



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

SPRING 2024

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

From our President

A warm welcome to you all, as we anticipate another busy year ahead for the Friends.

I would like to let you know about the Tudor Royal Jewels that have come to the family and have been on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum. They are about to go to an exhibition in Paris entitled 'A Taste for the Renaissance: A Dialogue Between Collections'. This is



The Hunsdon Bracelet

being held in collaboration with the V&A Museum and is celebrating the best of Renaissance art and its appeal to collectors throughout the ages. The exhibition is at the Hotel de la Marine, Place de la Concorde, Paris.

Some of you may know about some of the Hunsdon Jewels that are on loan to the V&A, but I would like to mention the rock crystal bracelet which Queen Elizabeth gave to her cousin Henry, first Lord Hunsdon. His son, George, bequeathed the jewels to his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Berkeley. The rock crystal bracelet comes from the court workshops of the Emperor Akbar in Agra or Delhi. It is supposedly the earliest surviving piece of Mughal jewellery in the world. It is thought that the Emperor may have sent it to Queen Elizabeth as a gift and it is listed in her inventory made in 1587. It contains rock crystals along with rubies and sapphires.

I will be going to the opening night of the exhibition on 5th March: the exhibition starts on 6th March and finishes on 30th June, 2024. If you get the chance of a trip to Paris during this period, this would be worth seeing. There will be about 130 items on show, including works by Nicholas Hilliard, Holbein the younger, Lucas Cranach the younger and Leonardo da Vinci!

I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you all during the year at various FoBC events

Charles Berkeley

FoBC Annual General Meeting Thursday, 18th April 2024 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

You are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Berkeley Castle will take place at Berkeley Castle on **Thursday, 18th April**, commencing at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to find out what your Committee has been doing on your behalf over the past year.

The period of office of the Secretary ends at this meeting: she is willing to stand for re-election and has been duly nominated and seconded.

Outcome of the Special General Meeting

by David Bowd-Exworth, FoBC Chairman

As I informed you in my letter of 25th February, the Trustees of Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust were concerned that, because our membership fees had not been increased for ten years, people joined the Friends to gain repeat visits to the Castle. We were asked to make an increase to our charges before 24th March to retain free entry to the Castle for FoBC members.

Consequently, a Special General Meeting was held on Thursday, 14th March, in the Kitchen Garden Restaurant. At that meeting, 2/3 of those present voted to increase the 2024 membership fees to the following rates:

Adult: £35 Concession: £30
Joint Adult: £65 Joint Concession: £55
Family: £110 Child £20

These prices became effective immediately.

Members who paid FoBC by Standing Order on 14th February will need to pay the difference between the old membership fee and the increased charge. Please send a cheque, payable to Friends of Berkeley Castle, to FoBC, c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, GL13 9BQ. Your new membership cards will be posted to you after we receive payment. **Your 2023 membership cards are no longer valid for Castle admission in 2024.**

Alternatively, you can cancel your membership (and receive a full refund) by writing to the same address or e-mailing friends@berkeley-castle.com.

If we do not hear from you by **1st May 2024**, we will assume your Standing Order payment is a donation and your membership will be cancelled.

Membership cards **MUST** be shown every time you visit the Castle and shown to obtain the 10% discount in the Castle Shop.

There are also five days during the year when a small supplement is payable to BCCT for special events such as Joust. FoBC members will only pay the £2 surcharge for admission on those days.

Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I: The Mother & Daughter Who Changed History

A talk to the Friends by Tracy Borman

It was a pleasure to welcome back Tracy Borman, the Joint Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces.

In her third talk to the Friends, Tracy spoke about the lives of Anne Boleyn and her daughter Elizabeth I. Both enjoyed the luxurious life of the Tudor court before falling from favour. Anne was executed on the orders of her husband, Henry VIII, after failing to provide the longed-for male heir and Elizabeth was banished to Hatfield Palace on the orders of her elder sister, Queen Mary.

Later, Elizabeth became one of England's best known and popular queens and her reign became known as the Elizabethan Golden Age.

Anne was a descendant of Edward I and the second daughter of Thomas Boleyn. She was born in Blickling Hall, the family home in Norfolk. She appears in records



Elizabeth and Anne, from the cover of Tracy Borman's book.

as an attractive and clever child and was invited to join the Court of Margaret of Austria in Mechelen, in Burgundian Netherlands (now Belgium), where she was referred to as *la petite Boullan*. Margaret ruled the Netherlands as Regent for her brother Charles, the Holy Roman Emperor, and presided over one of the most cultured and intellectual courts in Europe. Anne then became a Lady-in-Waiting to King Henry's sister, Mary Tudor, when she married King Louis XII of France. In France, there was access to more books, including some about reforming the Church.

In 1522 Anne, now back in England, joined the court of Queen Katherine of Aragon: thus it was that in 1526 she became the new object of Henry's attention. Refusing to become his mistress, as her elder sister Mary* had been, Henry's only option was marriage. Henry and Anne were married by the former Boleyn family chaplain, Thomas Cranmer (by then Archbishop of Canterbury) on 14th November 1532. A second, more public, marriage took place on 25th January 1533 and in May 1533 Henry's marriage to Katherine was declared nul and void. Anne Boleyn, now Anne Tudor, was now Queen of England.

*** Note:**

Anne's sister, Mary Boleyn married William Carey and a portrait of their son, Henry (who may have been a son of the King), is on the wooden screen in the Great Hall of Berkeley Castle.



*Right: Anne Boleyn,
Queen Consort
of England*

The new queen had a staff of more than 250 servants to tend to her personal needs, from priests to stable boys, and more than 60 maids-of-honour. She also employed several priests who acted as her confessors, chaplains and religious advisers. One of these was Matthew Parker, who became one of the chief architects of Anglican theology during the reign of Anne's daughter, Elizabeth I.

However, Anne's only living child was a daughter, Elizabeth (named, one supposes, after Henry's mother), born on 7th September 1533, just a few months after Anne's coronation. A stillbirth or miscarriage in December caused Henry to consider divorcing Anne, but nothing came of it and the following summer they went on a Royal Progress to Gloucestershire, when they visited Berkeley Castle. By October, Anne was pregnant again, but, on the day that Catherine of Aragon was buried, Anne miscarried a baby which, according to the Imperial Ambassador, Eustace Chapuys, "seemed to be a male child". Chapuys commented "She has miscarried of her saviour".

Henry started to look for someone who would provide him with a son to secure the Tudor dynasty. On 2 May 1536, Anne was arrested on trumped up charges. She was accused of treason, witchcraft, adultery and incest. The outcome of her trial was a foregone conclusion and she was beheaded on Tower Green on 19th May 1536 and buried in the church of St Peter In Chains in the Tower.

The Beheading of Qq: Anne Buller



Elizabeth inherited her mother's enquiring mind and educational ability. She was only two when her mother was executed and she largely grew up at Hatfield (then a Royal Palace) and, after various vicissitudes during the reigns of her half-brother, Edward VI, and half-sister, Mary I, Elizabeth reigned from 17th November 1558 – 24th March 1603.

Elizabeth was more moderate than both her father and her siblings. One of her mottoes was *video et taceo* ("I see and keep silent").

She ruled over a kingdom growing wealthy and powerful, supporting the growing band of explorers and 'merchant venturers' such as Drake and Hawkins. She returned England to a fairly moderate form of Protestantism, while maintaining a more traditional Chapel Royal (and employing discreet and loyal Roman Catholic musicians). Her careful foreign policy was eventually frustrated by the ambitions of the Spaniards, but the defeat of the Armada brought increased security and prosperity. Elizabeth, despite flirting with various marriage ideas, remained single, wedded to her country. As she grew older, an almost devotional 'cult' of Elizabeth as 'Gloriana' or 'The Virgin Queen', grew up as she became the longest reigning Queen in the British Isles until the reign of another monarch who presided over a burgeoning and prosperous empire, Queen Victoria.

Despite Henry VIII's overriding ambition to provide a son and a lasting dynasty, which crushed Anne, Elizabeth's death in 1603 brought an end to the Welsh House of Tudor and ushered in the Scottish House of Stuart.



Elizabeth as a young child.

2024 FoBC Events

Prices for non-members are in brackets.
An events order form is enclosed with this edition of The Buttress.

Thursday 18th April: Annual General Meeting (free), followed by a talk by Daisy Berkeley.

7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.
£10 for the talk (£15), Cash Bar. Light refreshments.
Deadline: Wednesday 10th April.

May (date to be confirmed): Visit to Owlpen Manor. Tour, followed by Afternoon Tea.

Ticket numbers will be limited. Information will be posted or e-mailed to you if/when the event has been arranged.

Sunday 23rd June: Friends' Annual Summer Party.

6.30pm - 8pm in the Castle Gardens (weather permitting).
A Friends-only event. £15.
Deadline: Wednesday 12th June.

Thursday 1st August: Talk by Dr Stuart Prior. The C12 civil war between Matilda and Stephen, which was known as The Anarchy.

7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle. £10 (£15).
Cash Bar from 7pm.
Deadline: Wednesday 17th July.

Thursday 12th September: Quiz Night with a simple Ploughman's Supper.

7pm. £10 (£15). Cash Bar from 6.45pm.
Deadline Wednesday 4th September.

Thursday 10th October: Talk by Toby Birch, 'Thomas Tompion and his Clocks'.

Further details in the Autumn Buttress.
7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.
£10 (£15). Cash Bar from 7pm.

Sunday 24th November: Talk by Philip Ashford: 'Virginia' Further details in the Autumn Buttress.

3pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.
£15 (£20), including a W.I. Afternoon Tea.
Deadline: Wednesday 6th November.

2024 FoBC Events, continued

Prices for non-members are in brackets.

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

Sunday 8th December: Drinks Party.

A social evening around the Castle's traditional huge Christmas Tree, with mulled wine and mince pies.

Further details in the Autumn Buttress.

6pm - 8pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.

£10 (£15).

Deadline: Wednesday 20th November.



Building the new porch in the Inner Bailey (see pages 12-15).

2024 FoBC Events

A reminder e-mail about each event, with all the relevant information about the event and booking tickets, will be sent out nearer the time.

18th April: A talk by Daisy Berkeley after our A.G.M.

Daisy needs no introduction, because many of us have seen her riding one of her horses around Berkeley or visiting the Castle with her daughter, Mary. Some members will remember her as the well-known eventer, Daisy Dick, and many more will remember her appearance as part of the Bronze Medal-winning UK equestrian team at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Daisy has called her talk 'POD: My Riding Career' (POD being her nickname for her horse 'Spring Along'). This promises to be a fascinating talk about the highs and lows of riding and eventing in the UK and abroad.

May - date to be confirmed: A visit to Owlpen Manor.

Your Chairman is trying to arrange an afternoon visit to Owlpen Manor, Uley, followed by Afternoon Tea in their Cider House. At the time of going to print the details have not been finalised and the cost is unknown. There will be an e-mail to members once we have firm plans.

23rd June: Annual FoBC Garden Party.

This is our usual early evening party, which will take place in the Castle grounds if fine and inside if it is wet. It is always a popular event, with fizz and finger food.

1st August: A talk by Dr Stuart Prior.

Stuart will talk about the C12 civil war between Matilda (the daughter of Henry I and rightful Queen of England) and Stephen (chosen as king by those Barons who would not accept a female ruler). It was because of his financial support for Matilda's son, Henry Plantagenet, that Robert Fitzharding was granted Berkeley Castle.

September 12th: Quiz Night.

A welcome return of our popular quiz, accompanied by a simple Ploughman's Supper. This is your chance to show your Chairman how much more clever you are than him!

The Severn Bores: Seasonal Entertainment



Local entertainers, Bill Church and Dan Everett, known as The Severn Bores, entertained the Friends at our pre-Christmas evening in the Great Hall last November. Bill told tales and Dan sang songs and the Friends drank mulled wine and ate mince pies. A perfect evening.
(Photos: Valerie Moores.)



All Change! An illustrated look at some of the changes made to the Castle in the late C19 and early C20

In March, Josh Nash, the Castle Curator, showed the Castle Guides and other members of staff some of an extensive series of photographs showing the changes to the internal and external appearance of the Castle from the Civil War period up to the 1920s. Here is a selection of photographs (mostly from the Castle Archives) which show what the Castle used to look like in the late C19 compared with how it looks today.

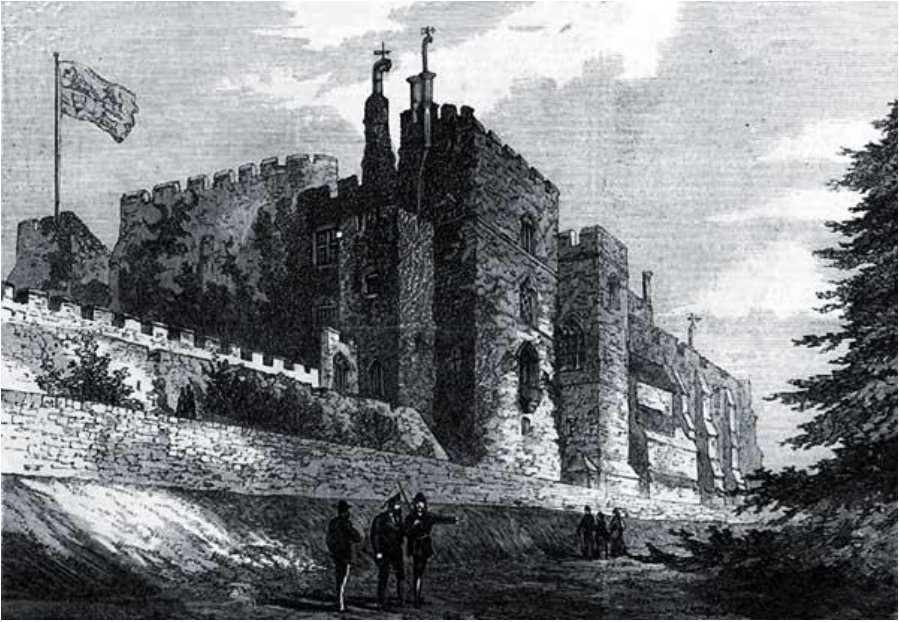


Here is the original gatehouse, at the top of the private drive, depicted in the C19. The last Earl purchased the gatehouse from Acton Court, South Gloucestershire, and (with some alterations) installed that gatehouse here and moved this gatehouse to the new entrance he created at the foot of Canonbury Hill, now the visitors' entrance. It is said that he put in the new entrance to avoid him and his guests having to pass through the town.



The rather romantic C19 view above shows the South front of the Castle as viewed from the field beyond the Castle Meadow; an idyllic pastoral scene, with a clean Castle which may have still been partly covered in the original lime render to protect the building from the worst of the elements. Compare it with the ivy-infested building that is shown in the late C19 photograph below!





These 'before' and 'during' photos show the vast amount of earth-moving that was required to create the garden terraces on the South front, from just one terrace to the present arrangement. Again, the ivy is very obvious in the first photograph, all removed by the last Earl.

In the photograph below, wooden scaffolding can be seen across the section of the Castle containing the Small Drawing Room.





In the photograph above, the new surrounds to the Great Hall windows (bought by the Earl's agent in France) can be seen, along with more earth-moving.

Finally (below) the Earl stripped the oak panelling from the walls of the former Dining Room, imported a chimney-piece from Wanswell Court (as he did in the Great Hall) and turned the room into the Long Drawing Room. This was part of his wider scheme to obliterate most of the C19 alterations to the Castle and make the building reflect more of its mediaeval history.



Please ensure we have your correct e-mail address, so we can notify you of events and any alterations to the published times and deadlines.

2024 Membership Cards

This year, because of the increased membership fees, membership cards will only be sent out after full payment has been received.

See page 3 of this issue for the new prices.

Admission and Discounts

In addition to free admission to the Castle and gardens on normal open days, members have a 10% discount on most items purchased in the Castle Gift Shop (except books).

You must always show your membership card.

FoBC Website & Social Media

Please do look at the Friends' section of the Castle website.

You will find past copies of the Berkeley Buttress and photos and a précis of previous events.

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group.

www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/

Friends of Berkeley Castle

c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BQ

E: friends@berkeley-castle.com

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends

Current FoBC Officers

Chairman: David Bowd-Exworth Deputy: Diana Merrett

Treasurer: Mary Frost Secretary: Jane Handoll

Editor of the Berkeley Buttress

David Bowd-Exworth: E: palladio55@hotmail.com