



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

To be held at Beaulieu Village Hall
on Friday 24th January 2025

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. Guests may also attend. Members who have not yet done so may pay their 2024 subscriptions on arrival. Only paid up members are eligible to vote.

BHS AGM 2024 Agenda

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

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023**, held on 1st February 2024.

Draft Minutes approved by the Committee have been posted on the website, as advised to members (copy included in these papers), and subject to any comments and resulting amendments.

Members will be asked to vote to approve the Minutes of the BHS AGM 2023

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

We distributed two newsletters in May and October 2024 (available on the Society's website). Included this year were two very interesting articles on life in Beaulieu during last century, one on reminiscences of the village by Lord Edward Montagu's sister, Anne Chichester, and one by Anthony Norris about his uncle Fred Norris (1916-3013). Committee member Marc Heighway gave two talks and contributed articles for the newsletter. Seven member's meetings and one social evening were held in the year. All meetings were well attended usually by fifty or more members.

Programme of Meetings:

1 February 2024 – Annual General Meeting and local Quiz

29 April 2024 – Lumberjills presented by Joanna Foat

20 May 2024 – The Indian Army in the New Forest presented by Nick Saunders

7th June 2024 – Social evening at the Art of Buckler's Hard exhibition hosted by Mary Montagu-Scott

5 July 2024 – Falconry: 1,000 Years in in the New Forest presented by Paul Manning

26 September 2024 – Beaulieu River at War presented by Marc Heighway

24 October 2024 – The Brickworks at Bailey's Hard presented by Jim Beckett

28 November 2024 – Wings over the New Forest presented by Marc Heighway

Contributing to the Society: We appreciate the support of all members especially at meetings, and for contributions of articles (500 to 1,000 words usually) for the newsletter. We continue to encourage members to present talks (about 1 hour) to the Society, which we can advise on and help in preparation.

4. **BHS Secretarial Report:** by Ken Robinson

BHS Secretary: Corinne Evans, who helpfully manages the Members list and reception desk at events. Corinne liaises with Ken Robinson who manages other BHS administrative aspects including the following:

Membership and Subscriptions: Members are reminded that the BHS subscription is for a Calendar Year, not for 12 months from the date of payment. Following this 2024 AGM, members will receive a Subscription reminder email and are requested to pay online, via the website, or in person when attending an event thereafter. At the end of 2024, the Society had just under 200 members who had paid subscriptions due from 1st January 2024, and 6 Honorary members.

Website: Further improvements have been made to the BHS website beaulieuhistorysociety.org during the year. BHS is greatly indebted to Trevor Smith of Ashdown Software who very helpfully manages the website for us. Members are reminded of the useful list of links and resources available on the website.

Email contacts: BHS received over 100 contacts by email during the year. While most of these were administrative (Subscriptions, event bookings etc). many 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 and Marc Heighway who assisted with the research and responses of some enquiries.

Publications: During the year Gillian Strathcarron relinquished the management of Book sales, which she has done for many years, for which the Society is very grateful.

During the year the text of Captain H.E R, Widnell's "What I Remember" memoirs were prepared for publication. Final, pre-publication editing of the text and illustrations has been arranged by Lord Montagu, following which proposed printing options will be investigated. Publication decisions will be made in conjunction with Lord Montagu.

Book Stocks: Current publications stock: Older Houses of Beaulieu (second reprint) 21, Beaulieu in Tudor & Stuart Times 71.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** by 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 they can now be found on the Beaulieu History Society's web site. Subject to members confirmation, I will as Treasurer appoint an appropriate person to review the BHS accounts for 2025.

Subscriptions were £1,038.58 compared to £1,211 in 2023 and excess Income over expenditure was £49.13 compared to £1,098.37 the previous year and the Bank balance on December 31st 2024 was £8,090.17 compared to £8,041.04.

The reviewed Statement of Accounts for 2024 is attached to this Agenda and Report.

Subscriptions for 2025: The Committee proposes that the Annual Subscription for 2025 will remain at £5.

Members will be asked to vote for acceptance of the BHS 2024 Accounts, confirmation of the Membership Subscription and the proposal that the Treasurer makes arrangements for the review the Accounts for 2025 by an appropriate person following the year end.

6. Election of Officers for 2024

1. Nominations of members willing to serve: Any new nominations received from members will be reported for electoral vote.
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

Members will be asked to vote separately for any newly nominated member, and en bloc for the re-election of the above named nominees.

7. Any Other Business

Following the AGM, Brice Stratford will give a presentation on “Myths and Legends of the New Forest”.

**Beaulieu History Society
Financial Statements 2024**

Balance sheet
as of December 31st 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Bank	8,090.17	8,041.04
Reserves		
Accumulated fund	8,041.04	6,942.67
Surplus on income and expenditure account	49.13	1,098.37
	<u>£8,090.17</u>	<u>£8,041.04</u>

Income and expenditure account
Year ended December 31st 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Subscriptions and other income		
Subscriptions	1,038.58	1,211.00
Grant from Common Good Fund	0.00	400.00
Sale of Books	52.52	211.50
interest and other income	0.00	0.01
	<u>1,091.10</u>	<u>1,822.51</u>
Expenses		
Venue hire	238.00	186.00
Refreshments costs	52.43	61.29
Speakers and sound	390.00	142.96
Printing and stationery	180.04	200.00
Insurance cover	90.00	75.00
Website development	91.50	57.50
Bank interest or hire	1.39	1.39
Total expenses	<u>1,041.97</u>	<u>724.14</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>£49.13</u>	<u>£1,098.37</u>

To members of the Beaulieu History Society:

Adam Mills reviewed the accounts of the Beaulieu History Society for the year ended December 31st 2024 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, Beaulieu, SO427XF
January 2025



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Held at Beaulieu Village Hall on Thursday 1st February 2024

The meeting was attended by Committee Members; John Pemberton (Chairman), Mary Montagu-Scott, Ken Robinson, Peter Marling Roberts (Treasurer), Sally Hutton, Corinne Evans (Secretary) and 36 members

1. John Pemberton opened the meeting at 6.30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs Barber, Mr and Mrs Brooks, Mr and Mrs Bentley-Buckle, Mr & Mrs G. Downes, Mr A. Dykes, Mr van Geffen, Mr M Heighway, Mr & Mrs Hughes, Sir Keith and Lady Mills, Mr & Mrs C. Noble, Mr & Mrs Smith, and Mr Southward,

2. **Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held on Friday 27th January 2023.**
The Minutes had been circulated with the Agenda. They were duly approved unanimously.

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

2023 was a full year for the Society. We distributed two newsletters in May and October, held a record, we believe, of six meetings in the year, and ended the year with more members than ever before. The Programme of Meetings was: Mary Montagu's talk on the History of Beaulieu, Marc Heighway's talk Hidden in Plain Sight; Reminders of WW2 in the area, Christina Dykes' talk on New Forest Commoners, Peter Power spoke of the Special Operations Executive, Ken Robinson gave a talk on "The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the Building of Bucklers Hard", which proved so popular that it was repeated for those who could not attend previously. Marc Heighway gave a talk on Needs Oar Point Airfield

Retirement from the Committee: Late in 2023, long serving member Christina Dykes retired from the Committee. She was thanked 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 should remain at £5, which was noted by the meeting.

The Chairman said the Society would welcome suggestions from members who would like to give a talk on any topic related to the history of Beaulieu.

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.

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 145 contacts by email during the year many of which 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 has been much appreciated. We are grateful to Tony Norris and Susan Tomkins who assisted when necessary with the research and responses of these enquiries.

Publications: The next BHS 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 and Stuart Times, 78.

Purchase of Projection Screen: Members noted that as the large screen previously borrowed from Beaulieu Enterprises, is no longer available the Society has acquired our own.

5. Treasurer's Report by Peter Marling Roberts

The Treasurer referred to his report showing that the financial situation of the Society continues to be very sound, the increase over the past year being due primarily to the increase in membership and the attendance of guests at meetings. Adam Mills was thanked for once again reviewing the accounts and agreeing to do so again in 2024.

There were no questions on the account from members, who voted unanimously to accept them.

6. Election of Officers for 2024

a) Nominations from members willing to serve: No new nominations have been received from members

b) Committee Members retire at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution: all were prepared to stand again and member's approval was sought for them to continue in their existing roles which was approved unanimously.

Chairman: John Pemberton

Vice Chair: (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)

The committee were elected en bloc unanimously by the meeting.

7. Any other Business

There not being any other business, the meeting closed at 6.50, followed by a Quiz of historic Beaulieu objects presented by Mary Montagu Scott and Ken Robinson.

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.