



# BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 27 September 2015

## Editor's Column

### Past Meetings

In May, at the kind invitation of Catharina van der Vorm, the society made a **Visit to Sowley** to hear the history of Sowley Iron Works presented by Emma Page and of Sowley House presented by Catharina herself.



Milne's map of 1791

Although the evening worked out beautifully in the end, the day beforehand was full of impending disaster. Find out more in Emma's article on page 3.

The text and slides of the presentations are available on the society's website (see below right), along with many other presentations. Click on Archive and then Presentations to find them.

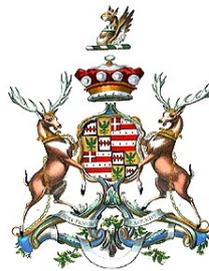
On 25 September, a talk on **Pearl's Cowes Weeks** was given by Mary Montagu-Scott and Ken Robinson. Pearl, mother of the late Edward, Lord Montagu was a much-loved figure in Beaulieu.

Ken presented the talk and Mary, Pearl's granddaughter, read extracts from Pearl's diary entries from 1920-1996. They provided an illuminating insight into the social whirl of Cowes Week yacht races,

royal visits and key events at Beaulieu over three quarters of a century.

### Future Meetings

On 13 November Timothy Duke, officer of arms at the College of Arms in London, will give a talk on the **Heraldry of Beaulieu**; the fascinating study of coats of arms of families associated with Beaulieu, and the rights and genealogies associated with them.



Arms of Edward-Hussey Montagu, 1st Earl Beaulieu (1721-1802)

### Belinda Montagu Video

Copies of the video **Recollections of Belinda Montagu** presented at the meeting in January 2015 are still available to members from society secretary Gillian Strathcarron. Priced at £5, the method of payment is as for membership — see below right.



### Website

The Beaulieu History website [www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk) contains a list of society events, an archive of newsletters, presentations, and a growing number of photo galleries. For copyright reasons, access is limited to members using a username and password distributed separately to members.

John Pemberton

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## Dates for your Diary

Friday 13 November 2015 6:30pm  
**The Heraldry of Beaulieu**  
by Timothy Duke, College of Arms  
Beaulieu Village Hall

Friday 12 February 2016 6:30pm  
**AGM and Talk**  
**(to be confirmed)**  
Beaulieu Village Hall

## 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. In the Reference box, please put what you paying (Membership, DVD, name of event) and your surname 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.

## The Early History of Otterwood Farm

In May 2014, the Society visited Otterwood to be given a talk generously hosted by Ian and Gillian Strathcarron. However, their researches did not stop then. Gillian relates here Otterwood's earliest known history.

It has been interesting to discover the history of the area known by the romantic name of Otterwood during research into the history of Otterwood House. There were indeed once lots of otters in the river, which was known as the River Otter before it was renamed the Beaulieu river after the establishment of the Abbey. Woods abounded as well of course, but another possible source for the name Otterwood, is the Anglo-Saxon 'Otreorde' meaning otter source. 'Otreorde' is the name given to the land in the Domesday Book, published in 1086. The amount of land described as being farmed, in total 2 hides and 1 virgate, is equivalent today to about 300 acres. The farming settlements in Otreorde were cleared to create the 'New Forest', a private hunting domain for the Norman kings.

A great change occurred in 1203 when King John invited the Cistercian order to establish an Abbey on the site of one of the hunting lodges in the New Forest. Later, after the great Abbey of Beaulieu was built, the Cistercians applied to King John's son Henry III for more land in which to expand their successful farming operation. In 1236 they



The barn at Otterwood House, whose stone walls are thought to be C13th and therefore part of the grange

were given Otterwood. The trees were cleared, a grange was built and the land was once again turned into a farm. The farm work was carried out by lay brothers who would have lived in dormitories on the top floor of the Grange.

Monastic life was in decline during the 14th and 15th Centuries. The population of England had decreased by one third during the Black Death in 1346-1350. For the survivors, life carried on in the cycle created by the natural world and the feasts and fasts of the Church's year. Otterwood Farm still belonged to the Abbey until 1537 as we learn from a lease granted to the first lay tenant of Otterwood, Thomas Moren. The lease was granted by Thomas Stevens 'abbot of the monastery of the blessed Mary the Virgin of Beaulieu Regis' on 20 September 1537. The lease was for 50 years at an annual rent of '£8 sterling payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas.' The lease granted to 'Thomas Moren of Bewlye, yeoman.....all lands, meadows, pastures, moors, cow-pastures (vacariis), commons and underwoods, together with all the tithes and goods and chattels of the said Thomas arising and growing in and upon the premises'. Thomas Moren was to allow the abbot 'all great trees, and the pursuit of game'. Otterwood farm included the land known as Moonhills, Oxlease, Bignalls Wood, Stearslease, Home Mead, Braces Cops and Newlands.

This, however, was only one year before the dissolution of the Abbey, at which time the Abbot Thomas Stevens formally surrendered the Abbey to the Crown. Thomas Stevens retired with a generous-sounding (for the time) annual pension of £66.

In 1538 Thomas Wriothsesley, ancestor of the Montagu family, bought the Beaulieu Estate from the Crown. He was a favoured courtier of Henry VIII, eventually made Lord Chancellor in 1544 and im-



Thomas Wriothsesley by Hans Holbein

portant enough to be drawn by Hans Holbein. A protégé of Cardinal Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell, he was one of the architects of the reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries. He began acquiring monastic property in Hampshire as it became available during the dissolution, and by 1540 was the biggest landowner in the county. His main residence was Titchfield Abbey. He, or his descendants did not live in Beaulieu until 1874.

So a new lease for Otterwood was drawn up between Thomas Wriothsesley and Thomas Moren. The tenure of the lease was reduced to 21 years but the annual rent was still '£8 payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas, and a boar of two years of age well brawned and six couple of capons to be delivered at Beaulieu between the feasts of St Andrew and Christmas upon reasonable warning.'

Captain Widnell, agent to John, Lord Montagu from 1918-1953, and author of *The Beaulieu Record*, a history of Beaulieu commissioned and published by Edward, Lord Montagu in 1973, writes in his (unpublished) *Widnell's Walk of 1578 around the Parish*:

'Thomas Morren, we may conclude, was one of Wriothsesley's friends.

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He was given in 1535 a lease for 96 years of a part of the lands of Great Coxwell, Berkshire, and in 1538 a Grange attached to Beaulieu. Perhaps we can also deduce that Thomas Wriothesley had already planned to buy the land and his friend Thomas Moren took out a lease before the dissolution in order to secure it. He and his family farmed at Otterwood for 100 years. He also part-owned the lease for Cross House, adjoining the Mill Pond, which we now know as Pondsides House. Cross House is believed to have been the church established for the people living in Beaulieu and surrounding farms after the Abbey was destroyed.

Thomas Moren died in 1562, leaving a large sum for that time of £48 17sh 9p. The inventory made after his death informs us that he had two dwellings, one at Otterwood, which was a tenement (a rented property), which included a hall and a new parlour, and was perhaps the origin of the house where we live now. This may have been inhabited by a member of his family or a farm manager. The other dwelling was 'within the abbey precinct' and included 'a Halle, parler, chappell, chappell chamber, whyght bedchamber, cheese house, maeds chamber, next chamber, botrey chamber, herne's chamber, great halle, gatt house chamber,

great larder, pantrey, meylck howes, melle house, kycchen and boterey'. We know that what are now the Parish Church and Domus buildings survived the destruction of the Abbey so perhaps these, or parts of them, were the other of Thomas Moren's two dwellings.

Gillian Strathcarron

For information gleaned from the wills and inventories stored in the archives at Winchester Records Office and Beaulieu Estate Office, I am indebted to Alan Bartlett's *Beaulieu in Tudor and Stuart Times*. Archivist at Beaulieu from 1968-1970, Alan Bartlett's detailed account of life in Beaulieu from 1500-1673 is soon to be published by the Beaulieu History Society with kind permission of Ralph Montagu.

## Disaster Avoided at Sowley

**In May of this year, Catharina van der Vorm invited members of the Society to her Georgian house at Sowley to hear about the transformation of the grounds of the house from an iron works to a beautiful garden. A full transcript of the talk is on the Society's website. In this article, Emma Page describes the hurdles which had to be overcome on the day.**

I met Catharina on the morning of the talk to run through everything with her. It was going well. The white wine was being chilled, the glasses were laid out, the nibbles were being prepared and the tent, which Catharina had borrowed from a kind neighbour, Peter Cross, was up on the lawn. I knew that we were fully booked and the garden looked superb. What could possibly go wrong?

When I returned later that day, disaster had struck in many forms. Blocking the drive were large vans from the electricity company. The electricity cable had come down in the wind and there was absolutely no electricity in the house. No electricity meant no projector and no computers – in fact, no talk. Fortunately, Peter Marling-Roberts, who lived next door, had already taken control. He had procured a generator sufficient to power the projector and the computers.

This was not the only problem caused by strengthening wind. The tent was swaying alarmingly and the decision was taken to move the talk into a room of Sowley House. It was all hands to shifting out its furniture and squeezing in eighty or so chairs.

But we were not out of the woods yet. We heard that the sound recordist had fallen ill and this meant no microphones or recording equipment. Peter's wife,

Gerry, volunteered to drive to his home, twenty miles away, to collect the equipment. Luckily, Catharina's sons were on hand to help set it all up just in time.



Modern-day Sowley House

By the time guests started to arrive, the room was ready. The garden looked magnificent, even better with a glass of wine in one's hand thanks to Catharina's hospitality. And, just before the talk started, the electricity came back on.

In Catharina's introduction to the house, she described what it was like when she moved in:

"We found an empty house, a bunch of keys on the kitchen worktop – all the lamp bulbs removed and a thousand empty champagne bottles in the cellar."

I outlined the history of the iron works at Sowley up to the nineteenth century and Catharina carried this through to the twentieth century. Her fascinating vignettes included a picnic by the owner and his party on the frozen pond at Sowley at the turn of the twentieth century, visits by Yehudi Menuhin, Eva Trefusis' beloved dog and untimely end and the use of the house as a store for priceless furniture and paintings in the Second World War.

It was an excellent evening but without the teamwork of Catharina's family, friends and the Society's committee members it could have been a disaster.

Emma Page

## Another Forgotten Memorial

Whilst I was talking with Graham Wilson, the Forest Keeper, about the memorial to William Hartopp at Saltmarsh, he mentioned that there was another memorial on the Beaulieu Estate and pointed me in the direction of Furzey Lodge.

After some searching in the woods I came across a large piece of stone, surrounded and almost completely hidden by brambles. I was able to make out, on the side facing me the words 'The body of A.K.B. was interred here September 1928'. I couldn't read the reverse side until I had returned with my shears and cleared away all the brambles.



The photograph of this side is shown. The only inscription is 'Alexander Kay Barlow Esq. 1856 - 1928.'

This set me thinking... 'Who was this Alexander Barlow and why was he buried there?' All sorts of thoughts went through my mind

– the most plausible being that he fell from a horse while hunting'. Anyway, firstly I needed to find out something about the family.

So some research on the Ancestry website was required. It revealed that Alexander Kay Barlow was born in Bakewell, Derbyshire in 1856. His parents hailed from Lancashire, his father's profession being described as a 'Proprietor of Houses', and he spent much of his youth in Fulshaw, Cheshire. Thereafter it is a mystery as to his whereabouts until we read The Essex Standard of November 29th 1890 which looks forward to his wedding to Sophie: 'Mr Alexander Kay Barlow, of Lynders Wood, Braintree, will celebrate his marriage – which will take place at Manchester, on Wednesday, Dec 10th – by giving a free dinner on that day to poor people at Chelmsford, Great Leighs and Black Notley; and on the following day 200 poor persons at Braintree will be similarly entertained'. Obviously a generous person!

By 1901 he had moved to Wivenhoe Hall in Essex and his biography tells us that he was a Captain of the 40th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, a Justice of the Peace and a member of many leading yacht clubs.

Either due to his parents living in Lancashire or his possible ancestry he chose to include the name Lancashire as one of each of his five children's middle names.

In 1919 he decided to sell Wivenhoe Hall and he held an auction of the contents of the mansion which included an oil painting of St Mark's, Venice by J. Turner. So he must have been well off! He retired to Bitterne Park, Southampton and maintained his interest in yachting as

a member of the Royal Southampton Yacht Club. I suspect it was his mutual interest of sailing with John, Lord Montagu that resulted in him being given permission to be buried on the Beaulieu Estate. He died on September 15th 1928 and his death was reported in the *Southern Evening Echo*.

Jean Warne, nee Pike, recalled to me that her father, George Pike, the Keeper at Hazel Copse, dug the grave and the body was placed in a lead lined coffin which 'weighed a ton'!

Anyway, there was nothing unusual about his death, and his burial spot was probably chosen due to a friendship with John, Lord Montagu. A more peaceful spot could not be imagined as I discovered.

Although having no connection with Beaulieu, the heroism of his youngest son, John Lancashire Barlow, born 1899, cannot go without mention. At the age of 15 he enlisted into the Army. When they discovered his age he was asked to leave and he became interested in aviation. Once he turned 18, John joined the Royal Flying Corps and became involved in the war again, this time as a pilot. John was sent to the front and took part in the Battle of Messines, and many other fights over the skies of France and Belgium. It is reported that he took a good toll of enemy machines and was a brilliant pilot, popular with both his fellow officers and the enlisted men.

He was killed while flying over France with 40 Squadron RFC, on 23rd September, 1917. It is said that in the fatal dogfight John took on six enemy aeroplanes, before his plane was forced into a nosedive. For his bravery John was Mentioned in Despatches. After John had died, his Brigadier General wrote the following message to John's father, 'No loss experienced by us this summer has been more regretted than that of your son. He was so gallant and cheerful that his example will always be remembered by those that knew him'.

John Barlow is buried in the Bruay Communal Cemetery near Arras in the Pas de Calais Department of France, and his name is inscribed on the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard, Wivenhoe.

His father must have been very proud of him.

Anthony Norris

### LATE MR. A. K. BARLOW

Buried in Corner of Beaulieu Estate.

The funeral of Mr. Alexander Kay Barlow, of Thorold-road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, and late of Wivenhoe Hall, Essex, who died on Saturday at the age of 72, took place at Beaulieu on Wednesday afternoon. The remains were conveyed by road from Southampton and laid to rest in a secluded corner of the Beaulieu estate at Furzey Lodge in accordance with the wishes of the deceased.

The service was a simple one, the last rites being performed by the Rev. H. Leslie Clarke, of the Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park. The mourners present were Mrs. A. K. Barlow (wife), Mrs. J. H. Haynes (daughter), Mr. Alex W. L. Barlow (son), Miss Sibel Barlow (daughter), Mr. Geoffrey Barlow (nephew), Mrs. G. Coville (niece), Miss Innes, Mr. Salmonson (brother-in-law), General and Mrs. Radcliffe, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Fisher Hall, Miss Fisher Hall, Miss Chanter, Miss Willink, Colonel Wolff, Mr. E. Gibson Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. Babington, Colonel and Mrs. Martin.

There were many beautiful wreaths from relatives and friends, including tributes from the Flag Officers, colleagues on the committee, and members of the Royal Southern Yacht Club, and the members of the Bitterne Park and St. Denys Ratepayers' Association.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. E. Mayes and Son, Southampton, under the personal supervision of Mr. F. Simmons (Director).

## Chapter House Conservation

**The Chapter House on the east side of Beaulieu Abbey Cloisters is one of the most photographed parts of the old abbey ruins. Its well-proportioned arches perfectly frame the wedding couple or dreamy visitors. Although its long history means it has needed successive conservation.**

### Its history

The Chapter House was one of the most important places within the abbey where every day the Abbot would call his senior monks together to conduct the daily administrative and disciplinary orders, and was where important guests were received. The monks would sit along the walls on stone seats with the Abbot's chair in the centre of the eastern end for their daily meeting. Every Monday morning a 'Chapter' from the Rule of St Benedict would be read. It was in effect the Abbot's office and headquarters for the Abbey's affairs.

The entrance to the chapter house is formed of a tripartite arcade in the eastern range of the cloister. The central pointed arch is of three orders, the inner two moulded and the outer chamfered while the outer arches have two orders. The arches are carried on limestone piers with Purbeck marble capitals and shafts.

The room had a vaulted ceiling with nine compartments standing on four grouped pillars or columns and located centrally in the Cloisters adjacent to the Vestry.

Above the Chapter House would have been the 'Dorter' or dormitory for the choir monks. They had a stair directly to the south transept of the church so that at night they could go directly to their night time services of 'Nocturns' and early 'Matins'.

Chapter Houses were often used for the burial ground for distinguished members of their order and there are three such graves showing in the ground in Beaulieu.

The majority of the Chapter House was knocked down in the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 but fortunately the west wall survived. Maybe the importance of the room or the beauty of the entrance arches led the demolishers to leave them intact.



The earliest known photo

In the earliest historic illustrations or early photos we can establish that the arches stood upright but that the walls around them were in very poor condition. There was considerable erosion to the supporting columns to the arches especially on the west facing side. There were gates added across the chapter house in around 1885. About this time a new column has been added to support the lean on the central arch.

### Early conservation

In 1900-1903 Henry, 1st Lord Montagu of Beaulieu sponsored a new excavation and investigation of the Abbey by leading architectural and archaeological historians W.H. St. John Hope and Harold Brakespear. They were the first to really re-establish the layout of the Abbey, clear the vegetation to expose the walls and enable the first efforts in preservation and conservation. They had recently excavated Waverley Abbey near Farnham in Sur-

rey, the first Cistercian abbey founded in England in 1128. Most of what we know about the abbey is based on their findings.

The death of Henry, 1st Lord Montagu in 1905 led to the creation of the family burial ground in the Vestry next to the Chapter House. The Vestry roof was fallen in, covered in ivy and needed major reconstruction. The adjacent Chapter House was perilously leaning so the entire upper cloister wall was rebuilt. We know from an estate receipt for works that an iron bar is inserted across the span of the arches to stabilise it and ironwork strapping is put on the Purbeck shafts.

There is a plaque on the wall to commemorate this work – 'The Chapter House Arches were put upright and restored, the Vestry roof was made secure and the west end opened out by JWMS, 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaulieu in memory of his father January 1908.'

The first abbey museum display was created in the Lay Brothers Frater in 1909 with information and artefacts.



W H St John Hope by the arches 1903

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However the structural problems were not really resolved as the Arches continued to lean westwards and the Purbeck shaft columns cracked further under the pressure.

**Recent Conservation**

The lean was watched over time but in the 1990s it came to the attention of English Heritage as a potential major structural risk that all the arches could fall down. The arches were put on an 'at risk' register and architects and engineers tried to assess the real risk. After all, they had stood for 800 years and the costs of repair was considerable and there was great debate as to the best solution.



Something had to be done so in 2013 new specialist conservation architects were appointed, *Columba Cook Associates*, along with a host of other specialist consultants like engineers, archaeologists and botanists. Also a new laser survey was commissioned of the whole ruins to form an up to date record as we were still working from the 100 year old plans.



The abbey ruins are all Scheduled Monuments and therefore come under the highest level of heritage protection thus needing very detailed submissions for permissions to carry out any sort of work. ( very costly too).



Permissions were granted and the work went out to tender to stonemasons.

It was proposed that 4 new Purbeck shafts would be required and that these would be able to take the weight of the lean of the wall. As the capitals at the top of the shafts had eroded beyond repair in some places, new capitals would be made and inserted. The lean of 2.5 degrees would not have to be corrected but made safe by pinning with stainless steel pins and Cintec anchors.

The whole structure would need to be scaffolded to be able to take the load of the arches when new shafts were put in place, and for access to re-point the many open joints and broken stones in new lime mortar .

The contractors, *Traditional Stone Restoration* from West Sussex did the work in April – May this year. The design of the replacement capitals were based on the ones which remain in the Parish Church.

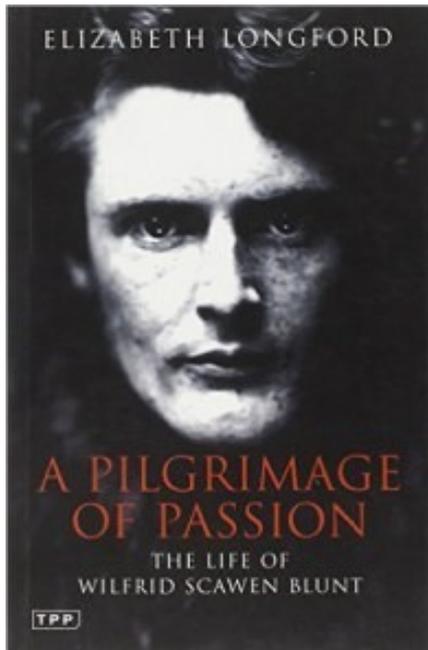
It is the first time that any part of the Abbey ruins have been 'rebuilt' with new stone and the results are superb to see. It was tempting to ask the stonemasons to just 'carry on' with the rest of the cloister structure but sadly we have to leave this to our imagination.

Mary Montagu-Scott



## Wilfred Scawen Blunt: A Brilliant but Misguided Life

Few would know that Ferny Crofts Scout Camp, hidden in the woods near Beaulieu Road Station, once belonged to Wilfried Scawen Blunt (1840 – 1922). Blunt led what his biographer Elizabeth Longford<sup>1</sup> described as “a brilliant but misguided life”.



He is best known as a diarist but he was also an essayist, poet, traveller, amorist and breeder of Arabian horses. Conventional in social attitudes (he was not able to put aside the social position and privileges of his landowning background) in politics he was unconventional. He indulged in unpopular causes. He held strongly anti imperialist views in a time when Britain was enjoying her empire on which ‘the sun never set’. He championed the nationalist movement in Egypt (where he bought a property near Cairo) and was imprisoned in Ireland when he took the Home Ruler’s side in the Land War of the 1890s. In a word he was controversial.

Never strong in health, Blunt was very ill in 1898. Bed-bound and taking regular morphia, he was too ill to accompany his wife on one of their regular visits to Egypt. In-

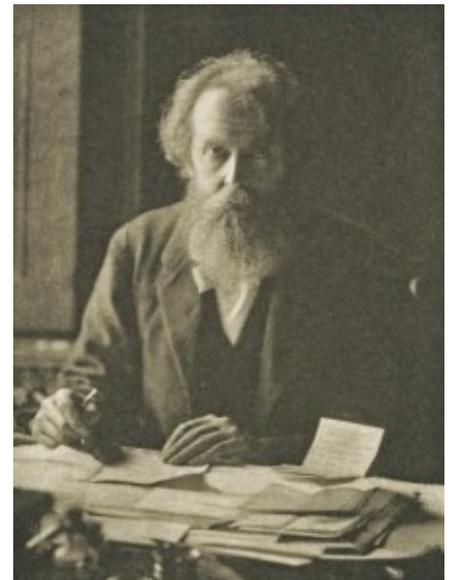


stead he bought Ferny Crofts from the 1st Lord Montagu. There he could be near Sir William Harcourt who lived at Malwood, Minstead. Harcourt was a Whig while Blunt was, mainly, Tory, but they enjoyed lengthy conversations which are recorded in Blunt’s diary. The New Forest also appealed to Blunt for hunting. The diary records,

“6th Jan 1899 – the run of the season with the New Forest deer hounds, in pursuit of an old roebuck from Lady Cross Lodge right across the open heath of Beaulieu plain, very fast to the far side, when he turned back and again faced the open. About the middle of the plain on second journey, he lay down, and jumped up in the middle of the hounds, racing away for two miles in view with the pack at his heels to Hackett Pond, where he took the water and swam for ten minutes with the pack after him, and out again, and was run and killed in the open. They say they never had so good a run before. It lasted seventy-five minutes.”<sup>2</sup>

It was at Ferny Crofts that he embarked on one of his more unsuitable liaisons. It was with Lady Mar-

garet Sackville, the daughter of Lady de la Warr who was living at Inchmery, Exbury. Lady de la Warr thought Blunt would be able to talk to her highly poetical daughter but clearly she did not understand the danger she courted. Longford records, ‘poems passed between the girl of sixteen and man of nearly sixty, Wilfred considering himself



passionately in love for about two months.’ The romance faltered because Margaret, to Blunt’s regret, mixed passion with ‘souls’ and ‘holiness’. “Literature without love”, wrote Wilfred, “is tiresome in a woman...”

Blunt left Ferny Crofts to his cousin and great friend George Wydham, with the instruction that it was to be given to Blunt’s natural son Berkley Sumner for whom it became a home.

Christina Dykes

1 Longford, Elizabeth, *A Pilgrimage of Passion: the Life of Wilfred Scawen Blunt* (London: Weidenfeld, 1979)

2 Blunt, WS, *My Diaries, with a Foreward by Lady Gregory* (London: Secker, 1932)

The funeral of Edward, 3rd Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, took place on Thursday 10 September.

Edward, Lord Montagu was a keen supporter of the History Society; at society meetings often to be seen seated in the front row.

His son, Ralph, 4th Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, who succeeds him, is active in local historical research and has served on the History Society committee for many years. His daughter Mary Montagu-Scott, also active in local historical research, contributes an article to this edition of the newsletter.



### Extracts from EDWARD, LORD MONTAGU—IN MEMORIAM published by the Beaulieu Estate

Edward, 3rd Baron Montagu of Beaulieu, was the devoted custodian of his family's 7,000-acre Beaulieu Estate in Hampshire. He was also a champion of the historic vehicle movement and founder of the National Motor Museum. He played a major role in the preservation of England's historic houses and the development of the UK tourism industry.

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From the time he first opened Beaulieu to the public, Lord Montagu worked to establish an association for the owners of stately homes. Some of the old guard opposed this, especially when a membership fee was suggested, but in 1973 the Historic Houses Association was finally formed with Lord Montagu as its President. Today, the organisation represents 1,600 houses and has 42,000 friends. He was also closely involved in establishing the Association of Independent Museums, of which he was Patron.

In 1983, in recognition of his innovative approach and commercial success, the government invited him to chair its new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, which he soon renamed English Heritage.

Montagu regularly attended the House of Lords and

when the 1999 reforms were implemented he was one of the Conservative hereditary peers elected to remain. Over the course of six decades, he spoke on motoring, tourism, museums, historic buildings, conservation and the New Forest.

...

Lord Montagu was an active in many clubs, associations and organisations and held the Presidencies of the Tourism Society (1991-2000), the Southern Tourist Board (1977-2004), the Museums Association (1982-1984) and the Institute of Journalists (2000). He was Chancellor of the Wine Guild of the UK from 1983 and President of the UK Vineyards Association from 1996. He was also instrumental in setting up an advisory group that became the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, of which he was President. In 2012 Lord Montagu received the accolade of a lifetime achievement award for his dedication to preserving automotive history over many decades.

Lord Montagu played as hard as he worked. He was a keen shot, loved foreign travel, went wind-surfing off his own foreshore and regularly competed in historic motorsport events.

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