

Editor's Notes

Enclosed in the same envelope as The Berkeley Buttress are your Membership Card (if you have already paid by Standing Order), a booking form for FoBC events up to September and, by kind permission of the two venues, complimentary tickets for Dr Jenner's House & Garden and for Spetchley Park Gardens. Please check their websites for opening times when planning your visit.

Benefits of FoBC Membership

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 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

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BERKELEY BUTTRESS

SPRING 2022

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

From our President

A warm welcome to all the Friends of Berkeley Castle. I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to our events this year. This year sees the Queen celebrate 70 years on the throne and we will be lighting a beacon on the Castle roof on Thursday 2nd June, along with many other historic houses and communities up and down the country. There will be more details about this later, but we hope as many as possible will have a look at the beacon and hear our piper on the night! As an historic house, we can look back to over 66 years as an open house, almost the same length of time Her Majesty has been on the throne.



A small amount of the glass found at the Estate Yard, which is now being cleaned and sorted by Josh Nash and Ed Howe. See the article about the Great Hall glass on page 10 ff.

(All photos of the glass are by Peter Yardley.)

We also have the wonderful Tracy Borman coming to talk to us during our Celebrations. Many of you will remember her speaking to us with such passion a few years ago on the subject of Henrietta Howard, who was the husband of George Berkeley. Tracy will be talking to us about her new book 'Crown and Sceptre'.

I hope many of you will have a look at the exhibition at the Castle on the topic of 'Battles' during the coming open season. Nibley Green; Crecy; Poitiers; various naval battles; Civil War defence of the Castle and the link to the Boer and Zulu campaigns will all be featured. This follows our popular exhibition last year, 'The Women of Berkeley'.

We will also have the 8th Earl's Bath Chair on display this season. A huge thank you to FoBC member Keith Bawden, who has managed to orchestrate the restoration of it with the help of various experts.

I hope you all enjoy the coming year as Friends of Berkeley Castle and are able to visit the Castle for our events and celebrations and to see our exhibition.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022,

Charles Berkeley

FoBC Annual General Meeting Thursday 28th April 2022 7.30pm

You are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Berkeley Castle will take place at Berkeley Castle on Thursday, 28th April, commencing at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to find out what your Committee have been doing on your behalf. The Chairman will make his Annual Report and the Treasurer will present the Financial Statement.

The period of office of the Secretary and four members of the Committee ends at this meeting: they are all willing to stand for re-election and have been nominated and seconded.



*Left: Webb's flower design on a star shaped pane.
Right: Another coat of arms visible in Shrapnell's design.*

flower design. There are also many heraldic shields and their corresponding scrolls, painted with the names of the families that the shields represent, these from Shrapnell's time as chief designer. Although the scrolls are not actually visible in the photographs of the windows, they were described in F. Were's *Heraldic Notes of the Spring Excursion to Berkeley Castle*, published in the 1905 edition of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions. From that, we can assume that the light through the windows had bleached the detail from the image. Several complete panels, still in their lead, were found. These, along with other pieces of glass painted with a 'sunburst' design, are believed to come from windows in rooms other than the Great Hall, but are presumably still within the 8th Earl's renovation period. Some of the glass dates from Webb's era, some from Shrapnell's, and some from an earlier date.

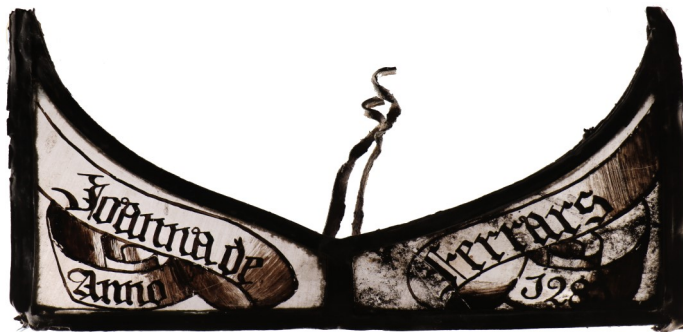
Once the process of dusting and sorting the glass has been completed, expert advice can be sought and the task of assembling the jigsaw can commence!

When the 8th Earl of Berkeley inherited Berkeley Castle in 1916 he began an extensive renovation and in the 1920s the Great Hall windows were changed to their current designs, which will be discussed in the next Buttruss, later this year.

In 2021 a large collection of stained glass pieces was discovered in The Old Granary at the Berkeley Estate Yard: much of this is believed to have been saved when the present Great Hall windows were inserted in the 1920s. Many pieces of the glass are painted in Webb's



A fragment of the Arms of the Danish Royal Family. (The Berkeleys were believed to be descended from the Kings of Denmark).



Scrolls formerly below the shield of Joanna de Ferrars, the shape of her arms is suggested by the lead.

A Personal View of the Berkeley Castle Records

a talk given by Peter Yardley

In the early 2000s the roof of the old Estate Office in Ham needed repair and the records which had been put into the roof space were brought down. Some records were to be retained at the office but others were to go elsewhere and were stored in what had been the Dairy (where some records had already been placed) and garages, brick built stone floored buildings with no heating. The cardboard boxes of documents and plastic bags full of books had been placed/stacked in no particular order.

On a visit to the Estate Office, when the work on the roof was nearing completion, I learnt about the need for work to be done on the records that were to go to the Castle. I volunteered to help and my great good fortune was to be given access to the Dairy and garages and their contents, to list the items and put them into some sort of order, while not disrupting their historic organisation. Cataloguing will be for a professional in the future. I also had the freedom to search for references to my own



*Peter Yardley, the speaker after our A.G.M.
(Photo: Valerie Moores.)*

family. An early memory of mine is of visiting the Estate Office with my great aunt to pay a manorial rent, so from an early age I was familiar with the Estate Yard and its function.

We are used to hearing about the Muniment Room where the Castle Archivist, Karen Davidson, works. Before the time of the 8th Earl there was an Evidence Room in the Keep where the now Muniment Room records were stored. The Evidence Room was to be sacrificed to the Earl's plans for refurbishment of St John's Chapel. Amazingly, some of the records from the Estate Office have ended up being stored in a room under the Chapel.

Going through the records, stacked in no particular order, meant that I discovered treasure in a haphazard way, time passing backwards and forwards with each find. I found deeds for property, some going back to the mid-1600s, manorial records, boxes of letting agreements and other material relating to the management of the estate. A game book for 1896 showed the 3rd Baron Fitzhardinge inviting the 8th Earl for a day shooting at Wick. The Duke of Connaught figured in the records, not invited for shooting but a pedigree bull bought for 4,500 guineas.

Account books showed Ritchings as supplier of meat to the Castle in the mid-19th century. In a book listing the consumption of meat in the Castle there is an entry during the fortnight from February 12th 1877 recording that Ritchings supplied 888lbs meat: also consumed were 65lb of pork from the farm, 18 chickens, 4 geese, 4 ducks and 11 rabbits to feed about 36 people a day; there was an allowance of 1½ lbs of meat per person. The copper in the Buttery was used to make to make soup for the poor.

Rents were recorded by the tenant's name not by address. Anyone employed by the Estate might get a house with the job and unfortunately there are no records of these tenancies because there was no rent. Standard farm leases have useful lists of fields with plot numbers and field names, and the lessees were expected to walk two young foxhounds and endure the destruction they wrought (although someone was compensated for a destroyed fur).

portion, in which the shields are set, with a flowing grisaille border", at a cost of "about £80". A sample window was inserted by Morris & Co. employees.

When Morris visited Berkeley with Webb in July 1876, after appraising the sample window, the two men decided that this design needed to be changed and the upper lights should have a similar border to the lower lights to "*bring the whole together*". These improvements were made and Webb's design fees of £59 were settled in May 1877. There are several photographs that show the Great Hall circa 1900 and it is believed these photographs depict the Webb/Morris design; the *flowing grisaille border* from the upper light being removed and the same *flowered* design being used in the upper light.



Detail of a photograph of the Great Hall c. 1900, showing the window panels as redesigned by Philip Webb.

The Shrapnell Designs

The earliest detailed image of the Great Hall windows is a print published in 1822 and the layout of the upper lights (the top half of the windows) appears to be based on a recently discovered 'rough design' believed to be drawn up by W. F. Shrapnell, circa 1800 (see previous pictures). Shrapnell was a surgeon in the South Gloucestershire Militia and part-time antiquarian who, befriended by the 5th Earl of Berkeley, spent around ten years cataloguing the muniments at Berkeley Castle and researching various historical aspects of the Berkeley Family and the Castle itself. Archive information regarding the insertion of the windows designed by Shrapnell is scant, but in 1806 the glazier, John Phillips, was paid £263:03:04 (about £24,000 today) for glazing "at the Castle" and it may be that this 'rough design' was implemented at that time.

The Webb Designs

Philip Webb, the notable Arts and Crafts architect and business partner of William Morris, was the next designer to leave his mark on the Great Hall windows. In 1874 Webb wrote to Lady Fitzhardinge, at Cranford House, proposing to retain Shrapnell's general layout of shields in the upper light and the hexagonal shape of the panes in the lower light but "*to glaze the lower portion of each light with a flowered quarry and coloured border, and the upper*



A example of Webb's flower design (the painted quatrefoil on a hatched ground in the centre), flanked by roundels of possibly earlier glass.

The Women of Berkeley Castle

*a report on the talk given by Sarah Wordsworth
by Althea Hamlyn*

On a cold, but warm in the Great Hall, afternoon, about sixty Friends and guests assembled to hear this talk by Sarah Wordsworth, the Castle Visitor Business Assistant.

Having finished her MA in Mediaeval Studies at the University of Bristol and with the 2019 FoBC visit to an exhibition in Jamestown, Virginia, giving her the idea, Sarah set up the exhibition in the Castle earlier this year. Usually, an exhibition is displayed in the Great Hall, but with the restrictions of the pandemic, it was decided to make it a trail through twelve rooms, illustrating the lives of twenty Women of Berkeley.

Sarah picked out seven of her favorites for this talk:

Margaret Mortimer (1304-37), the daughter of Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl of March, lived comfortably at Wigmore Castle in Herefordshire until her marriage, aged 15, to Thomas Berkeley. When both men were involved in the rebellion against Edward II, Margaret, with her mother and sisters, was arrested and sent to Hampshire for four years, where they were poorly treated. Margaret came to Berkeley in 1329, and died there in 1337, having borne Thomas five children. Her effigy is in Bristol Cathedral.

Thomas then married **Katherine Cliveden (died 1385)**, with whom he had four children, only John surviving. Katherine was a shrewd businesswoman with a passion for education, which, she said, was only "defeated and frustrated by poverty". 600 years ago, she endowed what became Katherine Lady Berkeley School in Wotton-under-Edge. Her effigy is in Berkeley Church, wearing a fashionable headdress, a replica of which was on display at the exhibition.

Elizabeth, Countess of Warwick (1386-1422), the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Lisle, was an assertive and intelligent woman, disputing the inheritance of the

Berkeley estates while her husband was in France. Her three daughters laid claim to the estate after her death...

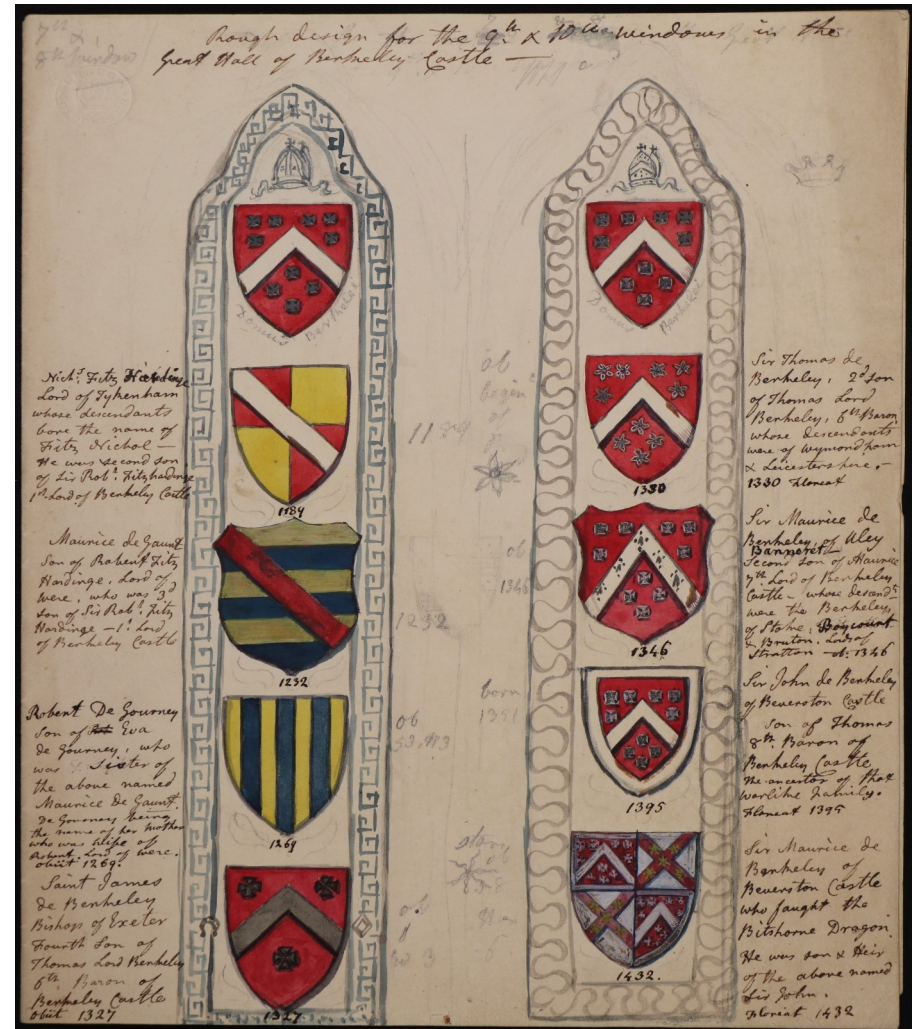
The eldest, **Margaret, Countess of Shrewsbury (1404-67)**, second wife of the Earl of Shrewsbury, also contested the inheritance of the Berkeley Estate and when her son attacked the Castle she supported him vigorously and had James Berkeley's wife, Isabel, imprisoned in the Castle.

Elizabeth Carey (1576-1635) was very well educated and was said to have owned over 1000 books. Sarah said she had a personal insight of her via records of her letters, held in the Berkeley Castle archives. Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is said to have been performed at her marriage to Thomas Berkeley in 1596. She bore six children, two of whom survived to adulthood. When Thomas died aged 37, Elizabeth, pregnant, was devastated but her mother, Baroness Hunsdon, was very supportive. She re-married in 1622, only for her husband to die three years later.

Henrietta Berkeley (1664-1706) caused a scandal when she ran away from home aged 18. That she had had an affair with the husband of her sister Mary, was disclosed by another sister. Her father tried to persuade Henrietta to come home, when she revealed that she had married Mr William Turner, a servant of her friend Lord Grey. She and Turner fled to the Netherlands following involvement in a plot to assassinate Charles II. She was probably eventually reunited with her family, since she left a bequest to a niece.

Mary Cole (1767-1844), the daughter of a butcher in Gloucester, was duped into a sham marriage at the age of 17 or 18 by the 5th Earl of Berkeley. Although she believed she was legally married and they had seven (illegitimate) children, she was shunned by society and the Earl never intended to acknowledge her as his wife. She fought hard, but unsuccessfully, to have her eldest son recognised as the rightful heir. She finally became Countess of Berkeley following a legal marriage in 1796, and bore another six children, the eldest of whom became the 6th Earl of Berkeley.

Sadly, no stained glass of comparable age, 'Lisle' or otherwise, was present in the Great Hall in 1791 when Ralph Bigland, describing the Great Hall, tells us that "No Arms, painted glass, Armour, nor any other Gothic Ornaments are preserved". Unfortunately, Bigland doesn't elaborate any further.



A design for the upper two lights of the window nearest to the door to the Grand Staircase, probably designed by William Shrapnell c.1800.

Great Hall Stained Glass

by Josh Nash, Castle Custodian

The earliest mention of stained glass at Berkeley Castle comes from John Smyth's *'Lives of the Berkeleys'*. Smyth describes heraldic glass being inserted, circa 1380, into multiple windows around the Castle to cement the relationship between the Berkeley and Lisle families. It is probable that some of this 'Lisle glass' was once in the Great Hall windows but when Smyth was writing, in 1624, he tells us the only surviving examples were "in the windows in the great Chamber and at the head of the hall stayres before the Chapple doore", now the Long Drawing Room and Grand Staircase Landing respectively.



A C19 photograph of the Great Hall windows, with the panels (at the top) shown in colour in the picture on page 11.

Sarah concluded by saying that from April to October 2022 there would be an exhibition at the Castle concerning "Battles of the Berkeleys", a stirring title!

After thanks to Sarah and presentation of flowers (and chocolate reindeer for her children), we adjourned to the Long Drawing Room for a Christmas tea provided by the ladies of Berkeley W.I., much enjoyed by all.



Sarah Wordsworth, the speaker at our November meeting. (Photo: Rick Williams.)

2022 Events

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

Thursday 28th April: Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Dr James Pimpernell. The Berkeley Estate in the 18th Century.

The focus of the talk is the development of the Berkeley Estate in Gloucestershire from the time of the 2nd Earl in 1698 through to the death of the 5th Earl in 1810. It covers the changes made, the driving forces behind the changes, and the resulting financial and organisational outcomes. The role of the family in these changes is explored, as are the actions of the estate stewards responsible for the execution of the changes. Examples of the source documents used in the research will be illustrated as well as maps showing the organisation of farms and the rental values of individual fields. Although the story is centred upon the manor of Ham, the outcomes for the whole estate will be described in summary.

7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £9 (£12) for the talk.

Thursday 23rd June: Platinum Jubilee Party. Details opposite. Ticket Deadline: Monday 6 June.

Thursday 11th August: Talk by Julian Humphrys. How to Capture a Castle.

We are delighted to welcome Julian Humphrys back again. If you want to capture a castle of your own, this is what you will need to know, although some of the information may only be useful if you have a mediaeval army!

7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £12 (£15).

Thursday 8th September.

A members-only trip to Tewkesbury Abbey.

A personal tour of the historic Abbey will be followed by tea in the Monks Kitchen. **Ticket Deadline: 15th August.**
Meet at the North Door of the Abbey at 1.45pm. £15.

Platinum Jubilee Party Thursday 23rd June 2022 5pm - 9pm

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, your Committee is arranging an afternoon and evening event for FoBC members and their guests.

The event will start with a delicious Afternoon Tea, including a celebration cake, Strawberries & Cream and a glass of bubbly with which to toast the Queen. There will also be a Royal Prize Draw.

After tea, there will be a chance for members to have a personal tour of the gardens, learning about the history of the Castle grounds and what and whom have influenced the various changes.

In the evening, Tracy Borman will speak to us about her fascinating new book celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 'Crown and Sceptre'.

Tickets: £24 (£28 for non-FoBC members).

Book your tickets early, as places will be limited. Exact timings will be sent out to ticket holders nearer the day. **Ticket Deadline: Monday 6 June.**

