

Cody Farnborough Amateur Operatic Society

SOCIAL EVENT

Event: **OPSOC Ramble** Date: 27th July 2007

Venue: Beaulieu Time: 1:00pm

Contact: Lucy Armes

Details: Hi all

All set for a lovely ramble in the NEW Forest on Sunday?

This year the ramble is a slightly different format. A shorter walk suitable for all the family. It is push chair and dog friendly (even Biggles!!!) and will be in the New Forest.

Roughly an hour from Farnborough we will meet in Beaulieu Village at 1pm and walk to Bucklers Hard have a drink and then back. The walk is 4-1/4 miles and will take 1hour each way.

If you wish to make a day of it. I suggest you start early spend the morning at the Motor museum, then picnic in the village, walk to Bucklers Hard, go for a boat ride or pay to visit the museum and historic buildings, or have drink in Pub, then walk back to Beaulieu in time for a cream tea shop closes at 4.30).


Lovely views especially on the return walk Please see map for more details

Ramble Instructions:

See map and instructions attached. Parking in the pay and display car park behind the garage on Beaulieu high street.

14 Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard

No guide to the New Forest would be complete without this classic walk, linking the popular centre of Beaulieu with the historic shipbuilding village of Buckler's Hard. The linear route offers easy walking, and includes a lovely waterside loop on the return. Come in spring or autumn to avoid the crowds, and to catch the seasonal colours at their best.

 Take the gravelled footpath out of the car park, and turn left into High Street at the village shop. Turn right at the bottom of this pretty street, pass the Montagu

Palace House, Beaulieu



PUBLIC TRANSPORT Buses from Lyndhurst, Lymington and Hythe (0870 608 2608)

REFRESHMENTS Beaulieu: The Old Bakehouse Tearooms and also the rather upmarket Montagu Arms. Buckler's Hard: Yachtsman's Galley and bar, also Captain's Cabin café

PUBLIC TOILETS Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard

PICNIC/PLAY AREA Waterside picnic tables and bench seats at Buckler's Hard

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS Explorer OL22 (New Forest)

START Beaulieu High Street

DISTANCE 4¼ miles (6.8km)

TIME 2 hours

PARKING Pay and Display car park behind Beaulieu Garage

ROUTE FEATURES Gravel paths and a rutted woodland section with timber boardwalks; all-terrain buggies should get through. Please lead dogs in the villages

Arms, and turn right again into Fire Station Lane towards Buckler's Hard.

Pass the fire station, and follow the gravel track as it bends to the right. The track continues through the waymarked wicket-gate at Taylers Close, and there are attractive views across the wide river valley. A wicket-gate bypasses the cattle-grid, and you pass a small water treatment works on the left before entering the North Solent National Nature Reserve. The reserve's rich




Overlooking Beaulieu

mudflats, saltmarsh and coastal grazing are internationally important for overwintering and migratory waterfowl, and also support large numbers of breeding gulls, terns and wading birds.

The river slips away behind the trees as you enter a more intimate landscape of reedbeds, and the path winds up a short slope. There are glimpses of the river through the hedgerow trees on your left, and an open field on your right. Now the path winds past Brickyard Cottage and dives into Keeping Copse. The waymarked route zigzags right, then left, and passes a

wooden barrier at the start of a long wooded section.

A The Riverside Walk turns off to the left about 100 yds (91m) beyond the barrier. This will be

 **Beaulieu Abbey** was created on the site of a former royal hunting lodge at Bellus Locus Regis. King John specifically exempted the land from forest law when he gave it to the Cistercians in 1202. As a result, the monks could exploit the estate's timber and other resources, and the abbey gradually acquired other estates in the region. After the Dissolution, the abbey was partially demolished to provide building materials for nearby **Hurst Castle**.

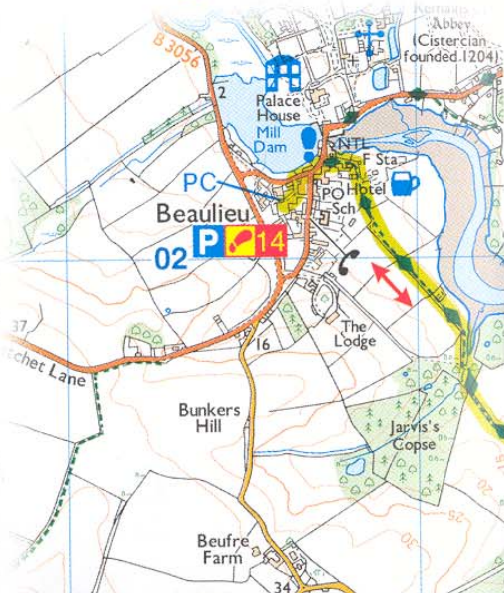
your homeward route; but, for now, keep ahead down the long wooded straight until you reach a small car park on your left-hand side near the end of the woods. Just here, the gated boardwalk on the left leads to a public bird watching hide.

B Follow the waymarked track as it leaves the woods and swings to the right. There are views to Keeping Farm here, and soon you pass the Agamemnon Boat Yard on the left. Cross the boatyard access road and swing left here, following the waymarked route until it meets the river and continues along the waterfront. From here it's just a short amble past an enchanting little thatched cottage – built by the Duke of Montagu in 1760 – to the Swiftsure jetty and Buckler's Hard.

C You can easily spend a few hours at Buckler's Hard. The village was once home to workers in the nearby shipyard, and Admiral Nelson's favourite ship, *HMS Agamemnon*, was amongst over 50 Royal Navy vessels built here during the 18th and 19th centuries. The original buildings lining the village street include reconstructions of the former New Inn, as well as an 18th century labourer's cottage. Here, too,

you'll find the present-day Yachtsman's Galley and bar, whilst the Maritime Museum and other facilities are located at the top of the High Street.

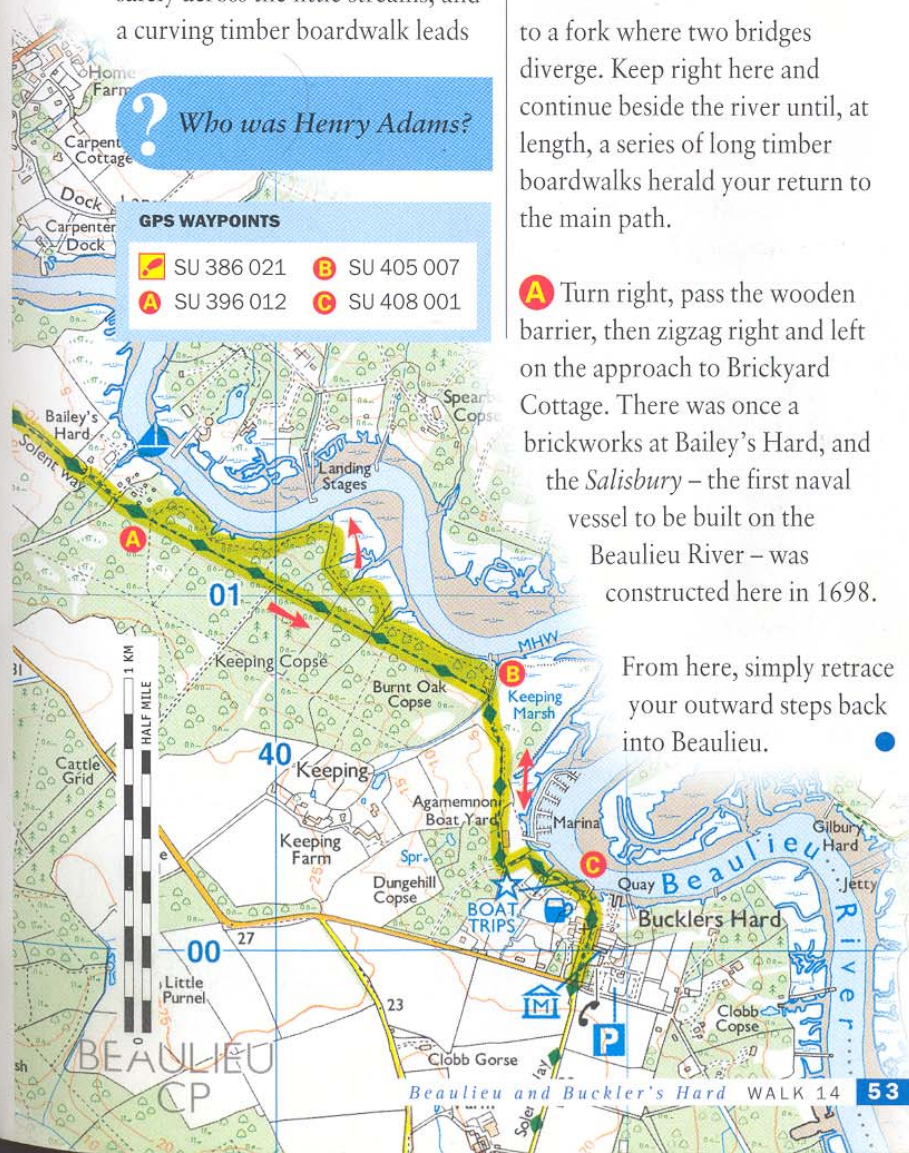
To return to Beaulieu, retrace your steps to point **B** and



Little egret in River Avon

fork right onto the signposted Riverside Walk. The path loops off through the trees towards the river, and there are quiet spots to sit and admire the view as you follow the tree-fringed shoreline.

Wooden footbridges lead you safely across the little streams, and a curving timber boardwalk leads



The river cruiser *Swiftsure* operates regular half-hour trips from **Buckler's Hard**. As the cruiser picks its way downstream between wooded banks towards the mouth of the river, passengers might see heron, tern, little egret, and a variety of wading birds on the intertidal mudflats.

to a fork where two bridges diverge. Keep right here and continue beside the river until, at length, a series of long timber boardwalks herald your return to the main path.

A Turn right, pass the wooden barrier, then zigzag right and left on the approach to Brickyard Cottage. There was once a brickworks at Bailey's Hard, and the *Salisbury* – the first naval vessel to be built on the Beaulieu River – was constructed here in 1698.

From here, simply retrace your outward steps back into Beaulieu.