



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

AUGUST 2016

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

From our Chairman

Welcome to the latest edition of The Buttress, I hope you find the content of interest.

In this, our 10th Anniversary year, we were privileged to have our summer members' only visit to the Duke of Beaufort's Badminton House, where we were made very welcome and given an exceptional insight into this wonderful family home. David writes of our visit in his article. Other events included the regular tour of the Bristol University archaeological dig sites, which is always fascinating.

Our AGM was followed by an informal presentation from FoBC President, Charles Berkeley, who spoke entertainingly about his schooling and career prior to his return to the Castle and Estate. On a Bank Holiday Monday in May, King Henry VIII (aka Tony Strange) gave us an insight into his career as an actor and latterly of his experiences acting as King Henry. There is an account in the Buttress.



FoBC Badminton House Visit

As I write, we are looking forward to our FoBC Summer Party at the Castle, as well as monthly events leading up to our 10th Anniversary Celebratory evening in December, so we have much to look forward to. All the details are inside.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, thank you for your continued support.

Paul Walkden

Friends of Berkeley Castle 10th Anniversary (Photographs show some of the Projects funded by FoBC)

Ten years ago the Agent of the Berkeley Estate, Andrew Jardine, first mentioned the idea of forming a group to support the work of the Trustees of Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust, which could involve people from the local community and from much further afield. That May a formal meeting was held between Mr Berkeley, Andrew Jardine and representatives of BCCT and Eleanor Garratt-Taylor, Peter Yardley and me and a plan was agreed.



The summer months seemed to be taken up with setting out the aims and parameters of the new organisation, writing the Constitution (which I largely cribbed from another charitable organisation) and getting the agreement of the BCCT lawyers, along with sounding out a small group of people who would be willing to form the first Committee. Eleanor was our first Chairman, Peter was our first Treasurer and I was our first Secretary. We held a launch party in the Great Hall on 11th

December 2006, during which about 100 people joined our fledgling organisation. The Friends of Berkeley Castle was born and by last year we had quadrupled that number.

From the start, it was envisaged that there would be a mix of social events and lectures. FoBC has been very fortunate to have had the support of the Archivist, David Smith, who has given many interesting talks and answered innumerable questions from Eleanor and from me. Other speakers have included our President, Charles Berkeley, Stuart Prior, Henry Phythian-Adams, Neil Eddiford, Philippa Moxon and John Harvey.



Subjects as diverse as Mary Cole, the Berkeley Dig, Berkeley heraldry, the mediaeval longbow and Renaissance tapestries have held members spellbound and we have been privileged to be shown documents from the Muniment Room and the Spetchley archives, to have handled archaeological finds and weapons of war, and to have been to a tapestry workshop to see conservation work.



On your behalf the committee has organised some eighty events over the past decade.

We have held quiz nights, enjoyed summer parties beside the Lily Pond and visited other properties, including Madresfield Court, Kentchurch Court and Badminton House, where the owners and their staff have made us very welcome.

More importantly, FoBC has raised thousands of pounds, which has enabled us to support projects at the Castle which will total almost £50,000 by this December. We have paid for the re-caning of eighteenth century dining chairs, for the conservation of tapestries, for new cannon carriages, and for the cleaning and restoration of important portraits, including the one of the 8th Earl which now hangs on the staircase in the Dining Room after having languished, unloved, in the Stratton Gallery for as long as I can remember.

The Committee thanks all members of FoBC, past and present, for their support during the first ten years and we look forward with confidence to the next decade.

David Bowd-Erworth

Situations Vacant

Stewards Required

Can you give up half a day a fortnight?

If so please contact Eleanor who is looking for stewards to support the Visitor Open Days

eleanor.taylor@berkeley-castle.com

Training given

The Spetchley Park Pedigree Shield of Arms

The beautiful and elaborate Spetchley Park Pedigree Shield of Arms comprises 40 shields (also known as quarterings – see photograph) and is a pictorial representation of how the Berkeley family has evolved by marriages and other alliances since the 12th century.



We were delighted to welcome Dr Bridget Wells-Furby, a historian who has studied the Berkeley and Spetchley families for many years, to tell us about it. Bridget commenced by explaining some basic aspects of heraldry including that its use dates back to around 1130 and it was becoming widespread among "armigerous" (arms-bearing) families by about 1250.

To help illustrate the development of the Shield of Arms, Bridget provided a handout showing the various "lines" of the Berkeley family – comprising the Berkeley line (commencing with Robert Fitzharding); Mowbray, Breuse, Fitzalan and D'Aubigny, Chester, Warenne and Conyers lines. These lines run in parallel and show the key family alliances. The handout also listed the quarterings, all with heraldic descriptions which greatly enhanced our awareness of heraldic language including the colours and symbols on the shields. For example, the Fitzharding Berkeley "ancient" shield is "Gules" (ie red), a chevron argent – the shield we are probably most familiar with at the Castle!

In going through each line (they run in parallel, mostly from the 12th to the 14th or 15th centuries), we learnt much more about the people forming the key alliances; and by highlighting the shield relating to each alliance, we could trace how the Spetchley Pedigree Shield of Arms evolved. To assist our understanding, we were able to study the wonderful Pedigree Roll normally kept at Spetchley.

Bridget's talk was both fascinating and highly informative, giving us all a much better appreciation of heraldry in general and the Berkeley family evolution (as depicted in the Shield of Arms) in particular.

Sue Walker

FoBC Events 2016

(Booking form enclosed with this edition of The Buttress)
Prices for non-members / children in brackets

Thursday 29th September

Beeble Drive in the Great Hall - Gates open 6.45pm. Cash bar from 7.00pm. If you've played this before you already know what fun it is. If you haven't you're in for a treat and a lot of laughter. Competition begins at 7.30pm. Raffle.

Tickets: £8 (£10/£6) including refreshments (finger buffet).

Sunday 6th November

Talk by David Smith – Gates open 2.45pm. Documents on display from 3pm. 3 for 3.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.

David's popular annual talk will be "The 8th Earl of Berkeley": 2016 is the 100th anniversary of his inheriting the Castle.

This promises to be a fascinating talk as the 8th Earl carried out a huge amount of work at the Castle, introducing some of the Castle's most striking and interesting features. Afternoon Tea follows in the Long Drawing Room.

£12 (£15/£6) including Afternoon Tea.

Sunday 11th December – in the Great Hall

FoBC 10th Anniversary Celebratory Evening: 6.30pm for 7pm



Reception Drinks in the Long Drawing Room with medieval music.

Piano accompaniment and a Jester to entertain us. Cash bar. Raffle.

Menu

Welcome drink

Horseradish & Mustard Venison Casserole

Cheddar and onion mashed potato - Seasonal vegetables

Mince pies with fresh cream and/or custard.

A vegetarian option will be provided **IF pre-ordered.**

£25 (£30). Includes Fizz on arrival, Buffet Supper and Entertainments.

FoBC Summer Outing to Badminton House



This year's summer outing was to Badminton House, the home of the Somerset family, now Dukes of Beaufort, since the destruction of Raglan Castle during the Civil War. Former vicar of Great Badminton, Christopher Mulholland, was an excellent guide to house and grounds, whose park is the setting for the Badminton Horse Trials.

Our first view of the house was in keeping with the family's passion

for horses and hunting, being via the carriage yard. The entrance courtyard gave us a view of the west façade of the house, with a Cotswold stone laundry and brewhouse.

However, after walking through one of James Gibbs's classical pavilions (and passing the gate piers from Stoke Park, Bristol, the childhood home of heiress Elizabeth Berkeley of Stoke Gifford, the wife of the fourth Duke) the full ducal splendour of the house and park was revealed. The north front is the result of William Kent's alterations to the earlier house, including his two distinctive wooden cupolas. Across the park, the small dot on the brow of the hill is Worcester Lodge, also by Kent, abutting the Hawkesbury Upton to Tetbury road, 2½ miles away.

Entering the North Hall, by Francis Smith of Warwick, we were impressed by stunning eighteenth century plasterwork and five large paintings by Beaufort protégé John Wootton. The largest pictures display family and friends in front of Badminton House; hunting near Stonehenge; racing at Newmarket; and hawking at Netheravon. The game of Badminton was first played in this room on an inclement day in 1861 and modern badminton courts retain the same dimensions as the hall.

From the Hall, a door leads to the delightful octagonal Waiting Room and thence to the principal rooms. The Great Dining Room has baroque wooden overdoors and intricate limewood carvings by Grinling Gibbons; the latter carved for Beaufort House, Chelsea. The impressive Drawing Room and large Library, now a family sitting room with books and comfortable sofas, are both by Geoffrey Wyattville, whose best known work was at Windsor Castle for

George IV. Christopher pointed out a painting of the house by Canaletto, which shows him looking out of one of the windows.

Interspersed are more domestic rooms, such as the Family Dining Room and the Duchess's Sitting Room* (complete with a television and a collection of sunglasses). This is definitely a much loved and used family home, not a museum.



The first Duchess was a renowned plantswoman (perhaps someone Mr Berkeley would have enjoyed meeting?) and the present Orangery of 1824 and the contemporary fountain and swimming pool are on the site of her 'Green House' where she displayed her rare plants.

After visiting the parish church, with monuments by Gibbons and Rysbrack, we were able to admire the twentieth century formal gardens, with old fashioned roses, box hedges and diminutive fountains.

Our afternoon ended with a delicious tea in the former kitchen, overlooked by a funeral hatchment displaying the arms of the fourth Duke of Beaufort and his Duchess, Elizabeth Berkeley.



David Bowd-Exworth

Travels with Charles Berkeley



Following a previous talk to Friends about "Growing up in the Castle", Charles entertained us after the AGM with an account of his many and varied work experiences after leaving college in 1986.

Firstly, Charles spent almost a year in Australia, in several different states – Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. He worked on sheep and cattle ranches, mastering skills such as sheep-shearing and riding and building his familiarity with the continent.

Some of Charles's work was paid – such as a job with a company in Freemantle – albeit insufficiently lucrative to fund his flight home; this, together with the beard which had grown whilst away, was not greeted with total approval when he arrived home!

Wishing to further broaden his experience, Charles worked for a while with the Land Agents Strutt & Parker in Shropshire and Herefordshire, before deciding to focus on his love of art and he worked in the local offices of Christie's and Sotheby's. Then, after taking a year's course at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, which he completed in 1994, Charles returned to the world of fine art and furniture by securing a job with Sotheby's in London, where he enjoyed the incredible "buzz" of the saleroom. One of his less positive achievements was to (inadvertently) lock one of the directors in the vaults - Charles says that this story is still talked about at Sotheby's today!

Charles remained in London for a while longer; he worked for the Veterinary Association and then – a complete change of tack – Fortnum and Mason's grocery department, giving him a good insight into the retail business.

By this time, some of the Berkeley family in the United States had established contact with the Gloucestershire Berkeleys, leading to family gatherings both in the US and England. This prompted Charles to make a number of visits to different parts of the US over several years.

Charles studied History of Art at Fullerton College, Orange County, thus combining his love of this subject with experience of life in the "New World". Charles also wrote a thesis on his farming work in Australia and the US, capturing the valuable learning from his time in both continents. In parallel

with all this work, from the age of about 30 Charles became increasingly involved in the running of the Castle.

Our heads were spinning with the huge range of Charles's work experiences at home and across the globe! As Charles remarked, the key point was the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. We much enjoyed this fascinating talk.

Sue Walker

Decorative Windows & Stonework



Stonework designs and stained glass windows are typical features of medieval-era castles. Impressive stone structures were built from 1066 after the Norman Conquest. Berkeley Castle dates from the C12.

Not every element of the defensive buildings needed to be purely functional. Decorative stonework enhanced the narratives of power and ownership that castles represented. Chalk, flint, limestone and sandstone were typical building materials. The majority of construction material was quarried, but some was pilfered and reused from older structures. Stone was resistant to musket fire and offered some protection from cannon fire, and was a huge defensive improvement on the motte and bailey predecessors.

As castle architecture developed in complexity, stained glass windows became a common-place feature, often displaying religious images. The term 'stained glass' derives from a silver stain that is applied to the outward facing side of the window so that when the glass was created, it would turn a golden hue. Paint, when added to the glass panels, gives detail and an aspect of three-dimensions. Figurative, floral or symbols can be drawn onto the mosaic-like surface.

*Berkeley Castle Project, University of Bristol
Dept. of Archaeology & Anthropology*

Berkeley Archaeological Project wins National Research Project of the Year Award

The top accolade from *Current Archaeology* was awarded to the University of Bristol's project investigating the medieval castle and landscape at Berkeley where a team of students and staff from the University of Bristol have been working for the past decade to unearth 1,500 years of history, spanning the Roman period to the Civil War. This national award was voted for by the public and readers of Britain's most popular archaeology magazine.

The Berkeley project fended off tough competition to be named Current Archaeology Research Project of the Year for 2015-16. Also in the running was the rediscovery of the site of the Battle of Bannockburn and the excavations on the Hadrian's Wall Fort at Vindolanda. Previous winners have included the Stonehenge Riverside Project and the investigations of the Mesolithic site of Star Carr.

Since the project got underway in 2006, it has discovered thousands of artefacts and at least six buildings ranging from a Saxon nunnery to an Elizabethan pub, while training over a thousand students in archaeological field methods. Such a concentration of archaeology at a single location is exceptionally unusual in Britain, and is witness to the rich history of Gloucestershire from the prehistory to the present day. The excavation is jointly directed by Professor Mark Horton and Dr Stuart Prior of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Professor Horton said: "This award is a great recognition of both the research and the experience that we can give to our students - to meticulously uncover and record for posterity, millennia of our national story, from when the Romans first settled Berkeley, to one of the richest Anglo-Saxon Monasteries, to a great Baronial castle, and a medieval and post-medieval country town".



(Professor Mark Horton) Taken from: *Current Archaeology*

Charles Berkeley, Castle Director and heir to the Castle, welcomed the Award, saying: "We were delighted to hear about the success. Every year it is a delight to have the Bristol University students in the Castle, explaining to our visitors what they have found, sharing it through social media, and revealing so much of our history".

FoBC Visit to the Archaeological Dig



A large group of Friends were given a tour of the Dig in June by Professor Mark Horton. Current excavations are focusing on two areas. The first area is near the High Street towards the private drive to the Castle; here was the site of a public house, and we were shown several artefacts that the dig team have found, including a clay pipe, belt fastening and kitchen knife.

The second area is higher up the paddock towards the church, where items from the Roman period and stonework have been found, which although they aren't yet sure what it represented, is likely to be from during the Dark Ages. Mark believes there would originally have been a Roman Temple under the site of the present church as it would be opposite the Roman Temple in Lydney.

Mark Horton indicated that the team were likely to be returning to the site for several years to come, so we look forward to seeing what they have unearthed next year. *Alison Thompson*

The 30th Frampton Country Fair – not to be missed

Sunday 11th September 2016

Please come and visit the Friends of Berkeley Castle stand and be sociable with our volunteers and other visitors.

If you have an hour or so to help please contact:
friends@berkeley-castle.com

An Audience with "King Henry VIII"

This FoBC event in May featured actor Tony Strange, famous for playing King



Henry VIII and a popular figure at Berkeley Castle. For the first part of the evening, "King Henry" – supported by "Queen Anne Boleyn" and her ladies – gave us a fascinating account of his life and wives, starting with Catherine of Aragon. This marriage lasted twenty four years but, frustrated by Catherine's failure to provide a

son, Henry succumbed to the charms of Anne Boleyn who refused to become his mistress but promised Henry a son should he marry her. As we know, this prompted Henry to "break with Rome" and establish the Church of England so that he could divorce Catherine.

After making Henry wait for six years, Anne became pregnant, was married and crowned Queen. Following the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth, and several miscarriages, Henry became disenchanted with Anne and she was sentenced to death on 27 charges of treason. At least Henry relented from the initial plan to have Anne burnt at the stake; she was beheaded by a sword wielded by a French executioner. Eleven days later, Henry married Jane Seymour.

Jane gave birth to the longed-for son, Edward - but died of "birthing fever" some days later. Distraught, Henry did not look at another woman for over three years, but a new marriage, to Anne of Cleves, was arranged by Thomas Cromwell who believed Henry should have an "heir and a spare". Henry took one look at his bride and rejected her – the marriage was never consummated but luckily Anne readily agreed to a divorce. Henry, suffering a "mid-life crisis", then fell for Catherine Howard. He was 50 years old and weighed 27 stone; his new wife was 17. Henry adored her – but she was unfaithful; her lovers met a grisly end and she was executed. Henry's sixth and final marriage was to Catherine Parr. A learned and intelligent woman, she persuaded Henry to reinstate his daughters Mary and Elizabeth.

During the interval, we auctioned a French hood in the style favoured by Anne Boleyn, which had been kindly made for us and donated by Gina – aka Anne Boleyn! We raised £85, a fantastic result.

After the interval Tony – in normal attire - told us how he came to play Henry VIII.

He applied to become one of several Henry VIII's required at Hampton Court. As an actor of the right build and interested in history, he was successful and quickly learned the new skills required. These included learning several national anthems so as to impress foreign visitors; posing for photographs; and becoming an expert on codpieces, a subject of deep fascination for many visitors.

Whilst at Hampton Court, Tony experienced some of the ghostly manifestations for which the Palace is known.

On the strength of his success at Hampton Court, Tony "did a season" at the RSC and has played Henry VIII at Warwick Castle and other venues.

We are most grateful to Tony, Gina and the other ladies for giving us such an entertaining evening.

Sue Walker

Dear Friends, If you live in Berkeley and are visiting the Castle,

PLEASE will you consider parking away from the Castle car park when it is very busy.

Berkeley and The Young Farmer's Movement by FoBC Chairman

In the early seventies, as secretary to The Berkeley Young Farmers Club (YFC), I did some research when organising a dinner at Berkeley Castle. Invitations were extended to all members and families and those who had been previously involved with the Berkeley Club. The YFC always had strong ties with previous members, indeed a number helped with talks or farm visits or instruction. I also spoke with a number of the older Vale farmers to get some insight into the earlier years and it transpired that the YFC movement had in fact begun here in Berkeley.



Berkeley Young Farmers at Berkeley Show (mid '70s):
Michael Allen, Paul Walkden and John Cullimore

It all started with the Berkeley Exam in 1898 which was instigated by Joseph Bennett, Sir Ashton Lister and James Peter. There is a plaque in the Castle office dedicated to James Peter. Weekly lectures in agricultural practice were provided by the county council, agricultural colleges and a panel of local farmers. The lectures were run by the Berkeley Hunt Agricultural Society. This Exam continues to this day, albeit in

a different format. The first Exam was won by Ernest Bennett of Downhouse Farm, Cam.

It was a group from this Berkeley Young Farmers Exam that decided they should start a young farmers club to socialise; this is believed to have been around 1903.

At national level, the YFC history states that the first club was Hemyock in Devon started in 1921, again formed from a local agricultural exam group. The National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs was not formed until March 1932.

The farming community is a unique group. At the time I joined Berkeley YFC I was the only outsider, in that my father was not a farmer; in fact I had arrived in 1972 as cowman to Mr & Mrs Michael Jordan of Pickwick Farm. I very soon joined the Berkeley YFC and later became secretary. Amongst my duties I organised speakers, visits and training sessions. How open and helpful the local farming community were. I wrote to Mr John Berkeley to ask if we could have a tour of his Castle and if he might lead it: he immediately agreed. A full group had a fascinating tour followed by drinks in the private apartments, and I well

remember the vast open fire place which appeared to have half a tree burning in it!

At some previous time the Berkeley Club had split from the National Federation of the YFC and was part of the Vale Group of Young Farmers. This consisted of five clubs: Wotton under Edge, Dursley, Stroud, Cirencester and our own Berkeley. As secretary I organised the first overseas trip which was a long weekend in Paris; with grants I recall the cost being a mere £18. Not a great take up from Berkeley members, as most at this time had not been outside the county! So it was opened up to the other Vale clubs and was a great success. The following year I organised a camping trip to Pembrokeshire and the thing that has stuck in my mind was taking four members to the cliff top and them seeing the sea for the first time.

Berkeley YFC is no longer. But the YFC continues to be a successful organisation with strong representation in Gloucestershire. The local club is now Wotton and Dursley which is affiliated to the National Federation.

Paul Walkden

What is going on at the Castle this Autumn

Take the opportunity to visit the Castle before it closes at the end of October.

The final couple of months at the end of the season are the perfect time to make the most of your membership of the Friends.

There are some great events taking place in and around the Castle;
Civil War re-enactments from the Sealed Knot,
a Festival of Harvest, scenes from *Pride & Prejudice*, and
finishing the season on a spooky note with half term fun and Halloween antics!

See the Castle website for further information: www.berkeley-castle.com

Remember that the Butterfly House will close at the end of September.

GIFT AID UPDATE

We are in the process of making some changes to the way the Friends' finances are managed. One effect of these changes is that we will no longer be able to claim Gift Aid on membership fees, with immediate effect, including those already received for 2016.

We will provide further updates in due course, but are notifying you now about the Gift Aid situation because of the potential implications for your personal tax circumstances.

Neither the work of the Friends nor the benefits of membership are changing, simply how our finances are managed.

We will therefore continue to assist the Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust in the preservation, conservation and restoration of Berkeley Castle, its contents and its gardens.

As Friends, we will also continue to enjoy the benefits of membership, including free admission (except for special events), newsletters, discounts on FoBC events and certain purchases in the Shop and at the Yurt.

Friends of Berkeley Castle

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

T: 01453 810303 E: friends@berkeley-castle.com

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

FoBC Officers for 2016 - 2017

Chairman - Paul Walkden

Deputy Chairman - Diana Merrett

Secretary - Jane Handoll

Acting Treasurer - Chris Smith