



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

AUTUMN 2012

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The 2012 summer season has been another interesting time, both for the Castle and for the Friends. We have had many fascinating talks, plus the popular visit to the Bristol University Berkeley Dig, and we have enjoyed wonderful social occasions at Wickseim and the Castle.

We have more events to look forward to; The Quiz Night and David Smith's talk on the Berkeleys of Spetchley (and an opportunity to see their 20' long Pedigree) and the Gala Dinner on 8th February, for which an application is enclosed.

The Friends have supported two major projects at the Castle in the past few months. The tapestries in the Morning Room have now been repaired and re-hung on Velcro strips, which is less damaging than the former arrangement; please do use your free entry ticket to see them. The Venetian Lamps are currently undergoing remedial work and should be returned to the Great Hall shortly.

Thank you for your generous support for our lectures and for our Castle projects.

David Bowd-Exworth



Members enjoying the FoBC Summer Party by the Lily Pool

MORNING ROOM CEILING REPAIRS

by David Bowd-Exworth

The ceiling in the Morning Room (the former chapel, dedicated to St Mary) is a rare survival in a private property of a mediaeval painted ceiling. The paintwork dates from the 1370s or '80s and the Scriptural texts around the edge of the ribs and beams are believed to be the work of John Trevisa, the Cornish chaplain to Lord Berkeley and the vicar of Berkeley.

Mary [Cole], wife of the 5th Earl of Berkeley, is believed to have made some changes to the chapel during her work between 1805-07 and to have had parts of the ceiling over-painted to accord with more restrained Georgian style.

What may be less well known is the parlous state of the ceiling in the late 19th century. Lord & Lady Fitzhardinge undertook restoration of the chapel in the 1880s and invited the Cheltenham firm of Middleton to assess the state of the room and the work required. It was discovered that the ends of the beams which supported the roof had rotted where they met the walls and the whole structure had become extremely dangerous. Resisting the temptation to remove and replace the decayed timbers, John Middleton preserved them for future generations in an ingenious way. He stripped the lead from the roof above and inserted new beams above the existing roof, which he reinforced with metal boiler plates. Wrought iron stirrups

were then fastened to the new roof and from these the mediaeval roof visible in the Morning Room today was suspended.

The restoration and refurbishment is referred to in the company ledgers as 'alterations and repair of the Private Chapel for Lady Berkeley'. According to company ledgers, they also altered the chapel screen, the flooring and the furnishings. A new lectern and altar hangings were provided and gas pendants were installed to light the chapel.

The work was completed in October 1882 and *The Cheltenham Examiner & Gloucestershire Notes & Queries* was fulsome in its praise for John Middleton's work at the Castle, lauding his expertise and his skill. However, it does not seem to have been more widely reported, either in local newspapers or in architectural journals of the day.

John Middleton was also responsible for the stone reredos behind the High Altar in Berkeley parish church. He designed a number of private houses in Cheltenham and buildings and houses for Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Ladies' College. Other work includes St Mark's church, All Saints' church, Pittville and St Stephen's church, Tivoli, all in Cheltenham, many buildings in Clearwell for the Dowager Countess of Dunraven & Mount Earl (including the parish church and the hospital) and other buildings in Wales and the border counties.

MORNING ROOM TAPESTRIES

The second phase of restoration work on the tapestries from the Morning Room was completed a few weeks ago. They were gently brushed and cleaned and then Philippa Moxon and her co-workers carefully conserved them. The loose threads were caught, the

backing was removed and then re-stitched and Velcro attached to the top of each tapestry to make them hang better. Some of the work was undertaken in the Great Hall in late August, where Friends and visitors were able to watch (see picture below).



'ANTIPHONARY'

In August, local composer and FoBC member, Liz Lane (right) had her work 'Antiphony' performed in the Great Hall as part of the Kammermusik workshop. The beautiful work was inspired by the Antiphony on display in the Morning Room and was premiered last winter in Cardiff R.C. Cathedral.



BERKELEY'S BEST KEPT SECRET ?

by Philip J Wells

By the end of the 18th century the chamber organ was established as an instrument of choice for a gentleman's household, even challenging the harpsichord and new fortepiano. The stability of tuning compared to a stringed keyboard instrument will have been an advantage, especially for a provincial instrument, but small organs were good vehicles not just for keyboard music, but also for transcriptions of instrumental works, and could also accompany family prayers. The casework echoed the quality and elegance found in contemporary furniture; architects, designers and cabinet makers all designed organ cases e.g. William Kent, Robert Adam and Thomas Chippendale. Reliability, versatility and dignity of sight and sound must have contributed to the chamber organ's popularity.

Among leading London organ builders of the day was Robert Gray (c.1742-96) who established his business in Leigh Street, Red Lion Square, in about 1772. He soon took his brother, William (c.1757-1821) into partnership, and by 1790 the business had moved to 4 New Road, later to become 370 Euston Road. Following Robert's death in 1796 William continued to run the business under his own name and it duly passed to his son John in 1821 later becoming the famous firm of Gray and Davidson. (In 1835 John Gray took in 'Father' Henry Willis as his apprentice, possibly the most

famous British organ builder of all time.)

The existence of an unidentified organ in the Castle Music Room first occurs in the 'Inventory of Heirlooms at Berkeley Castle under the Will of the Late Right Hon. Frederic Augustus, Earl of Berkeley, deceased, remaining at the Castle in 1871'. The Music Room was probably what is now known as the Small Drawing Room, when that room was two thirds of its present size (the remainder being a staircase). This was before the last Earl's alterations. A 14 stop organ was built by William Gray in 1804 and, it is assumed, was purchased new for Berkeley Castle. It had a fine mahogany case, with rare rounded ends, and panels with applied gothick arches, gilded wooden dummy pipes arranged 3-3-15-3-3, unusual droplet pipe shades, and small curved, fluted panels under outer 'flats,' all under a cornice with two hinged brass candleholders. The small square-shanked drawstops were of ebony with ivory inset faces engraved in copperplate script. The case design must have been seen as successful, for a similar slightly plainer smaller case by Gray dated to 1808 is now in St Botolph's church, Trunch, Norfolk.

We can not be sure of the original specification but a Gray chamber organ of about 1810 with a satinwood and mahogany case and rounded case ends, originally

for Costessey Hall, Norfolk, and now in the English Organ School and Museum at Milborne Port, Dorset, can provide a good indication; the 14 stops are likely to have been: Bourdon T; Open Diapason; Stop Diapason B/T; Dulciana; Principal; Flute; ?Twelfth B/T; Fifteenth 2 ft; Sesquialtera/Cornet; Dulciana Swell T; Hautboy Swell T.

An account from 2nd February 1898 is given in Lord Fitzhardinge's list of Castle Heirlooms: 'Music Room; A Chamber Organ with 14 stops, in carved mahogany case, surmounted by arms and mitre, by Gray 1804.' The Dursley Gazette for 22nd November 1898 records the instrument standing in the Great Hall, so it is likely to have been moved between February and November 1898.

A Castle Inventory from 1909 gives it an Insurance Value of £120 and notes it is a 'Single Manual Organ, 14 stops by Gray, London 1804 in mahogany case of architectural design with fluted panels, gilt pipes &c.' Included in this valuation is an 'Old mahogany Organ seat on 8 supports.'

Around 1919/20 Liddiatt & Sons, organ builders of Leonard Stanley, Gloucestershire, were employed to bring the organ up to date tonally with the addition of two 8 ft stops. However, this necessitated the removal of some unfashionable stops in order to make room for them. The organ would still have been hand blown at this time.

In March 1923, Liddiatt bought the organ, probably without the organ seat, from Lord Berkeley for £55. He added a large swellbox



inside the case, a 25 note pedal board let into a newly constructed softwood plinth upon which the organ was raised, and 12 Bourdon 16 ft pipes on pneumatic action across the rear of the instrument. He installed it in St Anne's church, Cwmffrwd, Carmarthen. It can still be seen there, but is currently in very poor condition with some woodworm. It lacks the right-hand side of the case and the coat of arms, although it does now have the advantage of an electric blower. The 2006 Carmarthenshire edition of 'Pevsner' records: 'ORGAN. A handsome earlier C19 case with rounded angles and Regency Gothic panels. From where?'

Is this Berkeley's best kept secret?

FoBC RECENT EVENTS

An attentive audience of Friends was once again informed and entertained by **Dr Stuart Prior** when he came to the Castle to give us an update on the Dig, which is now in its 7th year. The original objective was the Minster, Manor and Town – an attempt to get a detailed picture of the history and archaeology of the Castle and the settlement of Berkeley, and it is an ongoing project that throws up as many questions as answers the further one digs!

Evidence of an Anglo Saxon Minster is now available, and it seems that religious power on this site continued even after Viking raids in the 10th century. But what is the relationship between the Minster and the Castle? The Castle remains outside the monastic area; it is in an unexpected place perched on the edge of the triangular rocky ridge that has been such an ideal place for a settlement for so many centuries. The Castle dominates the surrounding landscape, but it seems that the Anglo Saxon Minster, and later the Medieval Church, kept the Norman Castle outside its walls.

Saxons Christians built Minsters and religious settlements in many places and Berkeley is a good example. The whole area was enclosed, and within the walls there would have been a number of churches dedicated to different saints, with associated buildings, workshops etc. At Berkeley there

are records of both Abbots and Abbesses and it is quite likely that both monks and nuns lived here in a double house.

How many layers of history are there on this site in Berkeley? Did the Saxons settle on virgin land? Any archaeological dig will work backwards, uncovering later settlements first and the dig at Berkeley has already found evidence from the Civil War, the Tudor period, the Normans and Anglo Saxons. Were the Romans here before that? So far there is no evidence of Roman features although fragments of Roman metalwork and coins have been found in some of the trenches and Peter Twinn, the metal detectorist, feels certain that this area may well have been the site of a Roman temple.

A very exciting find came to light on the penultimate day of last year's dig, evidence of a Norman house or hall at the west end of the Paddock trench. Work during the previous couple of years had uncovered a late Medieval or Tudor street, identified from old maps as St Michael's Lane, which led to the west end of the church. Alongside this lane was a very substantial building which may have been in existence from the 13th to the 16th centuries in which hearths were evident and later partitions, suggesting it may have developed from a high status building in earlier centuries to perhaps workshops later on. The

stones from these buildings have now been removed and carefully mapped and labelled so that investigation can continue underneath, where it looks as if there may be other structures, on a different alignment.

Some fascinating and important items have been discovered over the years of digging at Berkeley, in all of the trenches. There were Saxon finds in the walled garden in 2005/6; an Astel and a Whetstone were found in the Paddock, showing evidence of learning on the site below the Medieval and Tudor levels. There seems to be an Anglo Saxon ditch below the Civil War ditch in the Paddock in which coins, known as sceattas or sceats, probably minted in Berkeley, have been found. Coins were minted in a Burgh, which demonstrates that Berkeley moved from a Minster to a Burgh before being taken over by the Normans who built the Castle.

The Jenner Museum garden has yielded important finds, too; Anglo Saxon foundations, a ditch and post holes with residual Roman pottery, and Roman wall plaster, possibly, from an agricultural building. Last year a burial was uncovered, a skeleton which had been cut through by the later Anglo Saxon ditch – could this have been Roman? Carbon dating is underway.

Peter Twinn claims there is evidence for pushing the origins of Berkeley further back, and he showed slides of finds of Roman origin from the 3rd and 4th centuries. We were reminded of excavations that took place under the church

in the 19th century, which claimed to have found column bases which would tie in with his contention of Berkeley being the site of a Roman temple; the lack of pottery on the site so far suggests that it was not a dwelling.

Academic interest in the area is growing and we are likely to see more visitors to the Dig. Areas of investigation for 2012 included the Jenner Museum garden, where the ditch and burial were further investigated; the Norman building in the Paddock, which involved extending the trench to the west; and gardens on the west side of the High Street, to try to establish the extent of the Saxon Minster. We look forward to hearing about the results of the 2012 dig next year.

Thanks to the kind hospitality of **Charles and Daisy Berkeley**, the Friends were able to enjoy an afternoon at Wickseim in June.

Charles showed members the house, which is older than its



Daisy & Charles Berkeley, with two of her horses at the Wickseim stables

classical façade implies, and then he and Daisy took us to the stables, where we were able to make the acquaintance of the horses and to hear some of Daisy's experiences, including being one of the bronze medal winning participants in the Beijing Olympic equestrian team. (Summer visitors have seen Daisy's medal and rosette, along with other Olympic memorabilia, in the display in the Castle's Billiard Room.) Their young daughter, Mary, was also popular with the Friends, her smile and cheerful personality endearing her to all.

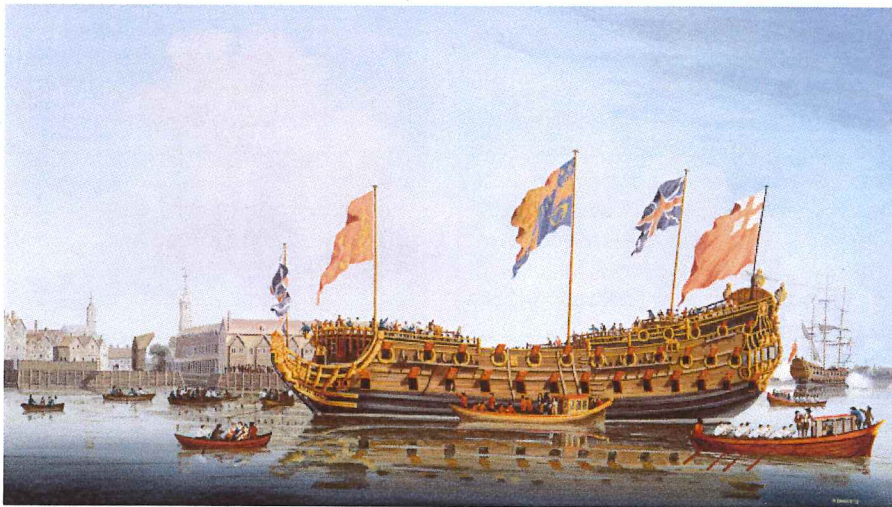
The Friends ended their enjoyable afternoon with a splendid tea. We are most grateful to Charles and Daisy for sharing their home and garden with the Friends.

In July our guest speaker was **Richard Ensor**, who spoke about Charles, Lord Berkeley of Stratton

(1662 - 1682), eldest son of the 1st Lord Berkeley of Stratton and captain of the Tyger, on which he died, aged only 19.

Richard spoke about an earlier ship named 'Tyger', constructed in 1546, and then went on to explain the history of the 38-gun ship of the same name, which was built at Deptford in 1647. She was active during the Commonwealth and then took part in the Second and Third Dutch Wars in 1666 and 1672. There was a complex rebuild at Deptford from 1675 until she was re-launched on 24th June 1681.

King Charles recommended Charles Berkeley as captain, and the ship was assigned to Admiral Herbert's squadron patrolling the Mediterranean. However, it was to be a short-lived command; Charles died of smallpox in Majorca Bay in 1682 and was buried in Twickenham on 21st September.



King Charles II inspecting Tyger at Deptford, 1681: painting by Richard Ensor

There was a very successful **Summer Party**, when Friends were able to appreciate one of the few fine evenings of the summer enjoying Pimms and canapés by the Lily Pool.

Metal detecting in the UK has been around since the 1960s and our September speaker, **Peter Twinn**, was an early detectorist. Many people will equate metal detecting with treasure, due to famous finds like the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire gold hoard, or the Thornbury Roman coin hoard found locally in 2004. These events have been promoted through the media, glamorizing detecting and giving the impression that there may be treasure in every field! This is not the case, as most detectorists find very little of historical value on an average trip.

In 1996 and 1997 respectively the Treasure Act was changed, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was established. The Scheme has recorded over 550,000 finds in subsequent years, through a network of Finds Liaison Officers. Recorded finds often change the way we understand our past.

Since its inception, metal detecting has had an uneasy relationship with archaeologists and other heritage professionals, who have always placed an emphasis on recording the location for finds over 300 years old, not their value. This relationship has changed over the years, with detectorists now assisting on excavations, marking finds in trenches, or detecting spoil heaps so that no information is lost.

A gap remains between the number of people detecting and those who record their finds with the PAS. However there is an upward recording trend over a long period. If used as a responsible tool, metal detecting benefits our understanding of the past. It has the ability to find lost sites in the landscape from finds that may reveal where people lived, worked, or passed through.

Metal detecting in partnership with the PAS is helping to redefine the historic record, though the challenge remains for many who detect to do the right thing and record their finds for everyone's benefit, not just their own.

VOLUNTEERS

Can you be a steward at '**Castle at Christmas**' on **14th-16th December** ?

Each day will start at 2.00pm, and finish after 7.00pm.

Daylight opening will give visitors a chance to see the decorations and contents and the evenings will have their own very special atmosphere.

There will be a concert by the Stanley Singers at 8.00pm on Sunday.

More information from Eleanor or David in the Castle Office

Tel: 01453 - 810 303 E-mail: info@berkeley-castle.com

BERKELEY CASTLE GUIDE BOOKS

by Paul Walkden

Guide books are an essential and interesting part of any visit and at Berkeley Castle guide books have been produced since the Castle opened its gates to the public in 1956.

At the death of the eighth Earl in 1942 the title became extinct and the Castle and estate came to Captain Robert George Wilmot Berkeley of Spetchley, who subsequently came to live at the Castle.

It was decided in 1955 to open the Castle to the public. One of the larger jobs in preparing for the opening was the current picture gallery, which had previously been three bedrooms. Massive steel beams had to be put in to support this floor as it had been suspended on iron bars from the roof! This work was undertaken by the estate works department.

The first guide book was titled '*Berkeley Castle, an illustrated history of the Gloucestershire home of the Berkeley family*' which was designed and produced by English Life Publications, Ltd. and outlines that the setting out of the rooms and their contents was undertaken by Mr Matley Moore and the history was written by Mr Francis Peter. This early guide also had a full colour reproduction of a painting of the Castle as the front cover by Mr H Barklam, who, presumably, was the in-house artist for the company as

he also did cover paintings for the guides to Hatfield House, Hardwick Hall, Dunster Castle, Blair Castle and Haddon Hall. This guide was 140mm x 220mm in size and was priced at two shillings and sixpence (12.5p).

Mr Matley Moore, FSA was reported as a characterful excursion secretary to the Worcestershire Archaeological Society for 46 years. His main achievement, with his sister Elsie, was the extensive restoration in 1948 of Greyfriars in Friar Street, Worcester. They leased the property, granting the use of the hall to the Society for its meetings. Mrs Berkeley was a member of this society for 50 years and was its President 1933 – 35.

This was soon followed by a similar booklet in size and format, but the cover illustration changed to a stunning watercolour of the Berkeley Hounds in the Castle meadows by artist Lionel Edwards, which currently hangs in the dining room at the Castle. This text had been completely re-written by Miss V. Sackville-West. The photographs had been largely replaced by the work of Sydney W. Newberry, which included a number in colour. Berkeley Castle was now recorded as the Gloucestershire home of Captain R G Berkeley. At the death of Captain R G W Berkeley in 1969 the Castle and estate came to his son Robert John Grantley Berkeley, who still lives there with his wife. This guide continued into 1971 and in this final copy it was now '*Berkeley Castle, an illustrated survey of the Gloucestershire home of Mr and*

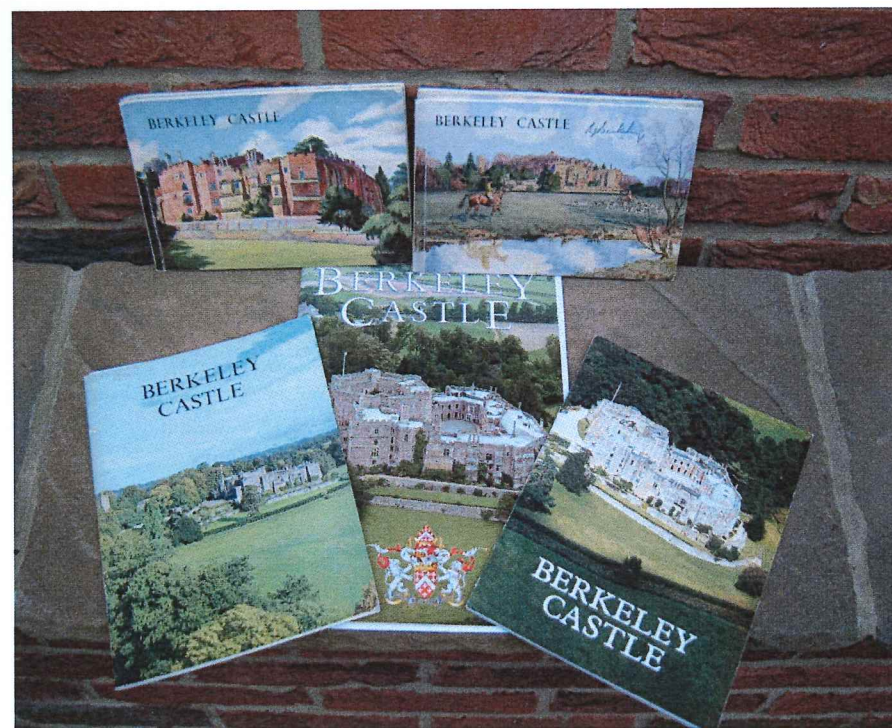
Mrs R J Berkeley'.

Miss V Sackville-West was in fact The Hon. Victoria Mary Sackville-West, (Lady Nicolson) CH. (9 March 1892 – 2 June 1962), who was an author, poet and gardener. She won the Hawthornden prize in 1927 and 1933. She was the daughter of Lord Sackville, of Knole Park in Kent, and later married Harold Nicolson, writer and politician in 1913. They lived at Sissinghurst Castle near Cranbrook in Kent, now owned by the National Trust.

In 1972 a brand new guide was produced, with a change in shape, being of a bigger format 235mm x 183mm. Its coloured photographic

cover has a view of the Castle; the Lionel Edwards' watercolour of the hounds in the meadow is now the inner cover illustration. In layout it is similar to the current guide. There is a delightful photograph of Mr and Mrs Berkeley with their sons Charles and Henry, then aged six and five respectively, next to the lily pond in the garden. This guide book was reprinted in 1974 and 1976 in the same format.

By 1990 the format of the guide book remained the same with an aerial photograph of the Castle on the cover; internally there were more coloured photographs. The family photograph of the time here



Castle guide books past & present

shows Charles and Henry in their early twenties. This photograph remains in the current guide book, which has a bigger format of 300mm x 210mm and was re-styled with some new photographs. The text, written by Vita Sackville-West, was revised and edited by Nick McCann and the book, designed by Heritage House Group Ltd., was published in 2006. The coloured cover is a more recent aerial view and on the inside back cover the Berkeley family tree, which first appeared in the 1974 edition, has owners of the Castle by succession in red type. On the inner cover is a colour reproduction of the oldest known painting of the Castle, showing Civil War damage, which was painted in 1676 by Knijff. As an introduction it outlines: Home of the

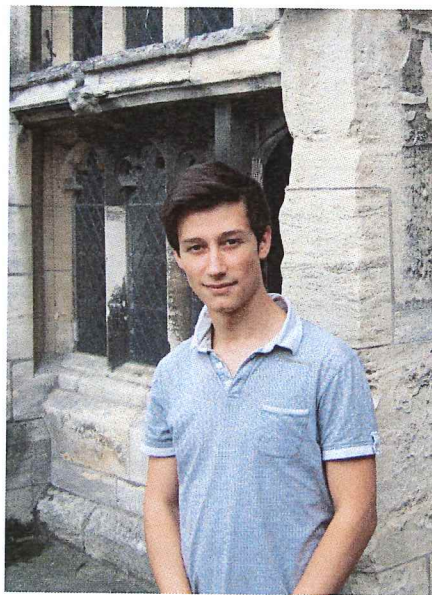
Berkeley family for 850 years. It goes on to tell us: *'Not many of us can boast of having our private house celebrated by Shakespeare, nor of having held it in the possession of our family for over eight hundred years, nor of having had a King of England murdered within its walls, nor of having welcomed at our table the local vicar, John Trevisa (1342-1402), reputed as one of the earliest translators of the bible, nor of having a breach battered by Oliver Cromwell, which to this day we are forbidden by law to repair even should we wish to do so. English history, and English literature, are all so wrapped up with Berkeley Castle, that most romantic of castles overlooking the Severn and the Welsh border'*.

French Guide

The Castle has a revised French guide book thanks to a French volunteer, Alexandre Lebrun, a student from Nantes, who spent three weeks at the Castle.

Alex was staying with Friends in Berkeley to perfect his excellent English and one of his projects was to bring the language in our French guide book into line with current usage and idioms. He was also very helpful in the Ticket Office/Shop.

Alex is a keen Harry Potter fan, so one fine Sunday in August some FoBC members took him to Gloucester and to the Cathedral, where he was able to show them many of the film locations.



Alex at Gloucester Cathedral

FoBC Events

Prices for non-members in brackets.

**Tuesday 9 October: 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.
Quiz Night and Ploughman's Supper.**

Make up or join a team of four. Everyone welcome: you don't have to be a Brain of Britain to take part! Interval Ploughman's Supper included. Cash Bar available from 7.00pm. Gates open at 6.45pm.

£11 (£15) per person

**Sunday 11 November: 3.00pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.
Talk by David Smith: The Berkeley family of Spetchley Park.**

Castle Archivist, David Smith, will talk about the branch of the Berkeley family based at Spetchley, encompassing a younger son, Worcester merchants, a distinguished judge and prominent Catholic gentry. Gates open at 3.00pm to give time to examine family documents and artefacts, and the talk will begin at 3.30pm. **£10 (£13), including tea.**

FRIENDS' GALA DINNER

Friday 8 February 2013

**7.30pm: Drinks Reception - 8.00pm: Dinner in the Great Hall.
Guest Speaker, John Harvey.**

Auction, conducted by John Harvey, & Table Raffle.

John Harvey worked for Sotheby's auction house and is now with Simon Chorley, of Prinknash, near Painswick. He is a Trustee of Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust.

His advice to the Friends of Berkeley Castle has been most useful, recommending people and companies with the necessary skills and suggesting items that would benefit from early attention (or not!).

**Tickets cost £60 (£65) until 30th November 2012, thereafter £70 (£75)
A Ticket Application Form is enclosed. Dress: Black Tie**

*Welcome Drink & Seasonal canapés
Cornish crab timbale with avocado mousse
Ashdale British fillet of beef, with a red wine jus, stuffed flat field mushroom,
Dauphinoise potatoes & selection of vegetables
Trio of Desserts
Cheese and biscuits with Usk River chutney, fruit and celery
Coffee/tea and mints.*

HERE A BERKELEY, THERE A BERKELEY.... EVERYWHERE A BERKELEY?

by David Bowd-Exworth

Like many Friends, I enjoy visiting other historic properties in my free time and am often surprised at how often there is a link back to either Berkeley Castle or to the Berkeley family. Some years ago I was gazing round the Saloon in the National Trust's Calke Abbey, when I spotted a familiar looking portrait of an early 17th century gentleman in a red coat. Questioning the steward, my hunch was confirmed; in a National Trust house on the distant Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire borders was a picture of the 1st Earl of Berkeley.

In early August I visited three different places in one week and ALL had unexpected Berkeley links!



The Berkeley shield at Eastnor Castle

The first was Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury in Herefordshire. This neatly symmetrical Georgian castle was built for the Somers-Cocks family and, like Berkeley, is open to the public and a location for weddings and private events. The painted Dining Room ceiling shows shields of families connected to the Cocks and Somers families and above my head as I entered the room was the Berkeley shield. Ann Berkeley, daughter of the 4th Lord Berkeley of Stratton, married James Cocks.

A week later I visited Highclere Castle in Hampshire. The seat of the Earls of Carnarvon, famous for the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen, the house is now best known as the setting for the fictional Downton Abbey TV series. However, the family have been settled there for much longer than Sir Charles Barry's mid-Victorian house would suggest and the garden and park contain features from previous centuries. At the end of the East Lawn is a roofless temple, Jackdaw's Castle, which incorporates columns from the ruined Berkeley House in London. The Berkeley of Stratton's house burned down in 1713 and various elements were rescued and sold on. The Corinthian columns were purchased and re-used in an eye-catcher in Highclere's gardens. Architectural Salvage is not new.

Later that day I visited Stockcross, also near Newbury, where I was given a village history book by a Churchwarden. A chapter was headed, 'Margrave of Anspach'. Elizabeth Berkeley was a daughter of the 4th Earl and is one of the two ladies in the painting at the top of the Grand Staircase (the other is her sister, Georgiana, Countess of Granard). Elizabeth married the 6th Lord Craven in 1767. Their family seat in Stockcross, Benham House, was rebuilt and landscaped in 1775, to designs by Henry Holland and his father-in-law, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Two pairs of gate piers were brought from the Craven's nearby family seat to adorn the carriage drives and are prominent features on the A4.

Five years later the Cravens

separated and sixteen days after his death she married Christian, the last Margrave of Brandenburg, Anspach and Bayreuth, Duke of Prussia. He sold his principality to the King of Prussia and purchased Benham from her son, the 7th Lord Craven (later the 1st Earl Craven). Following a dispute with residents about a footpath across her land, Elizabeth moved to Naples, where she died and is buried.

The following week I went to Cwmfrwdd to see the organ from Berkeley (see article on page 4).

I discovered four Berkeley connections in two weeks, three of which were totally unexpected. However hard one tries to have a day away from work at Berkeley Castle, the family still makes its widespread presence felt!



Jackdaw's Castle at Highclere, re-using columns from Berkeley House, Piccadilly

Open Days

The Castle and gardens are open
Sundays & Thursdays until
Sunday 4th November

**The Butterfly House closes on
Sunday, 30th September**

Half Term opening:

22nd-25th October,
28th October-1st November
& Sunday, 4th November

Castle at Christmas

A weekend when the Castle will
be decorated for Christmas
Visit Santa in his Grotto
Christmas shopping, food & drink,
music & mulled wine

14th-16th December, 2pm-7pm
www.berkeley-castle.com



*Entrance to Benham House, Berkshire, home of Lady Elizabeth Berkeley,
Lady Craven, later Margrínave of Brandenburg, Anspach & Bayreuth*

Friends of Berkeley Castle

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FoBC Officers for 2012-2013

Chairman - David Bowd-Exworth

Deputy Chairman - Paul Walkden

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