



BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 37 February 2020

Editor's Column

Past Meetings

The first meeting in the autumn of last year was the **Visit to Titchfield** on 26 September 2019. Titchfield became associated with Beaulieu when, after the dissolution of the abbeys in the 16th century, both abbeys came into the ownership of Thomas Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, courtier to King Henry VIII.

Visits were made to Titchfield Abbey, the Great Barn and St Peter's Church. At these, some interesting further associations with Beaulieu arose which are described in an article later in this newsletter.

Many thanks are due to the Titchfield History Society in particular to its Chair Marilyn Wilton-Smith who led the visit.

On 14 November 2019 a talk was given on the **History of Montagu Arms Hotel** in Beaulieu. The Montagu Arms has had many owners and many names over the centuries.

Society member Anthony Norris had researched the history and gave the talk, and the proprietors of the Montagu Arms kindly provided drinks and canapes in the hotel afterwards.

On 31 January 2020, following the AGM, a talk on the **Maritime Archaeology in the Solent** was given by Garry Momber, Director of Southampton's Maritime Archaeology Trust. Garry has been engaged over several decades in investigating the archaeology of the Solent in prehistoric times when sea levels were much lower and humans and wildlife lived on what is now the sea floor.

Forthcoming Meetings

On 23 April 2020 the talk on the original **Schneider Air Trophy Races** will be given by Colin van Geffen. The races took place around Europe and in America between 1913 and 1931. In 1929 and 1931 they were held on the New Forest coast at Calshot. They were raced with very fast seaplanes, built especially for the purpose.



Supermarine S.6 seaplane

On 25 September 2020 a talk entitled **The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the building of Buckler's Hard** will be given by Ken Robinson.



John Montagu, 2nd Duke of Montagu
1688-1749

Widely known as a 'Historic Ship-building Village', there is much more to the history of Buckler's Hard before the building of ships for Nelson's fleet began. This illustrated talk, covers its origins related to the most expensive adventure ever undertaken by the owners the Beaulieu Estate, and the building of the village.

John Pemberton

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Dates for your Diary

Thursday 23 April 2020 6:45pm
Schneider Air Trophy Races
presented by Colin van Geffen
at Beaulieu Village Hall

Friday 25 September 2020 6:30pm
The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the building of Buckler's Hard
presented by Ken Robinson
at Master Builders Hotel,
Bucklers Hard

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.

The Marble Cross

Regular contributor Anthony Norris has a keen interest in Beaulieu Abbey Church and its graveyard. He reports:

Every time I walk up the path leading to the west door of the Church, my eyes focus on the large marble cross on my left. When I was asked about this cross by a visitor I felt it was time to do some research.



After removing the moss it was easy to read the inscription. The grave was that of the Rev. Graham Tyndall (1829-67). He was the senior of the two curates at Beaulieu during the time of Rev. Frederick Baker. Born in 1829 in the Netherlands he gained his B.A. at Trinity College, Dublin and was ordained a deacon on Sunday 3rd July 1853 and as a priest on Sunday 9th July 1854 both by the Bishop of Winchester in the Chapel of Farnham Castle. His first appointment was here at Beaulieu in 1853.

This is a very old photograph of Rev. Graham Tyndall, dated about 1866.



In his capacity as Senior Curate, he undertook many of the duties of the parish and was called upon to welcome Prince Alfred, Queen Victoria's second son, in May 1858 on his visit. This visit is recorded in the cutting below from the *Poole and Dorset Herald* of May 13th 1858.

BEAULIEU.

VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCE ALFRED TO BEAULIEU.—On Tuesday last the quiet, yet beautiful, manor of Beaulieu was honoured with a visit from the second son of our beloved Queen. His Royal Highness arrived from Alverbank at three p.m. Having sailed in the gun boat 'Cyclops' down the Solent, he was met at Lepe by Captain Lord Frederic Kerr, R.N., of the 'Marlborough,' 131 guns. They then proceeded up the Beaulieu river to within a mile of the village, when the whole party left the 'Cyclops,' and arrived at the landing place in a small man-of-war boat, under a salute of twenty-one guns. On landing, his Royal Highness, accompanied by Lieutenant Cowell, R.E., and the Rev. Mr. Jolley, his naval instructor, was received by the Rev. Graham Tyndall and the Rev. Thomas Evans, curates of the parish (in the absence of the Rector, who is away through a severe domestic affliction), and H. Pocock, Esq., the steward of the manor. Lord Frederic Kerr, who is now resident in the ancient Abbey house, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, conducted the party thither, amid the loud cheers of the assembled people and the school children, who were drawn up in excellent order to welcome their Royal visitor. Having reached the Palace-house, the Prince was introduced to Lady F. Kerr and her family. The beautiful scenery of the neighbourhood was much admired from the windows of the Palace, after which the party was invited to luncheon. The rain at this time came down very heavily, but it did not prevent the people waiting for the return of the Prince. Luncheon being finished, the next object of attention was the ancient Abbey, built in 1204, the refectory of which now forms the church.

Almost all of Queen Victoria's children visited Beaulieu though the Queen herself did not.

The affections towards Rev Graham Tyndall were no more evident than in the gifts he received on his departure, as recorded in the *Hampshire Independent* April 7th 1866.

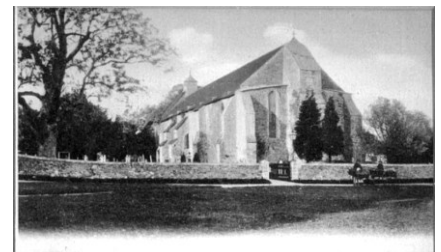
BEAULIEU.]—PRESENTATION.—The parishioners of Beaulieu, anxious to testify their sense of the valuable ministrations of the Rev. Graham Tyndall, who has been curate of the parish for upwards of 13 years, have subscribed to present him with a silver inkstand, together with a purse of 20 sovereigns. The choir of the church have made an offering of a gold pencil case to accompany the inkstand, and the Rev. F. W. Baker has added a study clock as a mark of his regard and esteem.

In November 1865 he moved to St. Mary's Kilburn and in January 1866 to a curacy in Sussex. By this time he was very ill and died on 28th July 1867 of 'congestion of the lungs'. His funeral received extensive coverage in the local press and in the next column is the report printed in the *Hampshire Advertiser* of August 19th 1867.

BEAULIEU, AUG. 10.

FUNERAL OF THE REV. GRAHAM TYNDALL.—The remains of the Rev. Graham Tyndall, formerly the curate of this parish, were interred in Beaulieu Churchyard on Saturday. It may be in the recollection of some of our readers that the deceased gentleman came to Beaulieu in 1853, where he worked most energetically and assiduously as curate until November, 1865, when he left for a new sphere of labour, namely, St. Mary's, Kilburn, London and in January last left St. Mary's, Kilburn, for a curacy in Sussex. Here he laboured amid much bodily pain and suffering, his constitution having been entirely broken up in consequence of the heavy amount of work he had performed, until about a month since, when it was quite apparent that he was taken for death, and he was consequently moved to the residence of his sister (Mrs. C. Stewart), Harrow Weald House, where he died on Sunday, the 28th ultimo, at the early age of 38. It was intended to have buried him at that place, as we understand that he expressed no wish before his friends as to his funeral, but it transpired that in a letter written to a young man named Walter Payne, to whom he was much attached, he had intimated that when he died he should like to be buried under an ash tree growing in Beaulieu Churchyard. This letter was forwarded to his friends, and they at once stopped the arrangements they had made for his interment at Harrow Weald. On Friday the Rev. W. Curtis, of Beaulieu, received notice that the funeral would take place here, and the rev. gentleman, in the absence of the Rev. F. Baker, the rector, did all he could to mature the arrangements, which were well completed by the hour appointed. The corpse was brought to Southampton by train on Friday, where it remained all night, and on Saturday, it was placed in a hearse, and, under the superintendence of Mr. E. Mays, of Southampton, conveyed round to Beaulieu, where it was met by a large number of the farmers of the neighbourhood and the inhabitants of the village. A procession was formed to the

The report mentions an ash tree in the churchyard. There is no longer this tree but an old photograph,



dating from the early 1900s does show where it stood.

Anthony Norris

Connections to Titchfield

In September 2019, the history society made a visit to the pretty village of Titchfield near to the Solent coast between Southampton and Portsmouth. The purpose was to visit Titchfield Abbey, its Church and its medieval Great Barn. Two of these, the Abbey and the Church, have a number of historic connections to the Montagu family of Beaulieu.

Titchfield Abbey

The abbey of St Mary and St John the Evangelist was founded in 1231/2 by Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, for Premonstratensian canons, an order founded at Prémontré in France and known as the 'White Canons'. The canons lived a communal life under monastic vows, but were also involved in the wider community, preaching and teaching the Gospel. Of the 14 or 15 canons, two served as vicars to nearby parish churches.

At the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII the Abbey was granted in 1537 to Thomas Wriothesley, later 1st Earl of Southampton, who was a loyal civil servant to King Henry VIII. He played a key part in the dissolution and was granted monastic lands as a reward. These included Beaulieu Abbey and its lands.

Sir Thomas demolished most of the Titchfield Abbey and built Place House, a residence fit for a rising courtier.

Henry Wriothesley, 2nd Earl of Southampton, was married in 1565/6 to Mary Browne, the daughter of Anthony Browne, 1st Viscount Montagu from Cowdray Park in Midhurst.

The 3rd Earl was the only person to whom Shakespeare dedicated any of his works. Local legend maintains that Shakespeare stayed in Place House and that his play Romeo and Juliet was performed there.

In 1741 Place House was bought by Peter Delme, Member of Parliament for Southampton. The house became unfashionable so his descendants had most of it dismantled and reused the materials elsewhere. The ruins are currently managed by English Heritage.



St Peter's Church

St Peter's, Titchfield was established in about 680 making it one of the oldest used churches in England. Though only a few parts of the original structure survive, the church contains a mixture of building styles from successive revision and expansion over the years. The Earls of Southampton and other Wriothesley ancestors are commemorated by an elaborately carved monument in a chapel on the south side of the church.



A further connection of the Montagus of Beaulieu to the Wriothesley family was through the marriage in 1673 of Elizabeth Wriothesley, daughter of the 4th Earl, to Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu.

It was this significant ancestral link which prompted Henry, 1st Lord Montagu of Beaulieu to take a lead in raising funds for restoration of the monument in 1902. Edward, Lord Montagu similarly initiated a campaign for repairs which were carried out in 1979.

The present Lord Montagu made his own contribution in July 2017 when he presented a banner to the church containing a facsimile of the coat of arms of the Wriothesley family at the time they were buried (in heraldic terms a 'funerary achievement'). It hangs on the wall just above the monument. Close inspection reveals a few elements in common with the present day Montagu coat of arms.



Gratitude is due to the society's hosts, the Titchfield History Society, and particularly its Chair Marilyn Wilton-Smith, for organising an enjoyable day.

John Pemberton

Thanks, in the preparation of this article, for advice from Lord Montagu and from Susan Tomkins, Beaulieu Archivist.

More Prehistory in Beaulieu

In 2018, an excavation at Park Farm, St Leonards, Beaulieu revealed cremation burial urns dating from the Bronze Age (written up in Newsletter No. 35). In 2019, a team of volunteer archaeologists led by staff from New Forest National Park Authority and Bournemouth University returned to the monument to excavate further.

Located in a field near St. Leonards, the monument can be seen as a very distinct 20m wide ring in aerial photographs and geophysical survey data. Monuments of this type are assumed and usually proven to be the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age barrows. It became apparent, however, during the excavation work undertaken in 2018 that although Middle Bronze Age burial urns had been found, these represented the end of a long period of activity and the monument was a lot older and more complicated than expected.

Slots dug through the ring ditch indicated that there were actually two ditches and these were two completely separate phases of activity. This evidence, along with the complete absence of a central burial or any preserved mound material beneath the topsoil led to the ambiguous conclusion that it probably wasn't a barrow, but something else entirely. A tentative interpretation that the monument was a Neolithic 'henge', a prehistoric monument consisting of a circle of stone or wooden uprights, proposed to have been used as a

cremation cemetery in the Middle Bronze Age.

In 2018 four cremation urns were found and three of these were lifted and transported to Bournemouth University for analysis. The urns were in very poor condition and in order to remove their contents they were carefully disman-



tled as the soil within them was removed in spits. The charcoal and bone was separated from the soil and it was determined that one urn contained the remains of a juvenile, one contained the remains of another juvenile and an adult and one contained pyre material but no human remains.

In response to the intriguing but inconclusive results of the 2018 excavation it was decided that a second phase of excavation, spanning two weeks with a well-defined research agenda might provide a more conclusive definition of the monument and its chronology. The henge theory was tested by looking for one of the characteristic features of this type of monument, a gap in the ring ditch, to provide access to an internal 'ceremonial area'. The presence of gap on the north-west side of the monument was hinted at in the geophysical survey data and investigating this area was the objective of one of the three trenches opened in 2019. An entrance gap was found in this trench but intriguingly the gap was only through the later, outer ditch

and not the inner, earlier ditch.

Another, larger trench on the site of the ring ditch monument had a number of objectives and sought to confirm the presence of additional cremation burials, provide further opportunities to investigate the ring ditch sequence, look for discrete features within the internal area and confirm the presence or absence of mound material or the remains of a bank.

Despite the 2019 trench extending well beyond the area where urns were uncovered in 2018, only one additional urn was found. This brought the urn total for the site up to five but it was decided that as this one was also in poor condition, it should be left in place alongside the fourth urn discovered in 2018.

Three additional slots were dug through the ring ditches in 2019. These were very carefully inspected and compared to the records from 2018 and after a lot of head scratching a coherent sequence of events was determined. The first phase of the monument was represented by the inner ditch, which had gradually silted up over the duration of its life. The second ditch reinstated the monument and increased its size slightly.

The outer ditch had three re-cut events with each successive cut reducing the depth but increasing the width of the ditch. As expansion was always biased towards the interior, this suggests the bank was external to the ditch and this is another characteristic of henge type monuments. The outer ditch was completely filled through a mixture of natural and deliberate processes and, by the time the site was chosen for a cremation cemetery, it would have been very inconspicuous. The bank, now long gone, must have been more intact during the Bronze Age and many more cremation urns might have been buried within it.

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A third trench dug in 2019 aimed to investigate whether other prehistoric features occur in the area surrounding the ring ditch monument. Geophysical survey results were used to select a location where features might be found and a small trench was then dug to test them. A ditch was found in the trench and its location correlates with a very faint circular geophysical survey response. Unfortunately no reliable dating evidence was found but the presence of this potentially prehistoric feature does imply that the

ring ditch monument was not isolated and was situated within a landscape that utilised a great deal more than was previously believed.

Collectively the results of both seasons of excavation at Park Farm have provided a great deal of information about the monument and we can now confirm that it has three main phases, and it is hoped precise dates for these phases will be ultimately provided by radiocarbon dating. The current interpretation proposes that the monument was initially built as a mini-henge, around 3000BC. After an unknown

length of time it might have gone through a period of disuse before being rebuilt and used intensively towards the end of the later Neolithic before becoming derelict. It was then rediscovered during the Middle Bronze Age, around 1500BC, recognised as a place of ritual significance

and used as a cremation cemetery.

This project and the results of other recent and on-going work in the New Forest has suggested Neolithic activity was much more intense and widespread than traditionally believed. If radiocarbon dating ultimately provides confirmation that this monument dates to the Neolithic period this will be a nationally significant discovery. There is, however, a great deal of scope to learn more about this monument, particularly its wider landscape setting and any future research opportunities to learn more should be taken.

Jonathan Milward
Bournemouth University
Archaeological Research
Consultancy

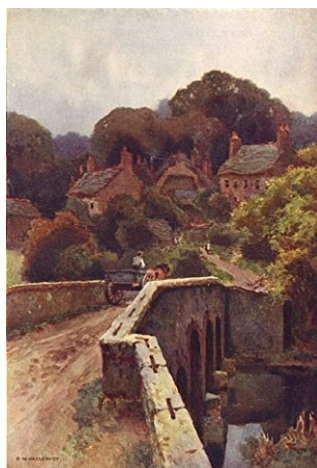
Further information about the project can be found on New Forest Knowledge www.nfknowledge.org by searching for 'Prehistoric Beaulieu excavations'.



Boldre Parish Historical Society

One of a series of occasional articles on history and archaeology groups around Beaulieu

The Historical Society serves the parish of Boldre, bounded by the Lymington River in the west and extending to the east by some two miles, and from the Solent coast in the south some three miles to the north. It comprises a number of distinct settlements, the largest being the villages of Boldre itself and Pilley.



Boldre Bridge, 1920

Between the parishes of Boldre and Beaulieu is the parish of East Boldre which does not have a history society as such. However, the presence in East Boldre of the Beaulieu airfield (known in WWII as RAF Beaulieu) creates strong interest from a number of history groups, most obviously the Friends of New Forest Airfields FONFA.

The Boldre Historical Society has monthly talks through the winter, for de-

tails see their website. It has published a number of books, *Boldre and the Great War* and *Boldre and the Second World War*, and a DVD on *The Parish of Boldre*.

A local surprise occurred in 2014 when metal detectorists, in a field at Boldre, discovered a hoard of 1,608 third century coins dating back to AD249, within a Romano-British pottery vessel.

The coins were taken to the British Museum in London and sparked interest from private collectors. Determined to keep the hoard together, and with the help of historian and TV presenter Dan Snow, an appeal was launched to raise £30,000 to bring the coins back to the St Barbe museum in Lyndhurst.



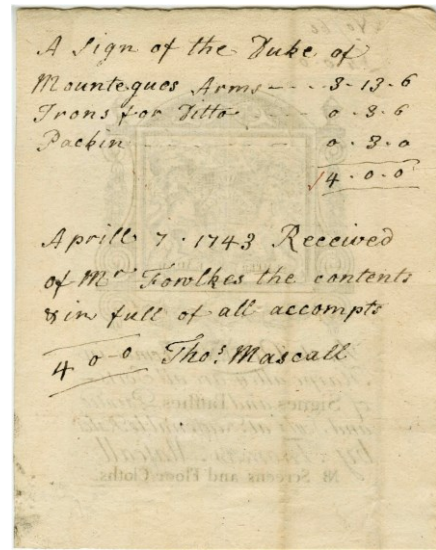
Details of the Society and its programme of talks can be found on its website www.boldreparishhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

Images of the Montagu Arms

The society's talk about the Montagu Arms by Anthony Norris in November 2019 portrayed the rich history of the hotel. Here Ken Robinson has collated a visual evocation of its past.



An early postcard



Receipt for 'A Sign of the Duke of Montagues Arms' 1743



Postcard by 'Taunt & Co' 1906



'Beaulieu after the Storm' 1928



Gardens at an early date unknown



Hotel front 1930s



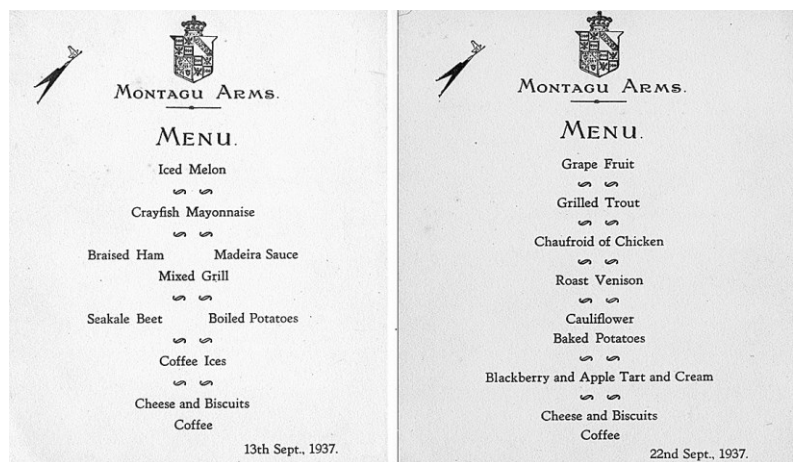
1930s



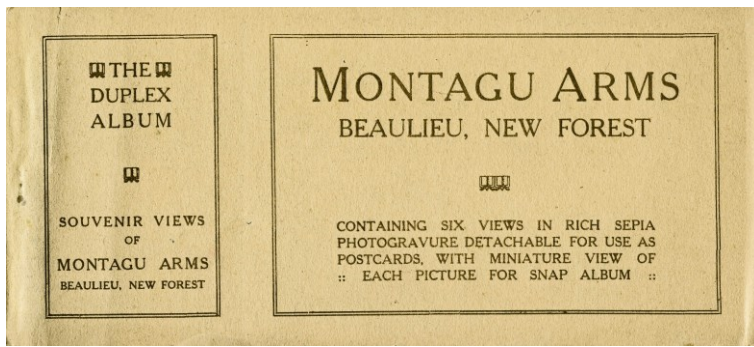
Otter Hunt Meet 1939



Early hotel signboard



Menu 1937



A 'duplex album' of photographs of the hotel evocative of the 1930s



Postcard 1950s



Postcard 1960s

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