



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 29 June 2016

Editor's Column

Past Meetings

The 20th May saw a talk by Anthony Norris on the **History of Beaulieu Abbey Church**. With his expert knowledge of the church, Anthony conveyed much information of which the audience was unaware.



On display were a wide range of photos and objects from the church's past. The talk and images will appear on the Beaulieu History Society website soon.

Forthcoming Meetings

On 9th September the society make a **Visit to Newtown Park** near Lymington. This property has a rich history. The mansion, currently occupied by the Burnett family, is shown here on the occasion of a recent military rally with a fly-over by the Red Arrows display team.



The talk will be given by Richard Reeves, known to many in the History Society for his thorough approach to historic research and consummate knowledge of the New Forest. Richard has been researching the history of Newtown Park.

Scheduled for 4th November is a talk on the **Beaulieu River Sailing Club**, 'the story behind the official history'. The talk is by sailing club member Andrew Duncan and will be followed by dinner.

Founded in 1931, the club has a long record of organising dinghy sailing events for local residents and their children.



The clubhouse is located on a sandbar at the outflow of the Beaulieu River to the Solent.

John Pemberton

Contents

	Page
Editor's Column	1
The History of Beaulieu Mill	2
Tubby Clayton	3

Dates for your Diary

Friday 9 September 2016 6:30pm
Visit to Newtown Park
by Richard Reeves
at Newtown Park, near Lymington

Friday 4 November 2016 6:30pm
Beaulieu River Sailing Club
by Andrew Duncan
at Royal Southampton Yacht Club,
Gins Clubhouse, Beaulieu

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 is being paid (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 History of Beaulieu Mill

There has been a water-mill in Beaulieu since the thirteenth century. It was built within the precincts of the Monastery adjacent to the outer Gate House. The Beaulieu Accounts of 1270 detail the money spent on stone, timber and ironwork in repairing the mill by the gatehouse. This is evidence that the mill was built around the time of the founding of the monastery. Archaeological research in 1906 by Sir St. John Hope and Harold Brakspear revealed the exact location of this mill together with the mill flume. It was positioned by the Outer Gatehouse of the Abbey. This mill had two chambers within which each had an undershot wheel. Details of the monastic mill are to be found in the *Archaeological Journal* of September 1906. The 1270 Beaulieu accounts also revealed two newly-built windmills, and the materials used in their construction – as the cloth for the sails and the pick for dressing the millstones. Their original location is a mystery.

When a mill was built on the present site is uncertain though the Dissolution accounts of 1537/8 record '40s from the farm of the watermill within the vill of Beaulieu demised to William Couper'. This mill was built just outside the abbey walls where it stands today.

The Survey of the Manor of Beaulieu dated October 1578 has the following extract, 'Henry Welles gentleman holds by Indenture one corn mill with one tenement and curtilage upon (super) Bewley bridge for the rent by the year of £7. Also he holds one piece of land at Fullingmille pound for one fulling mill to be made by himself by the rent of the year of 20s.' It also includes the requirement to provide the landlord, Henry Wriothlesley 2nd Earl of Southampton, with '4 couple of capons'.

Estate records enable a complete record of all the tenants of the mill until 1976 to be made.

A painting of 1730 of Beaulieu Mill and Palace House shows the mill to be thatched and the roofs of some of the other buildings to be of slate. In 1744, Stephen Barney took over the tenancy of the mill and it remained so for three generations until the grandson of the first Stephen Barney, with the same name, moved to Bishopstoke Mill in 1845. Soon after Stephen Barney (Sen) took over the mill, estate records show the mill to have been tiled in 1748.

The Barney family were very influential members of the community during their time at Beaulieu, Stephen Barney being both an Overseer and Church Warden [a very important position in those days]. Also he held

Ashlett Mill and Calshot Saltworks. Stephen Barney died in 1768 and the tenancy was carried



on firstly by his widow until 1773 when his son Thomas, born 1755, was considered old enough to take on the tenancy which he did so until his death in 1833.

Thomas Barney and his servant, Sansom, were suspected of being the biggest poachers in the village. John Fry was employed by the Duke of Montagu's steward John Warner to prevent poaching. In 1777 when Barney was fishing by the mill he threw Fry into the river. Fry and Barney then had a fight, and Sansom joined in. Warner thought the incident was "an insult to himself and the Lords of the Manor" and made Barney pay 3 guineas in compensation. Thomas was most keen to provide a son and heir, and it was only after the birth of eight daughters that a son, Stephen, was born.

BEAULIEU MILLS.
To Corn Merchants, Millers, and Others.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by MR. A. FLETCHER, on the above Premises, on Wednesday, October 10th, 1849, at Eleven o'Clock precisely (owing to the number of Lots), a portion of the FITTINGS, &c., of the above MILL, together with the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, HORSES, COWS, STORE PIGS, and other Effects (the property of Mr. Edward Godrich, leaving the same), comprising, in the Mill, 70 loads of sacks, 5 sack trucks, flour bin, iron staff (stone proof), hoisting tackle, with wheel, ropes, chains, and pulleys, complete, flour scales, beams and weights, scoops, sieves, brushes, measures, mill bills, coal weighing machine, and weights, 40 new coal bags, and numerous other trade implements.

Six Horses, two handsome Cows, 35 store Pigs.
Strong useful tilg cart, 4-wheel phaeton, with shifting back seat, handsome pony, gig, and pony cart, set of plated pony harness, two nearly new saddles and bridles, sets of trace and thill harness, 17 feet boat, with sails, &c., complete, 27 new rick staddle stones and caps, chaff cutting machine, ladders, ben coops, racks and mangers, fitted with cow chains, halters, &c. &c.

Among the Furniture will be found mahogany four-post and other bedsteads, with bedding complete, handsome mahogany wardrobe, ditto chests of drawers, dressing tables and wash-stands, dining, card, library, and other tables, stained cane-seat chairs, couch, Brussels and Kidderminster carpets, chins, glass, and a large assortment of kitchen, dairy, and brewing utensils.

The whole will be particularised in Catalogues, to be had three days prior to the Sale, at the Nag's Head, Lyminster; Falcon, Fawley; Drummond Arms, Hythe; Montague Arms, Beaulieu; Royal York, Southampton; and of the Auctioneer, Millbrook.

Hampshire Independent Auction Notice Sep 1849

WANTED immediately, a GRINDER in a TIDE MILL, who can bring a good Character from his last Master of an honest, sober, and good Workman.—Such a one may, by applying to the Printer of this Paper, or to Mr. Thomas Barney at Bewley Mills, hear of a Place.

Hampshire Chronicle Advert 16 Oct 1775

continued ...

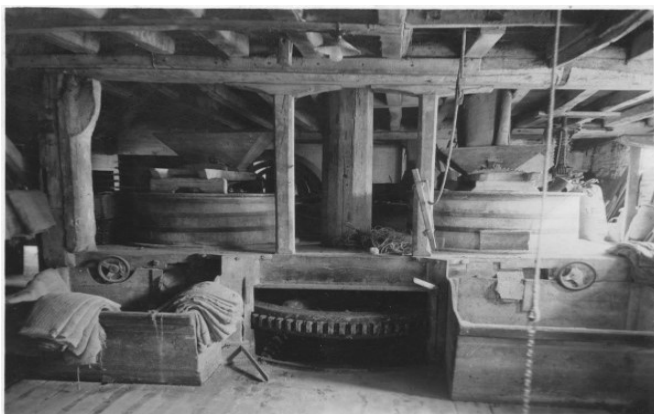
... continued

Stephen married Elizabeth and they had thirteen children and only left Beaulieu in 1845 as the result of a melancholy incident in which he imprisoned his daughter Frances in the Mill House in an upstairs room, only allowing her to be fed through a round hole in the door. I was brought up in the Mill House and the bars on the window and the round hole, with its cover were still intact. The reason for his actions: Frances wanted to marry the groom. What happened next is uncertain but Frances (Fanny) Barney died in 1848 and is buried in Bishopstoke Churchyard.

For most of the period from 1845 until 1976, the mill was in the occupation of, firstly, the Burden family, and from 1922 until 1976, the Norris family. Photographs of the interior of the mill, one showing the beam balance which I remember we used, the exterior and a scale drawing of the mill machinery are to be found in the excellent book *Windmills and Watermills* by J. Reynolds (Publisher: Hugh Evelyn Ltd).



View of the river downstream from the corn room



Ground floor showing two tuns containing stones for grinding flour

The mill wheel ceased to be used at the end of the Second World War. In its latter years the mill was used to grind grain for animal feed rather than for flour. Most of the milling took place at harvest time. Once the wheel started turning, my Uncle Fred, who worked in the mill all his life, told me that the sound of the mechanism, the splash of the water, the smell and scent of grinding barley all combined to make the building sing – and when the sun shone through, the drops coming off the mill wheel were a wonderful sight. It could grind 2-3 hundredweights an hour, for up to eight hours, by which time the tide would be coming in again. As time went on, the old building started to creak and shudder, so they decided to stop before any damage was done. Fred told me that the last time it worked was in 1945. The building was then used solely for storing animal feed, though a motor had been installed which enabled the sack hoist to be used and also oats to be crushed.

By 1976, the business at the mill necessitated the loading and unloading of lorries of grain and animal feed

and as a consequence of the increase of road traffic, it was felt the business should move to other premises. The mill then remained unoccupied as the Estate sought assistance in the mammoth task of restoring the mill, possibly as a working mill. Unfortunately the existence of a similar tidal mill at Eling, meant requests for funding were refused. It was then necessary for the Estate to finance all the alterations themselves. Much of the work on the roof had been done by March 2006 when the mill was badly damaged by an arsonist. In the next few years restoration took place and in 2014 the newly restored mill was let to a boat designing company.

Anthony Norris



The restored mill from the mill pond upstream

Tubby Clayton

In Beaulieu Abbey Church, beside the pulpit mounted on the wall, there is a round black plaque inscribed with gold letters: 'Remember "Tubby" The Rev. Philip Thomas Byard Clayton CH MC DD FSA 1885-1972. Son and friend of Beaulieu, sometime worshipper and preacher here'.



2016 is a good year to pause and think of Tubby. For it was in Poperinghe in 1916, near the doomed city of Ypres, that Tubby Clayton found his destiny. Sent to the western front in 1914 as an army chaplain working in the hospitals, he met Neville Talbot, the senior chaplain of the 6th Division. Talbot had a vision: he wanted to establish a rest-home. It was to be a place where soldiers of any rank could go and find relaxation, solace and spiritual comfort away from the horrors of the battlefields. Talbot and Tubby recognised in each other complimentary skills. Talbot had the idea, Tubby the administrative and personnel skills to put it in practice.

Together they found a suitable house, No 10. Rue de l'Hôpital, Poperinghe, and Tubby took



National Portrait Gallery

charge. Talbot House, or 'Toc H' as it soon became, was born in December 1915. Tubby, small, bespectacled energetic and genial was an attentive host, noted for his sympathetic hearing and his ability to communicate with soldier or officer, man or boy. Toc H had a garden, library, canteen and writing room, and a chapel was created in the loft. It was popular, so much so a sister house was shortly opened in the ruins of Ypres. Many men passed through their doors. Some returned: many did not. But the spirit of the place, summed up by a sign facing men as they entered and which pointed back to the door with the words 'Pessimists Way Out', and embodied in Tubby, remained undaunted.

At the end of the war Tubby returned to England but not wanting to lose the spirit of friendship fostered at TocH across social and denominational boundaries he helped establish a new Toc H in Kensing-

ton in 1919. Soon there were other houses and The TOC H movement spread. Its aim was to spread the Gospel without preaching it. By 1922 Toc H had 40 branches and it became an association incorporated by Royal Charter. The Prince of Wales was its active Patron and Tubby the Founder Padre 'for so long as he desired to hold office'.

Tubby went on to create the British Empire Leprosy Relief and as Vicar of All Hallows in London he helped devise Tower Hill Improvement Scheme.

His connection with Beaulieu was through his parents who, when Tubby was still a school boy, built Little Hatchett, 'a house', we are assured by Tubby's biographer, 'of discreet design that combined the advantages of the contemporary with the nostalgic charm of the past'. Tubby clearly loved Beaulieu. He wrote to his mother on arrival in France and finding himself in an army camp, 'It's altogether like living in a pheasant preserve, and the sound of the guns is like Beaulieu on the first of September, only the noise is louder and more continuous day and night from three points of the compass. It's very difficult to believe that it is real war, until one sees, as I saw on my first day, the ghastly reality of it in new ruins and new dead'.

Christina Dykes

References

Tubby Clayton Obituary, *The Times*, 19 December 1972
 Melville Harcourt, *The Imprudent Dreamer*, accessed on line
 Wikipedia entry for *Tubby Clayton*
 firstworldwar.com

Committee Members

Emma Page (Chair) emma.page@lepe.org.uk
Peter Marling-Roberts (Treasurer) pmarlingroberts@hotmail.co.uk
Christina Dykes (Events) christina@exalon.net
John Pemberton (Newsletter) johnlpemberton@compuserve.com
Mary Montagu-Scott mary.montaguscott@gravelly.com

Anne Coles anne@johncoles.plus.com
Ken Robinson krobinsn1rt@gmail.com
Gillian Strathcarron (Secretary) gillian.s@mac.com
 whose details for contact are: 01590 612334
 Otterwood House, Exbury Road, Beaulieu SO42 7YS