

# BERKELEY CASTLE OPEN DAYS AND PRICES FOR 2017

**2 April to 31 October: Sunday to Wednesday inclusive**  
**Open all four days of the Easter Weekend**

**Opening Times:** 11:00am - 5:00pm (last admission 4pm)

Always closed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Butterfly House is open May – September  
Sunday to Wednesday inclusive

## **Castle, Gardens and Butterfly House Admission Prices:**

**(FoBC members have free admission to the Castle, Gardens and Butterfly House during normal opening hours, excluding special events)**

Adult: £11.00 Child (age 3 - 16): £6.00

Children under 3 are free

Concession (aged 60+) and full-time Student with valid student card:

£9.00

Family (2 adults and 2 children): £30.00

Tel: 01453 810303

E: [info@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:info@berkeley-castle.com)

W: [www.berkeley-castle.com](http://www.berkeley-castle.com)

## **Friends of Berkeley Castle**

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[www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html](http://www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html)

## **FoBC Officers for 2016 - 2017**

Chairman - Paul Walkden

Deputy Chairman - Diana Merrett

Secretary - Jane Handoll



## BERKELEY BUTTRESS

FEBRUARY 2017

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

## From our President



Charles Berkeley with  
Aidan Turner as Ross  
Poldark

It is 2017 and I would like to thank every one of you who has been a part of our Friends over the last 10 years. So much restoration and repair work has taken place to furniture, pictures, tapestries and other chattels, and this will allow thousands of people to keep enjoying their visits to Berkeley Castle for many years to come.

I would like to mention a lesser known Berkeley, Captain Lennox Berkeley de jure, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley. He was the son of General Sir George Berkeley and Lady Berkeley and had 2 brothers, Colonel FitzHardinge and Hastings Berkeley. He married Cecile, Lady Pellew née Drummond de Melfort. He never occupied the castle and many records, including letters and photographs, were destroyed, probably by his family. He was considered the black sheep of the family and was a compulsive gambler who got into huge debt. There are many stories of him as a young officer and getting into debt. He was not able to pay tradesmen and soon got a reputation around the cities of Europe, including Hamburg, Liège and Paris, as a roulette player who just could not stop himself until he had lost everything!

He was a very accomplished musician and used to play an instrument called the viola zither, played on the lap and with a bow. The family used to give musical soirées in Paris to which they invited well known viola and violin players. He served in Turkey in around 1855 under a General Beatson just at the mouth of the Hellespont. Being headstrong and very wilful he turned down a later post in Corfu and started what was to be a weakness for gambling. He was protected by his wife Cecile at first as there were many debts that threatened to tear the family apart. He fought for Giuseppe Garibaldi and his Redshirts, as they were involved in the invasion of the two Sicilies.

I will not go in to great details about the middle part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl's life but there was a happy surprise late on. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of the only son of a second son, it had never occurred to Captain Lennox Berkeley that the Earldom of Berkeley, let alone the castle and estates, might one day be his. But the heirs were disqualified by illegitimacy, bachelordom, infertility or death; that is what happened on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1882, when his first cousin once removed, Thomas 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley, died at Cranford House. Suddenly Captain Berkeley found himself the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley, de jure. He did not have the castle and estate which went by will to his third son Randal. He never took his seat at the House of Lords, because his right to the title was not confirmed until after his death.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for 2017 and I hope you will enjoy the varied and exciting programme of Friends' events this year.

*Charles Berkeley*

## Chairman's Introduction

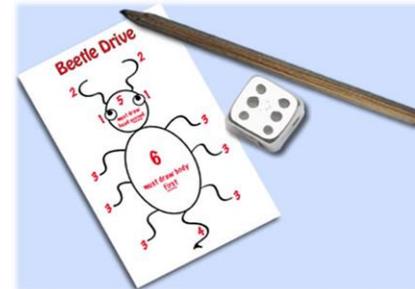
Welcome to the latest edition of the Buttress, I hope you enjoy the content.

The recent Friends' evening celebrating our tenth anniversary was a tremendous success (reported in the March edition of *Cotswold Life*). Besides music, we enjoyed a speech from Andrew Jardine who was instrumental in setting up the Friends group when he was the agent at the Castle. It was so nice to welcome him to our festivities, celebrated on the exact date we inaugurated the Friends' group. We have had a very successful year again in 2016 with some excellent events including a visit to Badminton House, not normally open to the public.

We have again this year an exciting calendar of events and details are in the centre-fold of this newsletter.

Recently the tapestries were re-hung in the Great Hall and they look magnificent. It was rather worrying initially when, on arrival in Belgium, they were found to have a live moth lava, which meant they had to be treated prior to the washing; this meant we lost our place in the queue, but fortunately all came together quite quickly in the end.

## Beetle Drive



On the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> September Friends gathered to attend the first Beetle Drive to be held in Berkeley Castle. Chairman, Paul Walkden, explained the rules, put us under starter's orders and let battle commence. The object was to roll the dice and, depending on the number showing, draw the body, head and appurtenances of a beetle. A six was

required for a body and then a five for a head – although legs and a tail could be added to the body before it had a head.

Amidst great hilarity dice began rattling everywhere and shouts of "I've got a six - I can start!" were heard, as contestants competed to begin and finish drawing a beetle. Sometimes the dice seemed loaded against us, as everyone else on the table often had the main parts of their beetle drawn in while some of us were still waiting to throw a six to get started (which everyone else threw once they didn't need another six). Most frustrating! Then, just as one's own beetle acquired a head, someone at another table shouted, "Beetle!" and that round was over and everyone had to start all over again.

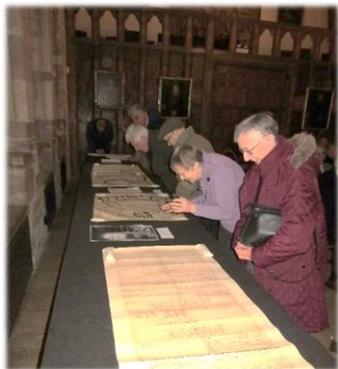
During the interval, we so enjoyed the lavish buffet supper provided by Marg Glover and her fantastic team, who always do us proud.

Then the raffle was drawn before we settled down for the second half of the Drive. Cue more laughter, and getting to know different people, as those dice worked overtime. It soon became clear that some people were desperate to win, whilst others were resigned to our place lower down the League Table. But, judging from the volume of noise in the hall, everyone had an enjoyable evening. The worthy winner was Elizabeth Neal who received a bottle of Pimms and our gallant lady with the fewest points, Sarah Walkden, collected some chocolate beetles.

Judging by the volume of noise in the hall, everyone had an enjoyable evening and went home the best of friends.

*Diana Merrett & David Bowd-Exworth*

Whenever it was hollow, down it came revealing perhaps an entry to a passage in the thickness of the wall, a garderobe or a stone cupboard.



During his renovations he salvaged architectural features from all over Europe, making sure that they chimed in seamlessly with the medieval character of the Castle. He introduced modern plumbing and electric power to make it into a comfortable home. He also restored the furniture and fittings, using the London firm of Keeble as his agents. Contrary to rumour, he did not destroy any records of his restoration work and these are still preserved in the Castle, including plans of the services which reveal the layout and use of the rooms before his changes. The work was paid for by

sale of the Berkeley Square estate (but much of the value of this had already been reduced by his predecessors) and of outlying property in Wotton under Edge and elsewhere.

On medical advice he had always enjoyed fresh air, sport and outdoor activity. He set up a 9-hole golf course and wrote a text book on *Sound Golf* published in 1936. He was in his youth a top class lawn tennis player. He became Master of Fox Hounds for the Berkeley Hunt and leased shooting and fly fishing rights on adjacent land. But apart from golf he usually made sure that he could master anything he took up and having reached his own high standards was happy to turn to something else. He died peacefully in the Castle on 15 January 1942. He had married again in 1924 and left the Countess a large tax-free annuity which she enjoyed until her death in 1973.

His legacy to the present day was twofold: he kept the Castle habitable as a home and restored it to its medieval glory, albeit not quite as it was originally, and he ensured that it would be carefully maintained and lived in by his heirs, now the present Mr Berkeley.

*David Smith*

Bob Hunt who is a long standing member has designed a Sundial that Renishaw plc have kindly agreed to make. The initial idea started when Josh found a plinth that needed something atop. Bob kindly took on board the research, design and organising the manufacturing at no cost, so we are most thankful to Bob for his tremendous amount of work in bringing this project to fruition, not forgetting Renishaw plc who kindly agreed to its manufacture.

The Committee and I look forward to catching up with Friends over the coming months. Thank you all for your continued support.

*Paul Walkden*

## FoBC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Supper



On Monday 11 December 2006 the first ever meeting of the Friends of Berkeley Castle was held, in the Great Hall. On Sunday 11 December 2016 the Friends held a celebration evening to recognise the tenth anniversary of that occasion. Planned over many months, more than sixty people attended, some of whom were also at that earlier event.

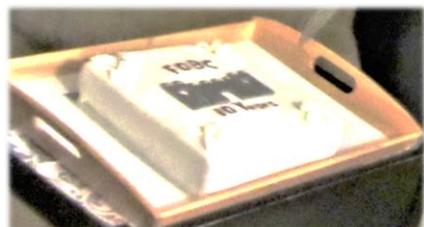
We firstly enjoyed a reception in the Long Drawing Room, with copious bubbly and entertainments in the form of mediaeval musicians Rob and Gillian Guest and Matt the Jester, who caused a stir on stilts and had quite a challenge ducking through the doorway between the drawing rooms.

This was followed by supper in the Great Hall where we were welcomed by FoBC member Sarah Dalrymple-Smith playing the grand piano. Matt continued to entertain us through dinner with his baffling magic, the



Christmas tree looked marvellous and the fire was roaring away, all contributing to a wonderful atmosphere.

Many thanks, as ever, to Committee members for donations of raffle prizes.



Committee members also provided the china and operated as waiting staff in order to save costs as a full service dinner in the Great Hall would normally cost approximately three times the ticket price for this Friends event. After dessert we enjoyed an Anniversary cake, baked by FoBC member Ann Smith.

**Guest speaker Andrew Jardine** was Agent to the Berkeley estate from 2002 to 2010 and was instrumental in the formation of the Friends.

Andrew started by saying that he was delighted, and somewhat flattered, to "catch the selector's eye". He went on: "It is excellent to be back in the Great Hall in one of my favourite buildings, and to re-connect with many old friends. I am pleasantly surprised that the Friends are not only thriving after their first decade in existence, but are going from strength to strength, annual membership generally peaking at around four hundred. This is astounding, given the challenging track record of so many Friends' groups: for example, even the Gloucester Cathedral group only numbers around one thousand, having been some two hundred when we started in 2006.

"In the mid-2000s I recall that a number of us involved with the Castle and BCCT concurred in our enthusiasm for the establishment of a Friends' group. But there is a big difference between having such an idea, and the delivery of an enduring group.

"So our warm gratitude must go in large part to the **pioneers** of FoBC, the history of which is summarised by David Bowd-Exworth in his article in the Friends' August newsletter. Particular thanks should go to: **Mr Berkeley** and the **Trustees** of BCCT, who encouraged the establishment of the Friends, **Charles Berkeley** as the Friends' President, who augments the group in so many ways, but above all, the **Committee**: the first Chairman in the form of **Eleanor Garratt-Taylor**, whose first AGM memorably lasted all of one minute, a model for us all; **David Bowd-Exworth**, the first Secretary, who worked so closely and enthusiastically with Eleanor, succeeded her as Chairman and who has also been editor of The Buttress; and **Peter Yardley**, the first Treasurer, for his enduring support and tireless research into Castle and local archives.

## Randal Thomas Mowbray Rawdon, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley

*Synopsis of a talk to the Friends on 6 November 2016*

He was born on 31 January 1865, third but first legitimate son of George Rawdon Lennox Berkeley and Cecile Drummond de Melfort. While he was growing up it seemed unlikely that he would inherit the title because several closer relations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl were still alive, so he joined the Royal Navy. In 1882 his father succeeded to the title as 7<sup>th</sup> Earl and Randal took the courtesy title of Viscount Dursley but continued in his naval career for another five years. In 1887 he resigned to take up his interest in chemistry and in the same year married Mrs Jackson, who had a daughter, Sybil. In the following year he succeeded his father as 8<sup>th</sup> Earl but was seriously ill with double pneumonia and from that time on his health was fragile.



David Smith, Peter and Jill Barlow  
and Peter Yardley

In 1893 he bought Foxcombe near Oxford. Sadly in 1898 the Countess died and in the same year he built a laboratory to pursue his researches into crystallography and later, osmosis: his scientific notebooks are kept in the Castle Muniment Room. Over the next few years he attracted a team of young scientists to work on projects under his direction, but after the start of the First World War they gradually dispersed to take up war work.

On the death of Charles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Fitzhardinge, in 1916 he inherited Berkeley Castle and the estates. He immediately undertook his own archaeological investigations, publishing the results in volume 60 of the *Transactions* of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. His examination of the fabric of the buildings was equally meticulous.

For a time the inside of the Castle was in chaos and access to some of the rooms was only by high ladders, up which Berkeley could shin as quickly as anyone. He was intent on discovering every bit of the old carved masonry and woodwork, and he used to carry a small hand pick to test any plaster he could find.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### TICKETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017 EVENTS

The FoBC Committee has decided to trial a new arrangement for events booking. To save on administration, we will not be issuing tickets. When your booking and payment is received, the details will be recorded on a list, then on the day of the event your attendance will be confirmed against this list (this is our normal practice). If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Committee, or email us at [friends@berkeley-castle.com](mailto:friends@berkeley-castle.com)

Please ensure that you have retained details of the events that you book

**Cirencester Park, the venue for our FoBC only visit this summer**



"Additionally, two people who are no longer here, but who were important at the outset: **Kalpna Shah** as Treasurer with Peter Yardley, and **David Price**, then



Castle Director, whom I now see regularly as a result of my involvement with the Country Houses Foundation. And an enormous 'thank you' to **David Smith**, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude and from whom we have learned so much. He has been, and is, very generous with his time and is endlessly willing to interpret and share the treasures of the Muniment Room. With some 50,000 documents, many still uncatalogued, this should provide a near-inexhaustible resource! And of course you, as **members of the Friends**,

without whose enthusiastic support none of the achievements would have been possible. It is telling that eighty five people immediately signed up when the group was launched in this Hall ten years ago.

"Now to **the present**: The Committee is currently led by Paul Walkden, and they do so much for the Friends. I'm impressed by so many aspects of the Friends, which are all the result of continued hard work and application by the core of key players. It is always a great challenge to think of new things to say and do, and this is achieved so well, helped by the fact that the Castle and its environs and archives have such a depth of fascinating history.

"The Buttress invariably contains an array of interesting articles relating to the Castle and the Berkeley family, the town and houses and history further afield. The Friends web pages, within the Castle website, are also very well done. The Friends also arrange private visits to other great houses, which generate interest and enable Friends to spend time with one another.

"It is amazing what you have achieved over the past decade: around £73,000 raised, and about £55,000 spent on restoration. The first project, which I remember well, was the restoration of the Venetian lamps in the Great Hall. Other items included restoration of Morning Room and Great Hall tapestries; restoring the Tompion Clock and indeed many other significant projects such as replacing and repairing gun carriages on the Terrace, an early and very visible aspect for visitors; together with cleaning and restoring many paintings.

"Eleanor tells me that while David B-E was awaiting the arrival of a bride at a wedding, one of the paintings swung down and created a domino effect with other paintings falling down. Amazingly David, with the help of Aldridge's, had

this made safe before the bride came through the door! To quote Eleanor, "Augustus the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl tipped and hit George Cranfield Berkeley (the Gainsborough), swinging across to hit Admiral Charles Ellis. They are still speaking".

"So, what of **the future**? The Friends have shown by their consistently high numbers, the amount of money raised and the very significant range of restoration work carried out, that they are here to stay. Key elements to maintain the successes of the first decade will be: continuation of the wide range of activities which have such appeal; maintenance of the excellent communication in the form of The Buttress and the website plus e-mail contact; continuation of the varied restoration programme, which provides education, interest and a feeling of achievement for all involved, as well as enhancing the visitor experience. Initiatives and input are welcome from all Friends. As long as you continue to have such an imaginative and energetic Committee, I am confident that this success will continue.

"Being away from somewhere often makes you both understand and appreciate it better than when you are at the coalface and dealing with minutiae. I believe that Berkeley has two unique selling points, if this is possible, which really differentiate it:

"Firstly, **the Castle**: Simon Jenkins, describing the layout in *England's Thousand Best Houses*, says that "Most such castles are the creations of the C19 Picturesque. Berkeley is the real thing. Its enchanted pink-grey stone can look unreal in the low sunlight, a fantasy castle, a place of theatrical invention".

"Secondly, the **Berkeley family**: to quote Jenkins again, "It is precious not just in its setting and antiquity, but in surviving on such scale under one family, at least since the C11". He concludes his appraisal by saying "the present head of the family, John Grantley Berkeley, may be described in Debrett as 'descended in direct male line from Eadnoth the Staller, nobleman at the Court of Edward the Confessor', but he rejoices in that finest of English titles, Mr."

"Someone once suggested to me that the Berkeley family's attitude emanates from a feeling that "they belong to the land, rather than the land belonging to them". In my view, it is this unique combination, of modesty and a sense of history being ever at their shoulder, and their obligation to the community, that sets Berkeley apart and which will continue to generate support from the locality and further afield.

"So, **in conclusion**, I know that the Trustees of BCCT and the Berkeley family are enormously appreciative of what you have achieved as Friends. Playing fast and loose with JFK's dictum that you should ask not what your country can do

considered to be Gifford's inappropriate engagement, although he was also very uncomplimentary about his next match.

In 1876 Lord Gifford exchanged to the 57<sup>th</sup> (West Middlesex) Regiment, and in 1879 was with the mounted infantry in the later stages of the Zulu War of 1879, becoming aide-de-camp to Lord Wolseley. The Zulus were defeated at Ulundi in July but their king, Cetshwayo, refused to surrender and went on the run. Lord Gifford led one of the detachments to search for him. This had been an undeclared 'no quarter' struggle, and Gifford used flogging of prisoners and mock executions to extract information. In this he was undoubtedly influenced by the nature of the fighting, but also by the keen competition to find the Zulu king. He would also have been aware of the fate of his old regiment, the 24<sup>th</sup>, at Isandhlwana in January, where 600 were killed – mainly from the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, but some also from his old 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. Ultimately, however, he was beaten to the prize by Major Marter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoon Guards, who captured Cetshwayo in August. Lord Gifford carried home the despatches at the end of operations. He retired from the army soon afterwards as a brevet-major and then took up colonial posts in Western Australia and Gibraltar. He died in Chichester in 1911.

It is not known when the Zulu weapons were actually put on display at the Castle, but they appear to have been in the same place from the 1950s at least. It is also unclear whether the kraal where they were acquired was Ulundi or the king's final hideout. Whatever the answers to these questions, the items themselves are another reminder of the military history of the Berkeley family.

*Philip Legg, with assistance from Peter Yardley*



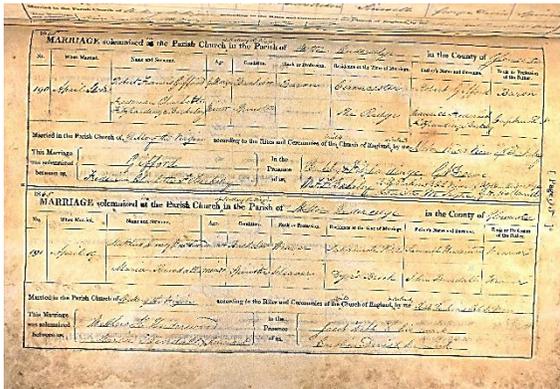
The

## An Early Project of FoBC

replica chainmail (hauberk and coif)  
and steel mannequin,  
situated in the Screens Passage

## Lord Gifford VC, the Zulu War and Berkeley Castle

There are two Zulu spears hanging on the wall of the Screens Porch, outside the Castle Armoury, with a simple plaque reading: "Assegais taken by Capt Lord Gifford from the kraal of Cetewayo, Zulu War 1879". Next to them are more assegais and knobkerries, although it is unclear whether they are from the same source. The Castle tour does not include this porch, and any visitor passing through could easily miss these items. The question is, who was Lord Gifford and why are these weapons displayed in the Castle?



Lord and Lady Gifford's  
Wedding Certificate

Edric Frederick Gifford, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Gifford, was born in London in 1849. His father was Robert Francis Gifford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Gifford, and his mother was The Hon Swinburne Frederica Charlotte FitzHardinge Berkeley. Swinburne was the daughter of Maurice, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Fitzhardinge, and the sister of Francis and Charles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barons, so she had very close connections with Berkeley Castle. She and Robert had twelve children,

including Edric, and these Gifford nieces and nephews would have spent time at Berkeley – three living on the Estate at different times. The Castle archives have invitations from Lord Fitzhardinge to a dinner at the Castle welcoming Lord Gifford VC back from Zululand. Large numbers of trophies were brought back by soldiers from this war, and it may have been around this time that the particular weapons in question were presented.

Edric entered the army in 1869, succeeding to the baronage on the death of his father in 1872. In 1874 he was a lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Warwickshire) Regiment on detached service during the Ashanti campaign under Sir Garnet Wolseley. Here he was noted for his courage in leading the native scouts in pursuit of the enemy, and especially for entering the capital Becquah before the main body. For his gallantry he was awarded the Victoria Cross and promoted to captain. He became one of the 'Ashanti Ring' of General Wolseley's favourites, following him to Natal. Wolseley had problems controlling the amorous adventures of some of his officers, which he thought would be embarrassing for him. He used his influence to end what he

for you, etc, it is gratifying that in the case of the Friends there is a good balance between what the group can do for its members, as well as what they can do for the Castle. An Englishman's home may be his Castle, but the maintenance of the contents is definitely helped by having a Friends group! Likewise with the community of Berkeley and its environs; this is shown at its best in the form of the Friends, and really helps to develop the Castle as a focal point for the locality.

"I wish you continued success with FoBC for many years to come. I should like to raise a glass to FoBC, "the next decade and beyond".

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Thank you, Andrew Jardine, for your kind words and for your valued input to the early days of the Friends of Berkeley Castle.

*Article by Valerie Moores  
incorporating speech by Andrew Jardine*

### Further photos of the FoBC Ten Year Anniversary Evening



## FoBC Events during 2017

Prices for non-members, adult/child, in brackets.

An events order form is enclosed with this edition of The Buttress.

*(Please see important note below regarding ticketing arrangements)*

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April: The Annual General Meeting: 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall**

At the AGM we will give a summary of the Friends' activities and the work of the Committee on your behalf during the last 12 months, and outline our plans for the forthcoming year.

After the AGM Roly Brown, Estate Director at the Berkeley and Spetchley Estates will give us a talk about his work. This "behind the scenes" insight promises to be most interesting.

Gates open from 6.45 pm. A cash bar will be available.

AGM attendance is FOC; **Talk £9 (£12)**

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Talk by Mark Horton, 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall**

We have enjoyed talks by Mark (Professor of Archaeology at Bristol University) about the Berkeley Dig on many occasions. At this event Mark's subject will be "The Berkeley Company and the colonisation of America", a most important feature in the history of the Berkeley family.

Gates open from 6.45pm. A cash bar will be available. **£9 (£12)**

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June: Tour of the Berkeley Archaeological dig sites 1.45 for 2pm, meet in the Castle Car Park.**

Our annual tour of the dig sites will bring us up to date with this important ongoing project. Please wear suitable footwear. **£4 (£6)**

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July: Picnic at the Estate Yard/meet the Berkeley Hounds, 5.30pm**

This will be a fun event for families – there is no admission charge, bring your own drinks and picnic! If the weather is bad, we can eat in the old Coach House. After the picnic, we will have the opportunity to meet the famous Berkeley Hounds.

The Estate Yard is located just past the Kennels, on the left hand side as you leave Berkeley.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July: Visit to Cirencester Park, 1.45pm arrival for 2pm tours**

Our Friends-only visits to local historic properties that are not always open to the public are extremely popular. For this year, Eleanor has secured for us a visit to Cirencester Park, seat of the Bathurst family; it is a grade 2 listed building with grade 1 listed garden. The group will split into two; half will tour the house with Lady Bathurst, the other half will tour the garden with the Head Gardener. We will have tea and cake, and then swap. An opportunity not to be missed!

**FoBC only, 50 people maximum - £25 including tours, tea and cake.**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August: FoBC Summer Party - 6pm**

Our annual Summer Party will be hosted by Charles and Daisy Berkeley, and held in the beautiful setting of the Castle grounds – or inside the Castle if the weather is bad. Come and enjoy Pimms and canapés and meet fellow Friends and guests.

Members may purchase additional tickets for the Party as a means of introducing potential new Friends.

Gates open at 5.45pm. **£14 (£16) including drinks and canapés.**

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Talk by David Smith - 2.30pm in the Great Hall**

David needs no introduction, and his talks are always fascinating! This year his topic will be "Peerage Cases – Fitzhardinge vs Berkeley".

Documents will be available to view from 2.30pm, and David's talk will commence at 3pm.

Following this, afternoon tea will be served.

Gates open from 2.15pm. **£12 (£15) including afternoon tea.**

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Beetle Drive – 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall**

Following the success of last year's Beetle Drive, by popular request we are arranging another one! Come along and enjoy. A cash bar will be available.

Gates open from 6.45pm. **£9 (£11) including light refreshments.**

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Talk by Henry Phythian-Adams - The Great Hall: 7 for 7.30pm**

Henry will give us an illustrated talk about the Beauchamp Chapel in Warwick, and Berkeley family connections. This glorious chapel, the finest after the royal chapels at Westminster, is full of reminders of the long struggle for ownership of Berkeley Castle. Apart from the gilded effigy of Richard Beauchamp, who seized the castle after his marriage to Elizabeth Berkeley, there are figures of John Talbot into whose army the sons of James, Lord Berkeley, were drafted, and his wife Margaret Beauchamp, who carried on the struggle and was responsible for Lady Berkeley's death, and her descendants, the Dudleys, who claimed Berkeley in Elizabeth's reign. Most of the original carvings of angels and saints and much of the stained glass survive.

Gates open from 6.45pm. A cash bar will be available. **£9 (£12)**

### **December: Friends' Drinks Party - the Great Hall**

As we all enjoyed the festive atmosphere in the Castle at the celebration dinner, we thought it would be nice to hold a December drinks party with some musical entertainment.

Further details, including prices, will be provided in the August edition of The Buttress.