



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

To be held at Beaulieu Village Hall
on Thursday 1st February 2024

Doors open 18.00 hrs. Meeting Commences at 18.30 hrs

Agenda and related papers

The Beaulieu History Society Annual General Meeting is open to all paid up members and partners. Only paid up members are eligible to vote. Members who have not yet done so may pay their subscriptions on arrival.

BHS AGM 2023 Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** by Chairman: John Pemberton

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022**, held on 27th January 2023.

Draft Minutes have been circulated (copy included in these papers, following this Agenda), and subject to any comments.

Members will be asked to vote to approve the Minutes of the BHS AGM 2022

3. **Chairman's Report** by John Pemberton

2023 was a full year for the Society. We distributed two newsletters in May and October 2023, had a record we believe six meetings in the year, and ended the year with more members than ever before.

Programme of Meetings:

- 27 January 2023. Last year's Annual General Meeting was followed by Mary Montagu-Scott's talk on the History of Beaulieu River, sharing her knowledge of the river and its historic shipbuilding yard Buckler's Hard.
- 13 April 2023. Marc Heighway gave the talk Hidden in Plain Sight: Reminders of WW2 in the New Forest showing and describing the many unrecognised relics from WW2 still present in the Forest, from bombing ranges to buried aircraft.
- 25 May 2023. Christina Dykes' talk on New Forest Commoners: Life in the 19th Century focussed on difficult times when the rights of commoners were threatened by those wanting to grow timber on vast tracks of open Forest that the commoners had used over centuries to graze their stock animals.
- 22 June 2023. Peter Power spoke of the Special Operations Executive: Characters, Courage, and Connections, illuminating the courage of the exceptional characters parachuted in as spies behind enemy lines in WW2.
- 27 September 2023. Ken Robinson explained "The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the building of Buckler's Hard" when in the early 1700s the then Lord Montagu mounted an unsuccessful Caribbean trade adventure from a base at Bucker's Hard on the Beaulieu River. Ken repeated the talk in November at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club for those that couldn't attend in September.

- 27 November 2023. Marc Heighway conveyed the rarely told story of Needs Oar Point Airfield which operated on the Beaulieu Estate in WW2 for just 3 months in 1944, yet its 120 fighter bombers and their brave pilots made a significant contribution to the D-Day assault on the German occupation of France.

Retirement from the Committee: Late in 2023, long-serving member Christina Dykes retired from the Committee. We thank her for her contributions to the Committee's work, and for the very interesting talks she presented to members.

Subscriptions for 2024: The Committee has determined that the Annual Subscription for 2024 will remain at £5.

4. **Secretary's Report** by Ken Robinson

BHS Secretary: is Corinne Evans, who helpfully manages the reception desk at BHS events, and produces the Minutes of BHS Committee and General meetings.

Corinne liaises with Ken Robinson who deals with other BHS aspects including the following:

Membership: the number of members has increased greatly to a total of 373 at the end of 2023, over double the active membership pre-Covid. Membership was boosted in 2022 by non-members who attended and joined BHS for the Beaulieu in 1952 and National Motor Museum 50th Anniversary event. In 2023 many new members were enrolled having been attracted by Marc Heighway's WW2-related talks, and by the very popular talk on the founding of Buckler's Hard, which has to date been attended by 160 members and guests.

Subscriptions: Members are reminded that the BHS subscription is for a Calendar Year, not for 12 months from the date of payment. Following this 2023 AGM, members will receive a Subscription reminder email and can choose to pay online, via the website, or in person when attending an event thereafter.

Website: The improvements to the BHS website were all completed as reported at the 2022 AGM, so that now all members who chose to do so have personalised secure passwords to log-in, and can make secure online payments for subscription renewal, guest tickets at meetings and for book purchase etc. Members who prefer to pay in person rather than online may still do so when attending a meeting.

BHS is greatly indebted to Trevor Smith of Ashdown Software who manages the website for us.

Email contacts: BHS received 146 contacts by email during the year. While most of these were administrative (Subscriptions, event bookings etc). 27 were personal enquiries related to local history, families and places. We were able to provide information and links etc., to enquirers in subsequent correspondence, which were very much appreciated. We are very grateful to Tony Norris and Susan Tomkins who assisted with the research and responses of some enquiries.

Publications: Gillian Strathcarron kindly continues to manage the production of BHS books. Our next publication is planned to be the Memoires of Captain H.E.R. Widnell, or "Widdy" as he was known – he was the former Agent who managed the Beaulieu Estate for Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie. His Memoire of people, places and events affecting the Estate covers the period 1918 to 1954. BHS gratefully acknowledges a grant from the Beaulieu Common Good Trust towards the production of this Memoire.

Book Stocks: Current publications: Older Houses of Beaulieu (second reprint) 16, Beaulieu in Tudor & Stuart Times 78.

Purchase of Projection Screen: When required, BHS has in the past borrowed a video projector and display screen from Beaulieu Enterprises, free of charge. After they disposed of their large display screen, BHS has acquired our own.

5. **Treasurer's Report** from Peter Marling Roberts

I am glad to say that it was financially uneventful for the Beaulieu History Society and that the financial situation of the society continues to be very sound. The committee would also like to thank Adam Mills for reviewing the accounts and has also kindly agreed to review the BHS accounts again in 2024.

Subscriptions were up at £1,211 compared to £771 in 2022 thanks to not only increased membership but

many guests coming to the talks. Book sales were £211.50 compared to £147.50 the previous year. Excess Income over expenditure was £1,098.37 compared to £631.46 the previous year and the Bank balance on December 31 st 2023 was £8,041.04 compared to £6,942.67. This includes the generous gift from the Beaulieu Common Good Fund to help with future book publications.

The reviewed Statement of Accounts for 2023 is attached to this Agenda and Report.

Members will be asked to vote for acceptance of the BHS 2023 Accounts and the proposal that Adam Mills is asked to review the Accounts for 2024 following the year end.

6. Election of Officers for 2024

1. Nominations of members willing to serve: No new nominations have been received from members.
2. Committee Members retire at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution. The following are willing to stand for re-election and are proposed to continue in their existing/new roles:

Chairman	John Pemberton
Vice Chairman	(tbc)
Treasurer	Peter Marling-Roberts
Secretary	Corinne Evans (assisted by Ken Robinson – for related activities)
Members	Marc Heighway, Mary Montagu-Scott, Ken Robinson, Nigel Southward, Sally Hutton (co-opted in 2023)

Members will be asked to vote en bloc for the Election of the above nominees.

7. Any Other Business

Following the AGM, Mary Montagu-Scott and Ken Robinson will present an informal “What’s this” Quiz of Beaulieu-related objects.

**Beaulieu History Society
Financial Statements 2023**

Balance sheet
as of December 31st 2023

	2023	2022
Assets		
Bank	8,041.04	6,942.67
	£8,041.04	£6,942.67
Reserves		
Accumulated fund	6,942.67	6,311.21
Surplus on income and expenditure account	1,098.37	631.46
	£8,041.04	£6,942.67

Income and expenditure account
Year ended December 31st 2023

	2023	2022
Subscriptions and other income		
Subscriptions	1,211.00	771.00
Grant from Common Good Fund	400.00	0.00
Sale of Books	211.50	147.50
Interest and other income	0.01	0.00
	1,822.51	918.50
Expenses		
Venue hire	186.00	74.00
Refreshments and Dinner costs	61.29	0.00
Speaker and general costs	142.96	80.00
Publications and printing	200.00	0.00
Insurance cover	75.00	75.00
Website development	57.50	57.50
Bank interest or hire	1.39	0.54
Total expenses	724.14	287.04
Excess of income over expenditure	£1,098.37	£631.46

To members of the Beaulieu History Society:

Adam Mills reviewed the accounts of the Beaulieu History Society for the year ended December 31st 2023 and confirms they are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the Society. There are no matters arising from the review which need to be brought to the attention of members.

Adam Mills
Independent reviewer
St Leonards Farmhouse
SO42 7XF
January 2024



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Held at Beaulieu Village Hall on Friday 27th January 2023

The meeting was attended by Committee Members; John Pemberton Chairman, Christina Dykes, Mary Montagu-Scott, Ken Robinson, Corinne Evans (Secretary) and 90 members

1. A welcome was given by John Pemberton, who had taken over the chairmanship from Emma Page when she stepped down after being on the committee for thirteen years. The Society had greatly appreciated the work and commitment from Emma over this period including talks she gave on the Mitford family from the Exbury estate and Sowley Ironworks. Her husband, Michael was also acknowledged for the support he had given the Society. To show the Society's appreciation she was presented with a horticultural voucher and a bottle of champagne. The meeting applauded Emma.

2. Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held on 7th February 2021.

The Minutes had been circulated with the Agenda, but Ken Robinson arranged for the previous year's minutes to be displayed onscreen and they were duly approved en masse.

3. Vice-Chairman's Report given by John Pemberton

Our 2021 AGM, a year ago on 7th February 2022, marked a welcome return to History Society meetings held "in person" following the easing of Covid restrictions.

In the summer, Beaulieu celebrated HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with community events under the heading "Beaulieu in 1952". To this the History Society contributed its second meeting of the year, open to all, in the National Motor Museum Theatre. The attendance of over 180 was the History Society's highest ever. Frederick Norris' comprehensively researched reminiscences of the village and local life in 1952 were greatly enjoyed, as was Mary Montagu-Scott's presentation of the opening of Palace House to the public in that same year.

Our next meeting marked the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Former Beaulieu Managing Director and History Society Committee member Ken Robinson presented this talk on the transformational change it made to Beaulieu visitor attractions.

The fourth members' meeting in November was presented by Colin van Geffen on the Flying Boats of Southampton. Between 1920s and the 1950s, flying boats based at Hythe and Southampton Docks offered luxury travel to across the world to Africa, Asia, Australia and America.

Lastly, members enjoyed a pre-Christmas visit to the New Forest Heritage Centre, where exclusive access was given to historic exhibits with volunteer staff on hand to answer queries.

Website updates: many further changes have been made to the website during the year. In future members who wish to do so will be able to pay subscriptions, purchase books, etc. using personal secure passwords. However, website use will not be mandatory. Members who do not wish to use it, may make payments directly, pay in person at meetings, and/or contact the History Society Secretary by email. The website changes, including the incorporation of membership records, will simplify administration of the society in future.

Membership Secretary: This year Dene McCulloch moved away and so resigned from the Committee and her role managing our membership records and the reception of members and guests at meetings. The Committee recorded their appreciation of all she had done for the society.

BHS Secretary: Corinne Evans, who has experience working on aspects of Beaulieu history for the Archivist in Palace House, kindly volunteered to succeed Margaret Rowles who retired from the position during the year. Corinne was co-opted by the Committee. In future the secretary will be contactable by email at secretary@beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk.

Subscriptions: The Committee proposes that the annual subscription for 2023 remains at £5 and can be paid on arrival when attending any History Society meeting. The usual charge for non-members attending any meeting is £5.

4. Treasurer's Report

Peter Marling Roberts was unable to present this report so John Pemberton did so in his absence.

"I am glad to say that 2022 was financially uneventful for the Beaulieu History Society and that the financial situation of the society continues to be very sound. The committee would also like to thank Adam Mills for reviewing the accounts and they can now be found on the Beaulieu History Society's website. Adam has also kindly agreed to review the BHS accounts again in 2023.

Subscriptions were up at £771 compared to £521 in 2021. Book sales were £147.50 compared to £82.50 the previous year. Excess income over expenditure was £631.46 compared to £608.71 the previous year and the Bank balance on December 31st 2022 was £6,942.67 compared to £6,311.21." The Financial Statement for 2022 was issued to the meeting and adopted en masse.

5. Election of Officers for 2023

a) Nominations from members willing to serve: "The Committee proposes for election Corinne Evans, following her co-option during the latter part of 2022, and Marc Heighway, a local historian from East Boldre who has, among other researches, recorded many aspects of wartime life at Beaulieu airfield on his RAF Beaulieu website. John Pemberton has put his name forward to become Chairman. No other nominations have been received from members.

b) Committee Members retire at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution. The following are willing to stand for election again and are proposed to continue in their existing/new roles:

Chairman	John Pemberton	Vice Chairman	(tbc)
Treasurer	Peter Marling-Roberts	Secretary	Corinne Evans

Books/Publications Gillian Strathcarron

Members: Christina Dykes, Marc Heighway, Mary Montagu-Scott, Ken Robinson, Nigel Southward"

John advised that additional members to the committee would be welcome if anyone wanted to volunteer. The committee were voted en bloc unanimously by the meeting.

6. Any other Business

Ken Robinson gave a short presentation regarding the website, what it now looked like and how it could be used.

Mary Montagu-Scott gave a talk History of the Beaulieu River.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

Beaulieu History Society: Constitution

1. NAME: The Society shall be called "The Beaulieu History Society".
2. AIMS: The aims of the Society are: to stimulate and increase interest in the history of Beaulieu and the surrounding area, to promote original research, to become a centre of information and publicity and to encourage the other advantages and benefits usually associated with a Society.
3. MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all interested in the aims of the Society. Any person shall be considered a member on payment of the annual subscription. A person shall cease to be a member of the Society if the Committee for good reason decide to remove his or her name from the list of members.
4. COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS: The Society shall be administered by a Committee of not less than three members elected or re-elected by the members of the Society at each Annual General Meeting. The members at each Annual General Meeting shall in addition elect or re-elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall ex officio be members of the Committee. The committee may co-opt any member of the Society to become a member of the Committee. Any member so co-opted will be eligible for election at the next Annual General Meeting
5. NOTICES: Not less than 14 days notice of each Annual General Meeting and of any Special Meeting shall be given to all members whose subscriptions for the preceding or current year have been paid in full.
6. SECRETARY: The duties of the Secretary shall be to record proceedings of the Society and to report thereon at each Annual General Meeting, to conduct general correspondence to issue all necessary notices of meetings, to preserve all books, papers and documents which are the property of the Society and generally to carry out the instructions of the Committee.
7. TREASURER: The duties of the Treasurer shall be to collect, receive and have custody of all subscriptions and other monies which may be payable to the Society and to pay out all such sums of money as may be authorised by the Committee. The Treasurer shall also keep an account of all funds received and expended and shall report thereon to the Committee from time to time and shall at each Annual General Meeting present a summary of receipts and payments during the preceding year on 31st December. An independent auditor shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting.
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE: No person who is not a member of the Society shall be eligible to hold office or to be a member of the Committee. The members of the Committee retiring at each Annual General Meeting shall be eligible for re-election. Any member of the Society may nominate a candidate for election to the Committee by giving to the Secretary at least 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting the name of that person accompanied by his or her written indication of willingness to stand for election. All proposals must be duly seconded by a member.
9. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: The annual subscription shall be fixed at each Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee or at a Special Meeting convened under rule 10 and shall be payable on joining and afterwards on 1 January in each year.
10. MEETINGS: The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before 31 December in each calendar year. Ordinary meetings of members shall normally be held not less than four times a year. Special meetings of members may be called by the Committee or at the request of 6 members for the purpose only of dealing with the special business stated in the notice convening the Special Meeting. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall preside at all meetings. If both are absent, members present shall elect a Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
11. QUORUM: At the Annual General Meeting four, and at any Special Meeting eight, ordinary members other than members of the Committee shall be a quorum. At Committee meetings three, of whom one shall be an Officer, shall be a quorum.
12. NON-MEMBERS: The Committee may decide to permit the attendance of non-members at a particular meeting and may fix a fee for such attendance.
13. ALTERATIONS OF RULES: No alteration of these Rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting, or at any Special Meeting convened for that purpose, after notice duly given to the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. The votes of two thirds of the membership present and voting shall be required for the approval of any alteration to these rules.