



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the AGM held on 31st January 2014 at 7pm Beaulieu Village Hall

Committee: Chairman Mrs Rosemary Johnson, Vice Chairman & Treasurer The Hon. Emma Page, Secretary Mrs Gillian Hawkins, Events Secretary Mrs Christina Dykes, Newsletter Editor Mr John Pemberton. The Hon. Ralph Montagu and Dr Anne Coles.

Apologies were received from: Dr & Mrs Sheinman, Mr & Mrs Barber, Drs A & I Cooper, Mr & Mrs Howard, Mr & Mrs Noble, Mr Bryant, Mr & Mrs Vance, Mr Simpson, Mr & Mrs A Smith, Mr & Mrs Bamford, Mrs Janet Leakey, Lady Ross, Mr Marvin & Mrs Booth, Mr & Mrs Pemberton, Mr & Mrs McGill, The Rev & Mrs Ryc Smith, Mr & Mrs Lynes, Sir Anthony & Lady Evans, Mr & Mrs Melhuish, Mr & Mrs Gayner, Mr & Mrs Lappin.

The Chairman, Mrs Johnson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how especially nice it was to welcome the Society's Patron, The Hon Ailsa Montagu.

She continued that very sadly she had just been informed of the death of one of the more senior members of the Society, Sir David Price.

Approval of the minutes:

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the AGM 2013, the minutes were taken as correct.

The Chairman then presented her report as follows:

Good Evening Members and a warm welcome to our patron **Ailsa Montagu**

We have had 5 meetings this year:

Christina's excellent talk on **Sir Philip Hunloke at last year's AGM,**

A talk arranged by **John Pemberton** on the new exciting technology for archaeology called **Lidar,**

Our House Visit to Keeping Farm, courtesy of the McGills,

Memories of Beaulieu, first in a series of The Listening project, which Gill Hawkins and I are hoping to continue when we will record local people's memories of the past,

Social Evening at Buckler's Hard when we had supper followed by a talk and quiz by **Richard Waters** which covered a **pocket history of Beaulieu River from the Bronze age to the present day.**

These meetings were all achieved by **Team effort** – and what a talented team it has been:

Thanks particularly to Gill Hawkins who is standing down after 6 years as secretary. I confess I badgered her into applying for the job! And what a secretary she has been. She has been a most efficient sec and right hand to me and in addition she has found the time to put together several marvelous evenings: you will remember the fascinating **D Day evening**, the **Memories of World War 1 and the Falklands**, and **last year the Memories of Beaulieu with recordings of older members of their early memories.** John, her husband has supported not only her but has often been seen at meetings with his computer putting up the illustrations on the screen. Thank you to you both for all you have done for the Beaulieu History Society. Gill has agreed **to continue her work in recording** so we have not lost her altogether.

Thanks to Christina who sets up the hall and makes sure all runs smoothly. She also finds time to write articles for the newsletter and of course gave an excellent talk on **Sir Philip Hunloke.**

Thanks to Anne Coles who contributes articles to newsletter and helps members in their research – a service much appreciated by **McGills of Keeping Farm** and the **Strathcarrons who are researching Otterwood** for our visit this year.

Thanks to Emma who has kept the **Finances** so well and to Michael, her husband who is always there to give us a hand on the night manning the door or moving the chairs.

Thanks to Ralph who has shown himself so able and professional from **Hollywood comes to Beaulieu** to the **Memories of Beaulieu** evening when he skillfully encouraged the members to speak from the floor about their own memories.

Thanks to John Pemberton –who has produced a **newsletter** par excellence as well as organising the Lidar evening from the National Park. I must not forget **Tony Norris** here who regularly sends in a scholarly article to every newsletter.

Thanks to Nicky who serves our wine and to **Andy**, the wizard at technology who has supported us on so many occasions, with the sound and projection.

What am I most proud of? – Finding and shamelessly exposing the talent that surrounds us not only within the committee but in our community – I am thinking particularly of the fascinating and funny talk by Frederick Norris on his childhood, and of course for persuading

our speaker tonight to impart some of his research in literature with connections to Beaulieu– . Junior BHS much more to do and I hope my successor will continue to liaise with the school – there is so much history around our schoolchildren and they need to find out about it. The Listening project – so much info out there we need to gather in before it is too late. The last thing I am proud of is Getting together socially and meeting members over a meal – last time, thank goodness, the catering standard was considerably higher – largely owing, I believe, to the efforts of our not-to-forgotten **Founder, John Beaumont**, who went down to Buckler's Hard in person and sorted them out in his own inimitable way!

Thanks too for your support as members in making my time as chairman so very pleasurable.

Secretary's report

The Secretary reported that in 2013 membership had been lower but overall attendance at meetings had remained high and the subscriptions had been supplemented by payments from guests attending the meetings. The aim as always was to accommodate as many members as possible at the meetings, the exception being at The Master Builders which accommodated only up to 70.

The subscription for the year at £5 per member had covered attendance for five meetings and receipt of the three newsletters. The costs incurred in producing the newsletter had been very affordable thanks to the editor John Pemberton. Members were requested to keep the secretary updated with their e-mail address changes and to let the committee know if they were having difficulty printing out the newsletter as in some cases hard copies could be delivered.

The Secretary then thanked the Society for five enjoyable years serving on and working with the committee.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report:

I am happy to report that the financial situation of the Society continues to be very sound and I refer members to the financial report which is on your chair. These accounts have been audited but by Maurice McNeill rather than by Christine Dare, who has been dealing with illness in her family.

You will recall that in 2012 we received a grant of £350 from the Common Good Fund and in 2013 we spent it and £650 of our own savings on a contribution to the projector in this village hall. If you ignore this £650, the society has actually made a small profit of about £300 in 2013, rather than the annual loss of £366 shown in the accounts. We have a healthy but modest amount of £2,376 in the bank.

In spite of this, we may need to raise the subscription for 2015 and I am therefore giving formal notice of this.

The meeting then formally approved the accounts.

Approval of the accounts for 2013

Proposed by David Matcham, seconded by Lord Montagu. **Approved.**

Appointment of Auditor

A temporary auditor had been found for the 2013 accounts.

Christine Dare had agreed to continue as the Hon. Auditor for 2014.

Proposed by Adam Mills, seconded by Vicky Roberts **Approved.**

Election of Officers

The Chairman and Secretary were standing down.

The current Vice Chair & Treasurer **Emma Page** had been nominated to stand as Chairman:

Proposed by Rosemary Johnson, seconded by John Coles **Approved**

Gillian Strathcarron had been nominated to stand as Secretary:

Proposed by Ralph Montagu, seconded by Anne Coles **Approved**

Peter Marling-Roberts had been nominated to stand as Treasurer:

Proposed by Emma Page, seconded by Ralph Montagu **Approved**

Anne Coles had been nominated to stand as Vice Chair:

Proposed by MP seconded by Gill Hawkins **Approved**

The Chairman stated that **Ralph Montagu, Christina Dykes and John Pemberton** were all willing to stand for re-election and that no other nominations had been received.

Proposed by John Beaumont, seconded by Andrew Dykes **Approved**

Any Other Business

Ednyfed Hudson-Davies asked the Society to join him in thanking Rosemary for her huge contribution and great leadership both as Events co-ordinator and as Chairman of the Society for the past seven years.

Ralph Montagu, on behalf of the committee and the members of the Society, expressed great appreciation to Rosemary for all she had achieved and he then presented her with an engraved crystal goblet to commemorate the huge contribution she had made to the success of the Society.

Ralph then thanked the Secretary for her work on the committee and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

The Chairman then handed proceedings over to the Chairman elect, The Hon. Emma Page, who then introduced the Speaker for the evening, Sir John Coles.

The introduction and the talk can be heard on the recorded CD of the evening.

After the talk there was a private dinner hosted by the Founder of the Society, John Beaumont and the retiring Chairman, Rosemary Johnson, to honour everyone who had been involved in the running of and the success of the Society.