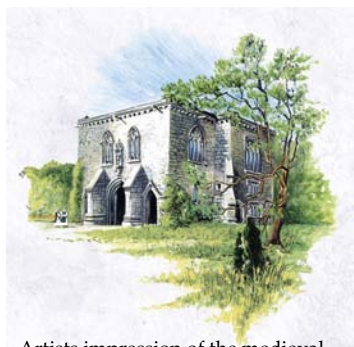
## From Gate House to Palace House

In September 2014, Ralph Montagu and Mary Montagu-Scott kindly gave the society a talk and tour of Palace House in Beaulieu, ancestral home of the Montagu family. The talk focussed on some of the less-well known aspects of the house's history. In this article they set on record some of these new discoveries.

### Gatehouse of a Cistercian Abbey

The Beaulieu guide book gives a good account of Palace House as a family home, but the story of its architectural evolution has never been fully told. We grew up knowing that Beaulieu was a Cistercian Abbey founded in 1204, that our ancestor Sir Thomas Wriothesley bought the monastic estate from Henry VIII in 1538, and that he converted the Inner Gatehouse into a residence. But what form did this Tudor hunting lodge take and what subsequent changes took place prior to the last major round of alterations in the 1870s? This is has always been something of a mystery. The invitation to present a talk to the History Society prompted us to find some of the answers!

### Medieval Features



Artists impression of the medieval gatehouse

Trying to trace the medieval features and layout is not easy. The earliest detailed floor plans date from 1828 but there are other ways we can build a picture of the building in earlier times. There are inventories of the contents, written references, and paintings in which the house appears. We can study other surviving monastic gatehouses of the period, such as the one at Cleeve Abbey in North Somerset which has a central carriage-way with side rooms for the Porter and rooms above.

Beaulieu would have followed a similar pattern with the gatehouse having large archways to provide a thoroughfare to the main abbey for carriages and callers on foot. The southern face of the building remained the entrance after dissolution, but the archway was in-filled with a large Tudor porch.



Gatehouse at Cleeve Abbey

This was removed in 1876 when a bay window was inserted. Photographs of the work taking place reveal the original entrance arch with a tantalising view of the monastic structure.

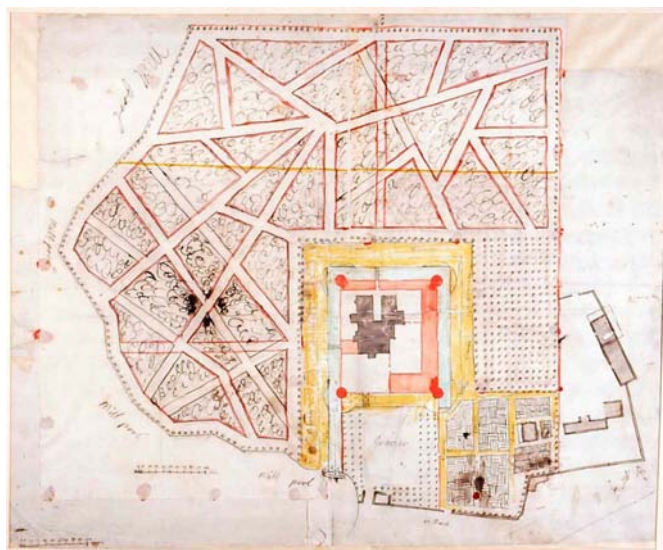
Interior photographs of what is now the Lower Drawing Room show a Tudor fireplace occupying the centre of the northern arch (on left in photo). In the 1880s, this was replaced with a much larger one in Baronial Gothic style, complete with Montagu-Douglas-Scott armorial bearings.



One feature of Palace House that is unexplained is the vaulting in this Lower Drawing Room. The ceiling is what is termed a Tierceron vault (see photo), the ribs forming an intricate star pattern across the ceiling. Could it be medieval? The pattern is certainly medieval in style and the darker colour of some of the springings suggest that parts are monastic in origin.

### Alterations in the 18th Century

We always thought that it was John, 2nd Duke of Montagu who undertook the major alterations in the 1730s but drawings in our archives suggest that his changes were more concerned with the landscape around the house. A plan from 1718, drawn in his own hand, shows a moat, turrets and wilderness garden. We think



the red ink indicates his proposals. In contrast, the house appears to be shown in its then existing Tudor or Elizabethan form with medieval extensions to North.

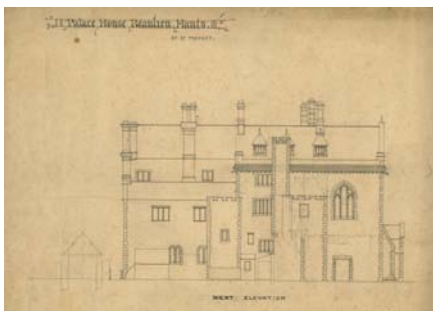
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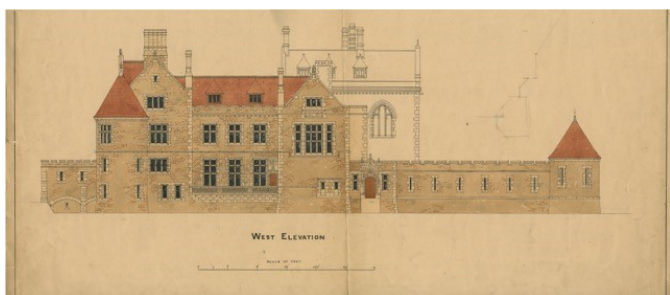
**Re-modelling in the 19th Century**

When Walter Francis 5th Duke of Buccleuch gave Beaulieu to his second son Henry as a wedding present in 1867, he also gave his son the funds to re-model the house as a family home. Sir Arthur Bloomfield, the architect he engaged, described it as 'extremely defective' and concluded that 'the ancient part of the house may very well be preserved' but that 'the two wings at the North should be pulled down' and be replaced by 'an entirely new building'. His original concept was for a much larger 'new building' which would have somewhat dwarfed the ancient gate-



Western elevation around 1870 with original gatehouse to right and Tudor extensions to left

house. Thankfully, his plans were scaled down and the result, which retained most of the important monastic features, is the building we know today.



Bloomfield's proposed west façade, altered in the final design

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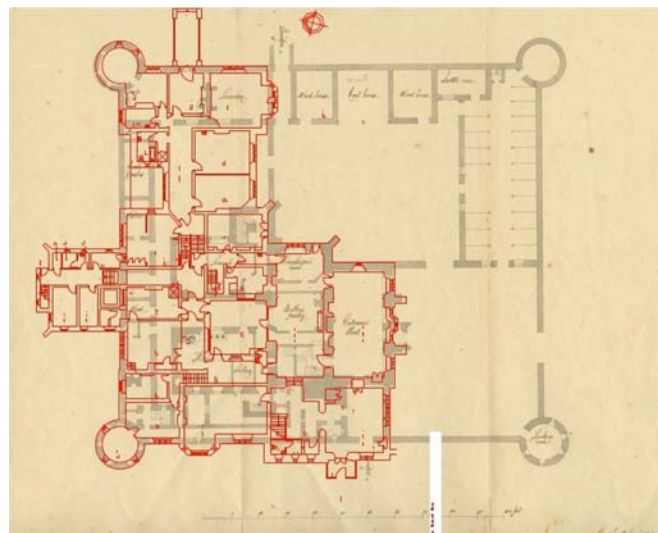


Photograph around 1865 of west and south facades showing turrets

Re-building started in 1871 and took three years to complete. At the dedication of the new wing a note in a bottle was placed under the foundation stone. The building was not without its problems and it was discovered that the northern wall was on a line of quicksand and required extensive and expensive stabilising. Bathrooms were added, with the water coming from the monks' well at Hill Top, and a central heating system was installed by Prosser and Russel, some of whose pipes are still in use today!

**Changes in the 20th Century**

Further change occurred in 1952 when my father opened the main rooms of the house to the public and converted the rest into flats. He rightly took the largest apartment on the first floor for himself. This became our family home, but one without a proper front door, as the original entrance to the house formed part of what the visitors used. In 1979, this was put right with the addition of a new front door on the east side of the house. By this time the family flat had grown downwards and one of the ground floor bedrooms became the entrance hall.



The 1828 plan overlaid with modern floor plan in red

This was the last time any modifications were made. We are fortunate that the visitor business has generated the funds to maintain the property and allow the family to retain it as their home. It will continue to present its owners with challenges, one being a full understanding of the building's past. In the same time we were researching this talk with our archivist Susan Tomkins, we had a visit from architectural historian Bruce Bailey. He was updating our entry in the Pevsner guide, and we had many interesting debates over the evolution of the building. No doubt those debates will continue.

Ralph Montagu and Mary Montagu-Scott

## The Swan of the East

At the Society's November meeting Nicholas de Rothschild delivered an entertaining account of how an Australian cruiser came to be linked to Exbury church's brass lectern.

This true story has its background in the First World War and it included a naval battle off the Cocos Islands (that lie midway between Australia and Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean), a German cruiser called the Emden and a post card.

Rummaging in his attic, Nick found a history of Exbury church which included a description of the Exbury lectern. He learnt that the handsome brass eagle lectern was made by L. Randerson, in Australia in 1930 from the turbine blade of HMAS Sydney. Intrigued and being a self-confessed 'inveterate internet user' he researched HMAS Sydney on his PC. He quickly discovered a post card inscribed, "Well done Australia! HMAS Sydney is the ship that ended the career of the elusive and victorious German cruiser Emden".

More googling later he established that the SMS Emden, a coal-powered light cruiser had been part of the German East Asian Squad-



SMS Emden

ron. Whilst Europe was preoccupied with trench warfare these German ships, unable to return home, had proceeded to cause as much damage as they could to allied shipping in the eastern hemisphere. Emden had played her part well, destroying and sinking a number of



Julie Boom Boom

ships, devastating an oil installation in Madras, India and generally becoming a nuisance for the Allies. After her success in Madras, Emden's Commander, Captain von Müller, went to Direction Island in the Cocos Islands where his intent was to cut communication cables. As he arrived a sharp-eyed radio operator realised the Emden only had 3 funnels, a distinguishing feature of German naval ships. He alerted the Allies who were hunting for Emden to say that their quarry was in Direction Island harbour. Realising the chase was on, Müller left the harbour but was intercepted by the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney whereupon the Em-



HMAS Sydney

den, in Nick's words, was "pounded into scrap metal".

The Sydney became a national hero. After the war Lord Forster of Lepe, who had been appointed Governor General of Australia in 1920, used her for his tours for which he became renowned. So when she was broken up in 1928 it was decided that a suitable departing gift for Lord Forster would be something associated with the Sydney. Forster's only two sons had been killed in the First World War – tragically one in 1914 and other from his wounds after the armistice in 1918. In their memory Lord and Lady Forster built St Katharine's Church a new Tower and Memorial chapel. He must have suggested a lectern for the chapel which was of such importance to him and his wife.

So ended one story but Nick offered a further one – that of the career of Captain Julius Lauterbach. More commonly known as Julie Boom Boom, Lauterbach had been the navigation officer on the Emden but had escaped the ship's destruction as he was on a coal carrier at the time. Finding himself marooned, Lauterbach, 'a huge bull of a man' and a convivial bon-viveur, proceeded to make his way back to Germany. His journey from Japan to China, and from there across America to Europe included several scrapes with death, two or three wives and a lot of inventiveness on his part. Lauterbach died in Germany and perhaps became the most highly decorated German officer of the First World War. Through his association with the Emden, the Emden's battle with the Sydney, and that ship's link to the Forster family of Lepe, we came to learn of the adventures of Julie Boom Boom.

Christina Dykes

### Committee Members

**Emma Page** (Chair) emma.page@lepe.org.uk  
**Anne Coles** (Research) anne@johncoles.plus.com  
**Christina Dykes** (Events) christina@exalon.net  
**Ralph Montagu** ralph.montagu@beaulieu.co.uk  
**Peter Marling-Roberts** (Treasurer) pmarlingroberts@hotmail.co.uk

**John Pemberton** (Newsletter) johnpemberton@compuserve.com  
**Gillian Strathcarron** (Secretary) gillian.s@mac.com  
 whose address for contact is:  
 Otterwood House, Exbury Road, Beaulieu SO42 7YS  
 01590 612334