



# BEAULIEU HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No. 39 October 2020

## Editor's Column

### Forthcoming Meetings

Coronavirus still being at large prevents us from restarting meetings as we hoped.

However, two previously announced talks still remain on the plan, and will be presented when possible. They are as follows.

**The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the building of Buckler's Hard** is to be presented by Ken Robinson. We had thought we



A model of the village in 1803  
*Buckler's Hard Maritime Museum*

could give this talk on-line if coronavirus continued. But the highly visual content and the absence of an audience will make the talk much less effective on-line. We need to wait until we can meet.

The talk on the **Schneider Air Trophy Races** which took place in the



Supermarine S.6 air racer with its successor, the Spitfire fighter, in the background.  
*Solent Sky Museum, Southampton*

1930s at Calshot on the New Forest coast, is to be given by Colin van Geffen. Again, the talk will be much more effective when given directly to the audience.

### The History Society Website

Many people during the coronavirus pandemic have found they have time to explore the internet. Use of history websites has increased significantly.

The website of the society [www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.beaulieuhistorysociety.org.uk)



has undergone an update. It contains yet more information about Beaulieu and the surrounding area in its Archive.

Access to the website is unrestricted for events and general information. But for the Archive section, you need to click on Member Login at the bottom of the Home page and enter a username and password. If you do not have them, they are available to members by email to membership secretary Dene McCulloch whose details are at the bottom of the back page.

After login, the Archive menu selection appears. Popular sections under Archive are Newsletters, Presentations and Meeting Talks. And do make use of the Search facility if you need it.

John Pemberton

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## Dates for your Diary

Meetings cannot be scheduled because of the lockdown but the following events are planned:

Date to be advised  
**The Myth, John Montagu's Adventure and the building of Buckler's Hard**  
presented by Ken Robinson

Date to be advised  
**Schneider Air Trophy Races**  
presented by Colin van Geffen

## 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 Farming Carpenters

Anthony Norris writes:

I was intrigued to discover in some old newspaper cuttings the obituary below.



Hampshire Advertiser, 23rd March 1895

Doing some research into the Carpenter families' three hundred year tenure, I discovered that during the nineteenth century they were prominent farmers on the Beaulieu Estate. Indeed during the middle of the century at one time they occupied five farms.

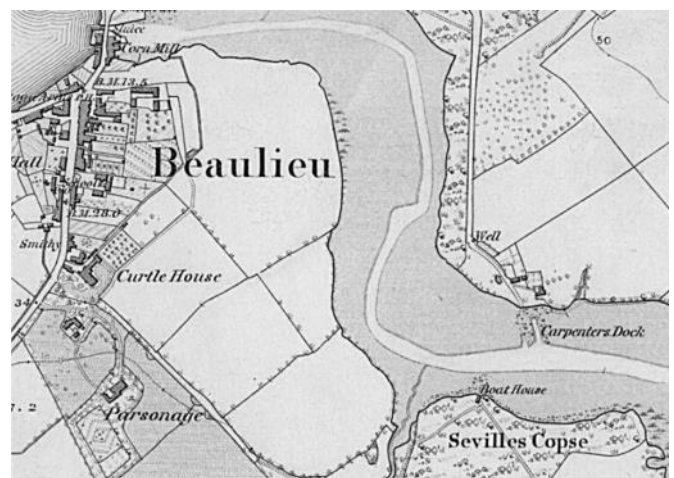
<p><b>BEAULIEU DIRECTORY.</b> (4 are at Buckler's Hard.) Duke of Buccleuch, &amp;c., PALACE HOUSE, and Montagu House, London, &amp;c. 4 Adams Misses   Warn Wm. Alderton Pp. Capel, clerk of works, <i>Palace Cottage</i> Baker Rev Fredk. Walter, M.A. incumbt. <i>Parsonage</i> Biel Mr John Wm. Bull Eliz. schoolmistress Burden Jas. veterinary surgeon, <i>Hasle cove</i> Collins Edward, mariner Gardener Geo. gamekeeper Mead John, mill manager Mead Samuel, butcher Payne Wm. wheelwright, carpenter, &amp; parish clerk, <i>Post Office</i> Pepper Mr George Robert, <i>Otterwood</i></p>	<p>Pocock Henry, Esq. land agent to the Duke of Buccleuch, <i>Curtle House</i> Prophett Charlotte, school Stevens James, schoolmaster Tyndale Rev T. Graham Ward John, saddler, &amp;c. Zillwood Rd. Nunn, brewer, maltster, &amp;c. <b>FARMERS.</b> Biddlecombe Benj. <i>Newlands</i> Biel Wm. <i>St Leonard's</i> Carpenter Samuel, <i>Lodge</i> Carpenter Stephen, <i>Godfrey's farm</i> Carpenter Wm. <i>Keeping fm.</i> Carpenter Wm. sen. <i>Dock fm.</i> Cooper Stpn. <i>Warren farm</i> Dawkins Thomas, <i>Thorns</i> Dodds Isaac, <i>Sowley farm</i> Figgins Mrs Ann, <i>Ginn's fm.</i> Hill Thomas, <i>Hill top</i></p>	<p>Huggins Chite. <i>Newhouse</i> Judd Chas. <i>Bergorie farm</i> Palmer John, <i>Bowrie farm</i> Pike Michael, <i>Clobb farm</i> Pinnick Thomas, <i>Lea green</i> Read John, <i>Beck farm</i> Seager Jas. <i>Pennerley farm</i> Tarver George, <i>Park farm</i> Upperton Luke Wiltshire James, <i>Swineley</i> <b>INNS AND TAVERNS.</b> Chequers, James Farlow Forge Hammer, John Gosling, <i>Sowley</i> Horse and Jockey, Geo. Aldridge Montagu Arms, Sar. Fletcher, and wine and spirit mert 4 New Inn, Wm. Scames, and brewer Royal Oak, Joseph Orman, <i>Hill top</i> 2 A 2</p>
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This entry from the 1859 White's Directory of Hampshire (William White, Sheffield) shows which farms were occupied by the families. Indeed, the 1847 Kelly's Directory (Kelly's Directories Ltd, London) has, in addition, Samuel Carpenter Sen. in occupation of Dock Farm and William Carpenter at Leygreen Farm. Samuel Carpenter Sen. died in 1849 hence did not appear in White's Directory.

The Samuel Carpenter in the obituary was the son of John and Ann Carpenter who were tenanting Lodge Farm. John died in 1838 aged 72 and Ann in 1841 aged 68. This John was the son of another John who died in 1809 aged 80. The three generations did indeed live to a ripe old age. Very few people reached the age of 60 in those days.

It was usual for the first son born to take the Christian name of the father and likewise the first daughter that of the mother. This makes it quite easy to construct the family tree.

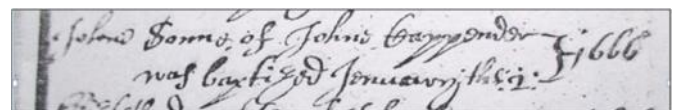
John, the grandfather of Samuel Carpenter, who died in 1895, tenanted Gardiners Farm as did earlier generations. The Poor Rates first show a John Carpenter tenanting 'part of Gardiners Ground' in 1743. The priests of the Abbey Church also tenanted part of Gardiners Ground as it was a very extensive area of land to the north of the river. An Ordnance Survey map of 1818 shows there to be a ship yard on the river here. When this closed down it became part of the Carpenter's land and this spot became known as Carpenters Dock as shown on the 1871 map (bottom right) and it is known to this day.



Ordnance Survey Six-inch map LXXXI, 1871

The Parish Records show a John Carpenter married Mary Toogood at Beaulieu Church on March 22nd 1722. They had seven children who survived infancy.

However we can trace the Carpenter family even further back. The Parish Baptismal Records record the birth of a son to John Cappender on January 2nd 1666.



The father sadly died soon after, in April 1670, but he did live long enough to see his daughter Martha, who died in December 1670.

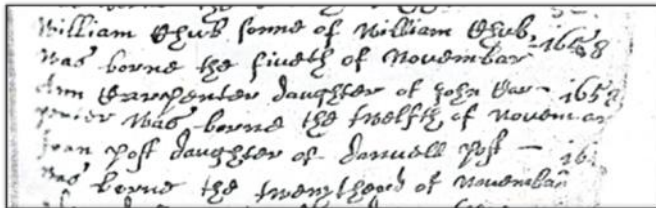
Ann Gregory had a lease in 1660 of Lodge Farm, recently created out of Bouvery. So any claim that the Carpenter family had tenanted Lodge Farm, situated between Beufre and Sowley, for near on three hundred years should be treated with caution. Although by 1895, the Carpenter family had certainly lived in Beaulieu for over two hundred and fifty years and probably much longer.

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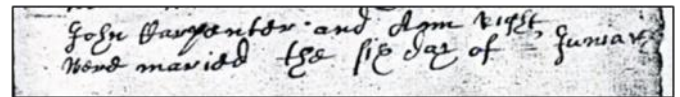
**Postscript**

I have now discovered there were 128 baptisms of children to the various Carpenter families, almost certainly all related, from 1658 until 1880. So not surprisingly there developed many different strands of the Carpenter family and as the 1859 directory entry showed they definitely had farming in their blood. However the Samuel Carpenter mentioned in the obituary at the beginning was the final member of that extensive family to feature in the village.



There are even earlier references to the Carpenter family. Looking at earlier baptismal records we see that 'Ann Carpenter daughter of John Carpenter was born the twelfth of November 1658'.

Earlier in this article I mentioned the first child of each sex usually took the name of the corresponding parent.



So I looked in the Marriage Register to see if a John Carpenter was married to Ann and not surprisingly we find 'John Carpenter and Ann Right were married the six day of January'.

This was one of only two weddings in 1657. The Parish Records were only recorded from 1654 and this is the earliest record I can find of the long-standing Carpenter family in Beaulieu.

Anthony Norris

## Solent Maritime Archaeology—More Discoveries

In January 2020, the society received a talk from Garry Momber of the Maritime Archaeology Trust in Southampton about underwater archaeology taking place in the Solent, including new finds off the coast of the Isle of Wight. The BBC had, just a few months earlier, described these discoveries as follows:

**BBC News**

20 August 2019

An 8,000 year-old wooden platform has been discovered on the seabed off the Isle of Wight.

The structure was found by the Maritime Archaeological Trust 36ft (11m) below sea level east of Yarmouth at a site which was dry land during the Stone Age.

It was next to what is thought to be the world's oldest boat-building.

The trust said it was the "most cohesive, wooden Stone Age structure ever found in the UK".

The site at Bouldnor Cliff was first discovered in 2005 and contains an arrangement of timbers that could be platforms, walkways or collapsed structures. It is the only such submerged Mesolithic landscape currently known in the UK.

Earlier this year divers from the trust spotted the new structure and excavations revealed a platform



consisting of split timbers, several layers thick, resting on horizontally laid round-wood foundations.

Trust director Garry Momber said: "This new discovery is particularly important as the wooden platform is part of a site that doubles the amount of worked wood found in the UK from a period that lasted 5,500 years.

"The site contains a wealth of evidence for technological skills that were not thought to have been developed for a further couple of thousand years, such as advanced wood working.

During the period when there was human activity on the site, it was dry land with lush vegetation and the Isle of Wight was still connected to mainland Europe.

The wood has been taken to the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in Southampton to record, study, desalinate and reconstruct the collection of timbers.



The trust also warned that, being underwater, there are no regulations to protect the site and it is threatened by ongoing erosion.

It is hoped the find will eventually be put on public display.

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Now yet further discoveries have been made, initially by history society committee member Mary Montagu-Scott and her husband Rupert Scott, this time on the north side of the Solent on the coast of the Beaulieu Estate. They saw the features when walking along the beach at low tide, and asked archaeologist Garry Momber to take a look. This is an extract from his report about what has been found:

## Ancient occupation on the prehistoric Beaulieu foreshore

The mud flats that once protected the north shores of the Western Solent have been retreating for over a century. In the last few decades, ongoing erosion has exposed stretches of the intertidal zone to reveal ancient land surfaces for the first time in thousands of years.

At Thorns Beach there is an old land surface with trees embedded in peat that has recently become uncovered.



It has been radiocarbon dated to around 5,100 years old. This is the New Stone Age or Neolithic period. Prehistoric structures of similar date have also been discovered within the landscape.

Investigations are now ongoing to identify archaeological material concealed within the peat; survey the site to understand the foreshore formation processes and date significant material. One important artefact we discovered was the foot of a post that had been pushed into the relict silty clay land surface.

Further down slope there were other, less robust posts running into the Solent in a line. They have signs of working and the location, size and arrangement of the timbers suggests intertidal fishing activity. At the time of building the lower sea level meant they would have been on the edge of a small estuary.

This is culturally significant but can also help us to understand long term patterns of climate change, showing us the impact on the coastline as sea levels rose and revealing how the population responded at the time. On Thorns Beach we have a site where the archaeology and ancient peat deposits can provide high resolution index points for past sea level change in the western Solent.

### Discoveries in the Spring of 2020

Visits to Thorns Beach on the low water tides in March and April revealed more discoveries and gave us a better understanding of the underlying land surface.

The archaeological artefacts discovered in 2019 all came from the area adjacent to the exposed peat shelf that marked the eastern side of the palaeo-channel.

However, during our field visit in March this year we investigated another collection of large timber pieces on the western side of the old channel. Close inspection revealed evidence of human intervention, notably the addition of the same hard layer on the timber that was seen on the worked pieces uncovered from the east side of the site. The covering would have been in a viscous, liquid form when it was initially applied as it covers every contour of the wood and is also impregnated with small stones and pebbles; giving the impression of a prehistoric 'pebble-dash'. This additional layer would have formed a protective shield against a wet environment. The timbers on the western side of the channel are much larger than those recorded on the east and if they all prove to be worked, they would have formed a substantial structure.

Further to the west, yet another archaeological discovery was made. This was a collection of eight posts. These were protruding vertically from the seabed at the western extent of survey area.



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The low tides in April revealed yet another discovery that was reported to Mary Montagu-Scott and then Garry Momber by Eloise Showering. This is an isolated feature that forms a distorted circular shape with a diameter ranging from 1 – 1.25m ). The perimeter consists of at least 24 posts, extending from the seabed, splaying away from the base at angles between approximately 5 and 35 degrees off the vertical. The posts are now



eroded with about 20 - 25cm protruding above the seabed. Initially, they would have risen to form a cone or a barrel shaped feature. The posts were interwoven with wattle that is in the order of 0.5 – 1cm thick. Slat like pieces of split timber, remain in the centre of the feature. The size of the components indicate it would have been a robust structure.

Initial inspection suggests it was a woven basket for holding marine life such as crustacea, oysters or large fish. Such baskets and fish traps were used from the Neolithic onwards.

The function is currently unknown but based on the information we have to date, there are a few possibilities.

- It could be the terminus for a fish trap where the fish would be collected after the tide has dropped. (Currently, there is no evidence of any other posts that would be used to support the panels used to channel the fish).
- It could be a holding basket to keep marine life fresh after it was caught.
- It could be a structure built on dry land when the sea level was lower.

The viability of these different scenarios and function will depend on the relative sea level and character of the landscape, which has varied through time.

If the structure was constructed at some time between the Bronze Age and the Medieval period, sea levels would have been similar to today. As such, the feature would only have been accessible on foot during low water on spring tides. At high water spring tides it would be covered by 5m of water. Therefore, it is im-

probable that it was the terminus for a fish trap within the last 4,000 years, however it could have been a fish holding pen for short periods during low tides.

If the feature was constructed earlier and was contemporary with the structures 500m to the east, it would have been better placed to act as a fish trap or holding basket. If this is the case, the feature would make a perfect index point for relative sea level, as the position would be carefully calculated to keep seafood wet and fresh.

If it was constructed at an even earlier period, it could have been a storage facility that was built on dry land.

Another factor we need to consider is the nature of the intertidal area at the time. We know that, until relatively recently, the saltmarsh extended much further into the Solent. Therefore, the feature would have been within a much more sheltered environment than we see today. Accordingly, it could have been in a creek or a sheltered hollow deep within the mud flats, potentially making it of a more recent date as it would have been protected from the direct impact of a higher sea level.

During the site inspection on April 9th 2020, a post was



recorded and sampled. If funds are found, this can now be sub-sampled and dated.

To understand the site more fully, there will need to be a comprehensive survey with the analysis of sediments from within and below the structure. However, a first step would be to have the structure dated.

Extracted from a report prepared by  
Garry Momber, Director,  
Maritime Archaeology Trust,  
Southampton

## Famous Five Locations

### The Marling-Roberts family have been seeking out the Famous Five.

“Whenever there's adventure to be found just a clue or a secret message brings the Famous Five around”. So goes the title song of the Famous Five series of twenty-seven episodes made in the seventies by Southern Television. It was just before lockdown that my grand-daughters professed their love of the books. We duly acquired the videos and together sat and watched, but how strangely familiar it all seemed.

At the same time in distant Australia, the suburbs of Sydney to be precise, Brett Butterfield was filling in the missing pieces of research for a book being written by a member of his local Enid Blyton interest group.

After contacting the Beaulieu History Society he sent us regular requests to track down some of the missing locations. Many a gloomy post lockdown afternoon we would morph into the Famous Five and endeavour to solve these mysteries.

### Mystery Number One - *Five on a Hike Together*

This was filmed in a derelict cottage by a lake, which Brett believed to be Sowley Pond. He thought it may have been demolished. We ascertained with the Sowley Estate that no building had been demolished. After a great deal of research the only property that fitted the bill was Newlands Farm off Lodge Lane, Beaulieu. The house was ren-



ovated in the eighties and the large chimney removed. The track and the electricity transformer are the same and the barns behind have been converted with the track extended. Behind the house is a lake. Brett's Enid Blyton group had to be persuaded that this was the loca-



tion but finally agreed after looking at the lay of the land.

In the same film the children climb over a brick wall and enter a barn. This was filmed at Lodge Farm. The barn now has new windows and doors but the wall is easily recognisable by the brickwork.

### Mystery Number Two - *Five on Finniston Farm*

Where is the house in the film? Most of this was filmed in the barns at St Leonards. It turned out that the house is St Leonards Farmhouse at the top of Warren



Lane, Beaulieu. In the film the children cross the road up some steps and through a gate into the garden.



The steps and gate have long gone as has the stone slab in front of the porch.

Many other locations were found:

**Sowley Pond and the boathouse.** The boathouse is still there, hidden by undergrowth.

**Black Water House, Warren Lane, Beaulieu.** This features a great deal as the home of George, one of the Famous Five.

**Exbury Village.** George is seen running past the Old Post Office and the building opposite is used as a pub.

**Lepe Beach and boathouse.**

**The river and bridge at Brockenhurst.** Where Julian swings on a rope.

**The village of Burley,** in *Five go to Smugglers Top*.

**Burlesdon Towers,** Hamble Lane, Southampton. Another derelict building, demolished in 1978 and now a Tesco store!

So, mysteries solved! Time for lashings of Ginger Beer!

Gerry and Peter Marling-Roberts

## In Search of ... Beaulieu

In 1927, H.V. Morton wrote his celebrated *In Search of England*, still in print today. A *Daily Telegraph* review said of him, "His ability to grasp what he feels to be the essence of a place and encapsulate it in his concise and yet beautifully flowing prose is the secret of Morton's enduring popularity as a travel writer." Society member Christina Dykes suggested this extract.

Here in Beaulieu – they pronounce it Bewley – nothing happens or, it seems, could happen except the coming and going of the tide in the river, the budding and the falling of the leaves, the rising and the setting of the sun and the moon.

...

This is a strange, lonely place in the middle of the last of England's great forests. I am inclined to think that it is one of the strangest places I know. The people are slow Saxons well-mannered, deferential people, with their wits about them and their tongues padlocked. Their ancestors most wisely took to cover when William Rufus came crashing through the bracken in search of the stag which – as you remember – led to a grave. They are still good at taking cover behind the barriers of their reticence. The place, like the people, encourages a delicious slowness. You feel that London with all its fret is not quite so important in the ultimate scheme of things as Mr. Smith's new litter of pigs; and it seems to you, as you lean against a fence in a portentous silence, that those things which men break their hearts upon are not worth so much in the long run as the sight of the moon tangled up in the boughs of a young birch wood. Heresy, of course!

It would be fatal to stay too long in Beaulieu; you would wish for nothing better than to lean over Mr. Smith's pigsty or to stand by the mill-stream and watch the stars grow bright in the evening.

I have been wondering, in the spell of this village, whether it is possible for the odour of Sanctuary to cling to a place. This tiny hamlet with its magnificent abbey ruin was from 1204 till 1539 one of the chief places in England to which the murderer, the thief, the plotter, and the general fugitive from justice fled literally for his life. Once within the wall no one could touch him: 'the peace of the Church' was over him like a shield, and the sheriff might bang on the great gates as loud as Judgment Day and the knights might ride round the wall for as long as they liked with their swords drawn, but the fox had gone to holy earth; he was as safe as though he had never sinned.

Through the Middle Ages, Beaulieu must have entertained one of the world's record assemblies of rogues and vagabonds; men who dared not take one step outside the walls.

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The white monks farmed the land and fished the river, singing High Mass every day in the lovely abbey church; and I suppose no one was startled or excited at so usual a sight as that of a man on a winded horse riding full tilt at the gate to join this queer brotherhood of the hunted. I imagine that the Abbot of Beaulieu owned a visitors' book rather like Scotland Yard's file of wanted faces.

All that remains of this old storm is a tall ruin in the light of that same moon on the banks of that same river. The evil seems to have gone from Beaulieu, but the feeling of Sanctuary remains: the feeling – it may seem a strange thing to say – that ‘the peace of the Church’ is still over the fields, making something more than solitude. I thought in this way one evening when the tide was going out and the sun was setting. It was low in the west behind trees, lost in a blaze of sudden, unexpected splendour.

There were two layers of cloud, one low and moving, the other high and stationary. The low clouds were indigo blue and stormy: the high a soft, apricot pink colour. The west was burning with gold light, and the edges of the dark clouds were etched with thin lines of fire. The pageant moved, changed . . . the river against the sun was a sheet of dull silver on which a jet-black duck moved noiselessly; a swan, silhouetted as if cut in black paper, swam with his neck beneath the water; a wind came fretting the river, blowing a handful of pale blossoms into the grass. The hush of evening deepened. I could hear a dog barking far away; and the words of two men talking over a lichened wall were clear as bells.

Yes, said one, his garden could do with a week of sun, that it could. . . .

Click! went his spade against a pebble.

The water shivered in the fretful wind, the gold in the sky deepened and dulled; above it extended a pearly greyness, not so much the death of light as the birth of a new, unearthly light. . . .

There is one moment at sunset in the country when the whole visible world seems to gather itself in prayer, and it seems to you strange that men should move on unconscious of this with spades over their shoulders, instead of falling on their knees in the grass; for in that hush, in that benediction of seconds before the first star shines, the universe seems waiting for a revelation, as if the clouds might part and Man know something of his destiny. . . .

Lights shine in windows, there is the sound of steps on the road, some one laughs loudly, night falls, and – the dream is gone.

H.V. Morton, *In Search of England*, Methuen Publishing, 1927 (new edition 2000)

#### Committee Members

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