



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 33 January 2018

Editor's Column

Past Meetings

The **All that Jazz** talk given by Ken Robinson on 29th September last year revealed some fascinating details about the Jazz Festivals given at Beaulieu over the years 1956-61. There is a write-up of the talk later in this Newsletter.

On 1st December there was a talk accompanying the book launch of **Beaulieu in Tudor and Stuart Times**. The book was written by Alan Bartlett, archivist of the Beaulieu Estate between 1968-80. The talk was given by Gillian Strathcaron, who has contributed many hours editing the manuscript for publication.

The society decided to publish it because of the contribution it makes to local history. Copies can be obtained at society meetings or by post for £20 + £3.50 postage from society secretary Gillian Strathcaron whose contact details are given on the back page.

Guides from the **Mary Rose Trust** presented artefacts from the ship giving a taste of the times described in the book.

Forthcoming Meetings

On 2 March 2018 a brief **Annual General Meeting** will be followed by a couple of short talks on **Beaulieu in the Early 20th Century**. One talk will be on the **Boys of Beaulieu**; following the lives of the men pictured in an early photograph of the choir of Beaulieu Abbey Church.

Another talk will introduce **Edward Mudge**; a photographer who produced thousands of stylish photographs and postcards of the Waterside area and Beaulieu over a career of many decades.

On 27 April the meeting will look at the work of painter and sculptor **Charles Sykes** and particularly a three panel Triptych he painted in 1909 as an altarpiece for Beaulieu Abbey Church. The talk by Ken Robinson and David Moore-Gwyn will be in the church with the altarpiece on display.

Charles Sykes
'Spirit of Ecstasy'
sculpture is used
as a mascot on
the bonnets of
Rolls Royce cars



On 15 June, the interesting history of **Lepe in the 18th Century** will be presented by Emma Page whose family have owned and lived at Lepe House since they bought it from the Mitford family in 1879. The Ship Inn, an ale-house in the mid 18th century, forms the basis of the house.

Autumn Meetings

In September, a talk **Airfields around Beaulieu** is planned by Dan Oxberry, a member of the Friends of the New Forest Airfields group. Do you know how many airfields there were in the New Forest in WWII? You may be surprised by the number.

The speaker planned for November is Rupert Scott on **Community Electricity, Gas and Water**. In the C19th and early C20th, local communities at Beaulieu and elsewhere were commendably ingenious in the way they created their own energy and water utilities.

John Pemberton

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 2 March 2018 5.00pm
**AGM followed by talks on
Beaulieu in early C20th**
at Beaulieu Village Hall

Friday 27 April 2018 6:30pm
**Charles Sykes and the Church
Altarpiece**
presented by Ken Robinson
and David Moore-Gwyn
at Beaulieu Abbey Church

Friday 15 June 2018 6:30pm
Lepe in the C18th
presented by Emma Page
at Lepe House

Subscriptions

Membership fees of £5 per member were due at the start of the calendar 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 your surname and what is being paid (membership, book, name of event), otherwise we may not know what the payment is for.

If available to you, this is a preferable alternative in cost and convenience to sending a cheque by post to the secretary Gillian Strathcaron at her address on the back page.

Notes from All that Jazz

For a few moments on Friday 29th September 2017 Beaulieu residents once again heard the sonorous tones of jazz. The John Montagu theatre was full to hear Ken Robinson give an absorbing account of the jazz festivals which Edward Montagu hosted in Beaulieu in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Befitting a presentation given to a history society, Ken not only accounted for the events themselves but he showed excellent slides that provided the historical context to the development of jazz and reasons why Edward Montagu introduced the festivals to Beaulieu. It was not an easy task. Ken found that there is little in the Beaulieu archives relating to the concerts; nor could he find much amongst the family personal records. Demonstrating the skills of a painstaking researcher he studied the late Lord Montagu's autobiographies and biographies for information; and with the help of local historian Anthony Norris, he sought out contemporary newspaper accounts and followed up the leads that these gave to search out



first hand witness of the festivals. He discovered two musicians who had performed in bands at Beaulieu, Cole Matheson*, one of the originators of the concept who played drums with the Climax Jazz Band, and clarinetist Jimmy Frost from the Slim Newton Jazz Band, both of whom were sitting in the audience. Building on Cole's personal accounts and records, Ken was able to stitch together all the contemporary materials to complete the story of the festivals. Importantly he challenged some of the myths that have been estab-



lished around them, and in particular about what journalists called the "Battle of Beaulieu".

The first festival was held in 1956. It was a year that the hit parade rocked, or not, to the sounds of Eamonn Andrews' *Whispering Sands*, the cuddly honky-tonk pianist Mrs Mills bellowed out her stuff and the Goons were number one in the hit parade. Alongside these tunes, the excitement of jazz attracted an increasing following. A group of jazz enthusiasts from the Yellow Dog Jazz club in Southampton approached Edward Montagu with the idea of holding a jazz concert on the lawns of Palace House. Cole Matheson was among them. The idea appealed to Lord Montagu who had been in the same class at Eton with jazz legend Humphrey Lyttleton. Moreover a progressive by nature Montagu sensed the totemic significance of the music. His aim was to emulate the highly successful Newport Jazz festivals so to provide Britain with a venue that would attract fans, most of whom were young people, poised to break out of post-war dreariness.

Edward Montagu described the first concert, in his book *The Gilt and the Gingerbread*, as 'rather like a nice family party'. In 1957, Yellow

Dog arranged a second more successful concert with the Southampton Bands and the Dill Jones trio as guest performers, and a Christmas Jazz Party in the Domus in December that year with Stephane Grappelli. Meanwhile, Lord Montagu was personally involved in staging a second summer concert by nationally known artists such as Mick Mulligan's band with George Melly, and Johnny Duncan and his Blue Grass Boys. In 1958 a more professional two day event was arranged, nationally endorsed by the National Jazz Federation. Bands, musicians and 'trads' and 'beatniks', attended in numbers. It pioneered many aspects of organization that were to be cited later as being pivotal to the development of outdoor music concerts such as Woodstock and Glastonbury.



By the next year, 1959, Beaulieu was on the map as a musical venue and able to host the finest jazz Europe had to offer. Although there had not been many incidents, locals began to be concerned and complain at the invasion of beatniks and young people with their alternative behaviour. It was a harbinger of things to come.

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The infamous “Battle of Beaulieu” occurred during the concert held in 1960. By now the best bands were on the Beaulieu programme. These bands included Johnny Dankworth with Cleo Laine, Acker Bilk, Humphrey Lyttelton, Mick Mulligan with George Melly and many others. Crowd disorder was unprecedented at the time and so the organisers were unprepared for what happened on the first evening, Saturday 30th July. In fact what was called in the contemporary



newspapers a riot was little more than a skirmish after some restless fans climbed onto the stage and mounted an insubstantial scaffold-



ing frame and the BBC’s lighting tower which collapsed. Two fans were arrested for minor offences, no one was seriously injured and Acker Bilk continued to play to settle the crowd. Unfortunately the producer had pulled the plug on



the BBC’s live broadcast, in itself a novelty, which inflated the incident in front of the nation. Nevertheless the next day 200 fans turned up to help clean up the mess and the Festival continued on the Sunday and Monday as planned.

In 1961 the hope was to correct the misrepresentation of the 1960 Festival in the press. The concert went well with once again an even larger programme of star names including Chris Barber, Terry Lightfoot, Kenny Ball and the return of The Johnny Dankworth Orchestra and ten other bands. Successful changes were made to control more rigorous admission to the concert by ticket, professional security and an increased police attendance. But, the publicity of the previous year had the effect that even more young people congregated in the village instead – expecting to enjoy free concerts from outside the grounds. Mayhem ensued. Beaulieu village could not accommodate



such an invasion nor were residents able to cope as young people, ardent to display their modernity, overran roads, gardens and property. Lord Montagu took the responsibility and ruled that there would be no more Jazz Festivals at Beaulieu.

Ken Robinson interlaced his presentation with fascinating anecdotes. Not many in the audience knew that the Flintstones was the first cartoon to depict two (fully clothed) people in bed together, causing outrage, nor that Rod Stewart’s *Maggie May* has such a direct relevance to Beaulieu. Rod attended the 1961 concert as a boy of 16. He met ‘Maggie May’ with whom he lost his “not-remotely-prized virginity”. He recalled later he could not tell how old she was “but old enough to be highly disappointed by the brevity of the experience”. Ken also found that, now named Maggie May Beaulieu, she was in 2012 living in Tucson, USA and she recounted in a book a more extended version of her encounter with Rod.

Ken concluded that Beaulieu’s jazz festivals deserve their place in history. They have an important place in popular music culture, the revival of Jazz in Britain, and they contributed to a turning point in social attitudes. They influenced Lord Montagu’s personality, boosted his celebrity status and were therefore key to the popularity, viability and continuity of Beaulieu.

Christina Dykes

Footnote

Shortly after the first Beaulieu concert, Cole Mathieson founded the now famous Concorde Jazz Club in Eastleigh. The Club has recently celebrated its 60th Anniversary, and is believed now to be the Jazz Club under the longest continuous ownership in the world.

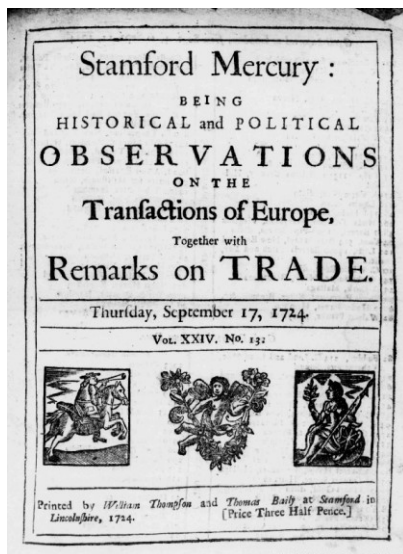


Bewley in Early Newspapers

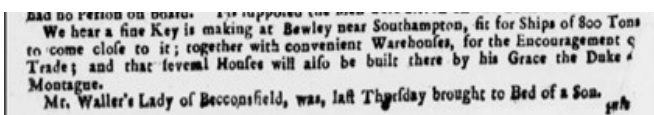
Many years ago I wrote a book on the history of Beaulieu Cricket Club. I was afforded unlimited access to the *Southern Evening Echo* stack, beneath their offices then just above the Bargate in Southampton. In their stack they had all the copies, in one year tomes, of the *Hampshire Advertiser* and the *Hampshire Independent*, both going back to the early part of the nineteenth century. As this was in the pre-microfilm era this was the only way of discovering references to the club.

However, I discovered that they weren't the earliest published newspapers of the area. The *Hampshire Chronicle* (1772-) and the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* (1751-) pre-dated them.

It is only recently though, when I subscribed to the *National Newspaper Archives* that I discovered that there were newspapers being published in other parts of the country even earlier. Included amongst them were the *Newcastle Courant* (1710-), *Stamford Mercury* (1714-) and *Caledonian Mercury* (1720-).



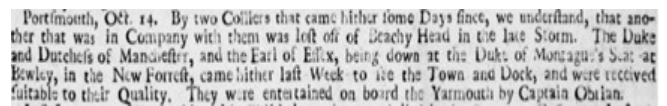
Quite surprisingly I discovered a few references to Beaulieu, spelt Bewley in the early nineteenth century. The first is to be found in the Thursday 17th September 1724 edition of the *Stamford Mercury*, with the same report also in the *Newcastle Courant*, and *Caledonian Mercury*.



This is of particular interest as it is the first recorded reference to the building of Montagu Town (later Bucklers Hard) and enables us to date accurately the building of the village. The September 28th edition of the *Caledonian Mercury*, published in Midlothian, Scotland adds 'We hear from Bewley that the building of the new

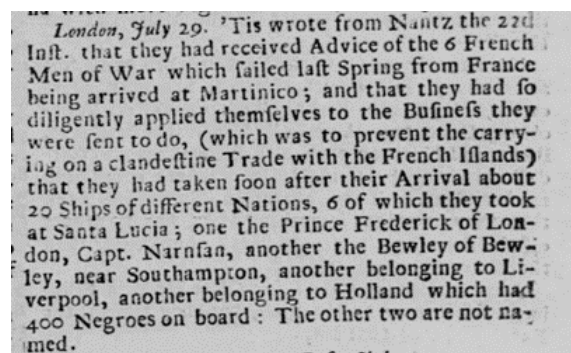
Port there goes on very well; that the Duke of Montague proposes to make it free from River-dues and Town-dues'. The same report is included in the September 26th 1724 edition of the *Newcastle Courant*.

We do not need to wait long for the next reference to Bewley, which is in a report in the *Stamford Mercury* of Thursday October 21st 1725.



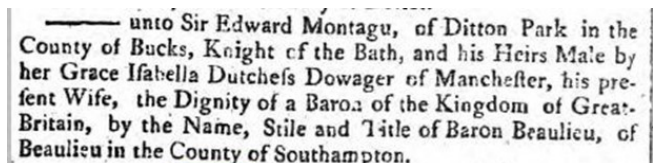
The Duchess of Manchester was Isabella, the daughter of John, 2nd Duke of Montagu, who married William, 2nd Duke of Manchester on 16th April 1723. John, 2nd Duke of Montagu was custodian of Bewley until his death in 1749 when his daughters Isabella and Mary inherited the Estate.

References to Bewley are very infrequent and the next one appears in the Thursday August 3rd 1727 edition of the *Caledonian Mercury*. This is quite significant.



It would appear that the ship *Bewley* of Bewley, probably a cargo vessel, was captured by the French. Does this mean that the ship was built at Bewley? There is no reference to the building of ships at Bewley this early, though the Herring Brothers built the *Salisbury* at Bailey's Hard (it is believed) in 1698. Was the *Bewley* built there also?

When did the present spelling start to be used? The earliest would appear to be in 1762 as the *Oxford Journal* of May 8th 1762 reports: *The King has been pleased to grant...*



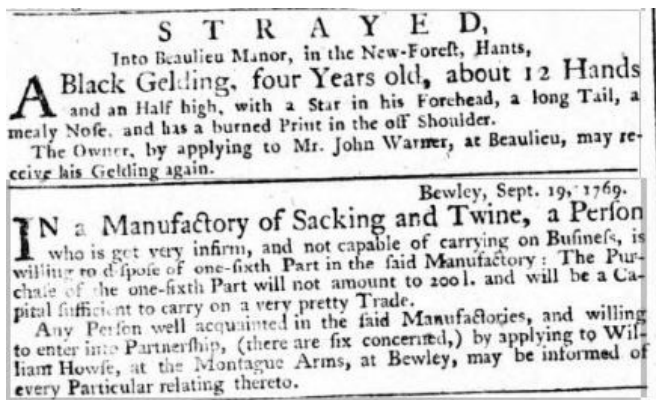
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So, Sir Edward (Hussey) Montagu was created Lord Beaulieu. It is quite possible that the conferring of this title granted by King George III led to the eventual replacement of the spelling of Bewley by Beaulieu.

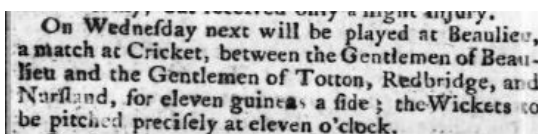
Later, in 1784 he was to become Earl Beaulieu. On his death in 1802 the Estate was re-united and owned by Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch, the daughter of Lady Mary Montagu mentioned earlier.

One suspects that both spellings then came to be used as this cutting from the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* of Monday October 2nd 1769 shows:

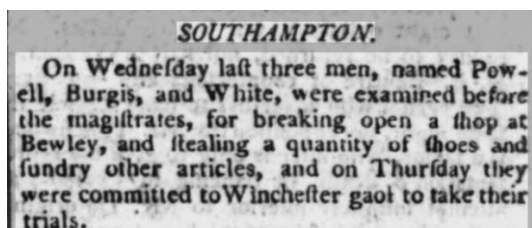


John Warner was the Estate Steward and William Howse (House) ran the Montague Arms with his wife, Mary.

Most subsequent references use the present spelling in their reports. For instance, the Monday July 10th 1775 edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle* referring to the first cricket match played at Beaulieu uses this spelling:



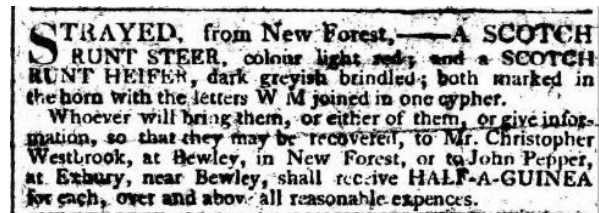
However, the 3rd March 1798 edition of the *Hampshire Chronicle*, recording the apprehending of the felons who broke into a shop at Bewley, shows the old spelling to still be in use:



The result of their trial does not appear to be recorded. However 'William Tucker and Thomas Butler for privately stealing several articles from a shop at Portsmouth were cap-

itally convicted' at the Winchester Assizes of Monday 5th March 1798, so one can surmise their fate.

Indeed, as late as the first decade of the nineteenth century the old spelling still occurred intermittently. One of the last occasions recorded in the newspapers held by the *National Newspaper Archive* is to be found in the Monday 23rd January 1809 edition of the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*.

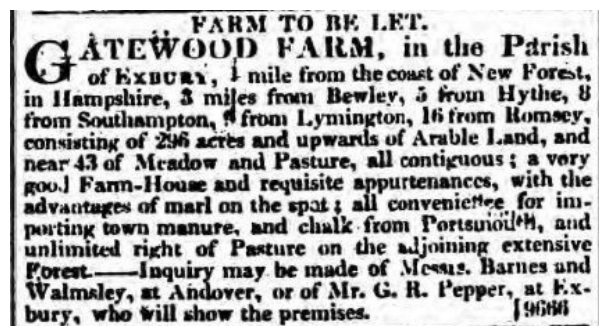


The Westbrook family lived in Beaulieu from the early 1700s until the mid-19th century. Christopher Westbrook tenanted Ryehill Farm and House and the Malt House (adjacent to the Art Gallery).

Although reports about events in Bewley are quite infrequent it is surprising how often the name appears in the Classified Ads!

It is worth noting that it is mainly local newspapers that appear in the *National Newspaper Archive*, and not all of them at that. For instance, the *Hampshire Independent* doesn't feature, and when I wrote my cricket book, a number of references to Beaulieu were found there and only there, and the only place available was the depository in the *Echo* offices. *The Times* archive is available elsewhere but, referring to it, reveals no references to Bewley in any edition post 1820.

The last reference to the old spelling, Bewley, that I uncovered was a reference, in an advertisement in the May 17th 1824 edition of the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*.



Subsequently the spelling is always as it is today.

Anthony Norris

Beaulieu Road—An Inspiration for Naturalists

For most people who have been there Beaulieu Road is just a small area on the Beaulieu to Lyndhurst road containing a little-used railway station, a hotel and a number of corrals used for the autumn pony sales. For walkers it is the starting point for a number of New Forest walks. But there is another group of people, some now eminent in their fields, who remember the area with special pleasure and gratitude from their schooldays.

If the environment seems rather bleak to the casual passer-by, for this group it was and is a place of inspiration.

Between 1955 and 1962 parties of schoolboys from Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School, then in London, made visits to Beaulieu Road under the auspices of their biology teacher, Mr. Barry Goater, who was the first person to bring biological field work into the school curriculum. They would arrive by train at the station (there were more frequent trains then), erect tents at their favoured site and spend many days investigating an area of water, bog, dry heath and woodland roughly oblong in shape, three miles by two, straddling north and south of the Beaulieu-Lyndhurst road. Largely independent, they bought some supplies from the hotel. The visits came to an end in 1962 for two reasons. The Forestry Commission objected to the tented camp, presumably because it had become policy to confine camping in the Forest to organised sites. And the Beaulieu Road hotel decided to move up-market and try to attract wealthier clients. Schoolboys with muddy boots were no longer welcome.

Eighty or so sixth form boys attended these camps in the seven years. The largest camps, usually in April, had anything from 10 to 20 boys but there were also several smaller camps each year. Sometimes in a group and sometimes individually, the boys worked on specific biological research projects, which they wrote up as they went along. Their teacher wanted to have his own record and kept a detailed account in two volumes which were entitled the Beaulieu Tomes. They are still in his possession and we have had the privilege of consulting them. The Tomes record in a clear manuscript hand the participants in each camp and the factual details of their projects. These ranged widely from flora to bird distribution to butterflies and moths to newts and leeches and much more. For example, one study examined the effects of fire on ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) and bell heathers (*Erica* spp.), another recorded the angiosperm flora on cattle and pony dung. Altogether over 90 species of birds were identified and notes made if they nested in the area. More than 270 species of flora were recorded according to

their location: on road verges, railway banks and bridges, and in the pony corrals, as well as in the bogs, streams, heath and the different patches of woodland. A fascinating account of the fieldwork and of the Tomes themselves occurs in *Wildwood* (Hamish Hamilton 2007) by Roger Deakin.

Deakin appears in the Tomes as one of the boy campers. He became a leading naturalist and environmentalist and a celebrated nature writer before his death in 2006. His book *Waterlog* (Chatto and Windus 1999) recorded his experience of wild swimming in rivers and lakes across Britain and led to the creation of the wild



Boys from Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School

swimming movement. *Wildwood*, published posthumously, describes a series of journeys he made across the world to meet people whose lives were intimately connected with trees and wood. The book includes a vivid account of a return journey to Beaulieu Road with his teacher Barry Goater. Deakin writes: "Beaulieu and the New Forest affected me now, as in my schooldays, all the more profoundly by being so intimately known and, at least partly, understood. We were a kind of tribe, this stretch of wild country was our dreaming, and Barry our sage and chieftain... Like the layers of springy sphagnum moss that grew in the peat bogs, the Tomes grew by gradual accretion into something of lasting value. Between us, we set down some of Beaulieu's stories, charted them on a map of our own making that each of us still carries in his head and learnt some of the New Forest's distinctive language: what Keats calls 'the poetry of the earth'." He is in no doubt as to the source of his inspiration: "A formidable lepidopterist, ornithologist and all-round naturalist, Barry infected us all with his wild enthusiasm...he was the instigator of an extraordinary educational experiment."

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The Tomes also list many visits by George Peterken. In the summer of 1958, Peterken recorded 735 ferns of seven different species that he found growing on the eleven railway bridges around Beaulieu Road. In later life, at the Nature Conservancy, he led the development of national surveys of woodland and their management for nature conservation. Since 1992 he has worked independently for the Forestry Commission and others while living in the Wye Valley where he has developed a local grassland project. His publications include *Woodland Conservation and Management (Chapman and Hall 2008)*, *Natural Woodland: Ecology and Conservation in North Temperate Regions (Cambridge 1996)* and *Meadows (British Wildlife Publishing 2013)*. To quote from a biographical note by one of his publishers, Harper Collins, "His interest in wildlife, ecology and landscape history was stimulated by childhood holidays in the New Forest and by his teacher ... Barry Goater." George Peterken still visits Beaulieu Road from time to time. Deakin writes: "For George, as for me and others, Barry Goater is still the original inspiration for a life's commitment to ecology and conservation."

A third person who was similarly inspired, but at a period later than that covered by the Tomes, is Andy Clements, now Chief Executive Officer of the British Trust for Ornithology and a member of the Board of Natural England. Again seeds were sown by Barry Goater. "How", Clements writes, "did I get from those first shaky steps to here? Like so many others it was the influence of an important mentor, mine in the shape of my biology teacher, Barry Goater. Not only did his teaching shape my future career—zoological science, conservation and leadership—but he encouraged me to start a school bird club." In the early nineties Clements led a team to oppose the proposal of Associated British Ports to build a new container port at Dibden Bay. The opposition was successful.

Mark Telfer also does not appear in the Tomes but has similar reflections. He went on many bird watching outings with Barry Goater between 1982 and 1987 during his years at Haberdashers, when Barry ran the School Ornithological Society. Mark says that North Norfolk was a favourite destination but they travelled to many parts of Britain in search of birds and that included Beaulieu Road and the New Forest. He is now a successful freelance entomological consultant and a respected coleopterist (beetles) and pan-species lister. The list of species he has observed runs to over 7000

and is still rising. Like Barry he is a former President of the British Entomological and Natural History Society. He told us: "Barry was such an important influence on my life during these years that I find I simply cannot imagine what life would have been like without him. Birding and natural history are my work, my hobby and my passion. Most of my friends are birders and naturalists. Barry sparked it all off."

Further research might well reveal that other boys who studied the resources of Beaulieu Road later made their mark in the naturalist world.

Barry Goater taught at Haberdashers from 1954 to 1989. He is an established authority on butterflies and moths and the author of, among other works, *British Pyralid Moths: a Guide to their Identification (Brill, Harley Books 1986)*, *The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (E W Classey 1974)* and co-author of sundry other publications. He gathered records of Lepidoptera in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from an early age, but was never officially County Recorder.



His direct contribution to naturalist studies is thus substantial. His indirect contribution, through his young students who became authorities in the field, is truly noteworthy.

We asked Barry whether he would be prepared to give a talk to the History Society. The answer was a courteous but firm no. At the age of 87 he no longer felt able to address an audience. 87 he may be but his enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the environment are undimmed, tempered only by the concern that all naturalists feel for its deterioration.

The connexion of Beaulieu Road with Beaulieu itself is perhaps slender. It was never part of the Beaulieu Estate. But the station bears the Beaulieu name and the Tomes are the Beaulieu Tomes, sufficient reasons for our Society to take note of the activity there in the last century and its lasting legacy.

John and Anne Coles

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