

Your Data is Protected

New regulations to protect personal data came into effect in May 2018. From that date onwards, confidential personal information about members of an organisation cannot be held, nor can the members be contacted, without the written agreement of each member.

The Friends of Berkeley Castle maintain an up-to-date database of our members' names, addresses and, where provided, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. In cases of non-renewal, details we hold will be removed from the F0BC database six months after the 1st April renewal date.

Membership Discounts

Members of FoBC have a 10% discount on items purchased in the Castle Gift Shop (except books) and a 20% discount on tea and coffee and most home-made items in the Yurt restaurant (except bought-in items).

Please show your membership card at the time of purchase, because discounts cannot be given retrospectively.

FoBC Website & Social Media

Please do look at the Friends' section of the Castle website. You will find a complete list of the Friends' activities for the coming year, past copies of the Berkeley Buttres and photos and a précis of previous events.
www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

FoBC also has a Facebook page, where members can add their own comments, ask questions, or post photographs.
<https://www.facebook.com/Friends.BerkeleyCastle.Gloucestershire/>

Friends of Berkeley Castle

c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BQ
T: 01453 - 810 332 E: friends@berkeley-castle.com
www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

FoBC Officers for 2018-2019

Chairman - Paul Walkden
Deputy Chairman - Diana Merrett
Treasurer - Mary Frost
Secretary - Jane Handoll



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

AUGUST 2018

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

Welcome to your latest edition of the Berkeley Buttres.

What a summer are having! We were treated to a beautiful evening on the 12 July when Roly Brown, the Estates Director, led a large group from the estate yard to Whitcliffe Deer Park and in particular to see the extraordinary 18th century Folly, castellated with four towers. Internally it was just as interesting, being much larger than it appears from the outside. The views from the rooftop were quite outstanding. We have also had our AGM in April following which the new castle archivist, Karen Davidson, gave an enlightened talk into how she became an archivist. The Dig this year was once again well attended, plus a tour of recent finds which were on display in the Castle. In June the Amici a-cappella group concert was moved to the church and was much enjoyed. As always, we are very grateful to all leaders and speakers for giving their time and knowledge.

There is much more to follow in the autumn. The Committee and I look forward to seeing you soon. *Paul Walkden*



Deer in the mediaeval Whitcliff Deer Park, Berkeley (see pages 2 & 3).

The Year So Far...

Following our A.G.M., the new Archivist of the Berkeley & Spetchley Estates, Karen Davidson, gave an entertaining talk on 'How I became an Archivist'. Karen writes: "I have been working alongside David Smith in the Berkeley and Spetchley archives, learning the ropes, since January 2014. David stepped down as Castle Archivist in January 2018, and I am now Estate Archivist - the scope of the post has broadened.

"I qualified as an archivist in 1999 and have been working in the collections management team at Gloucestershire Archives since early 2000, mostly working on the online catalogue database. I have catalogued some large collections: British Waterways' records, including the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, the archive of the Hicks Beach family of Coln St Aldwyn, and the records of the county education service.

"The title of my talk to the Friends' AGM was 'Adventures in Archives', although I've really only had one big adventure! In 2009 I went to Cologne to help salvage the city's archives, which were buried when their building collapsed - I spent a week working with colleagues from several countries cleaning and repackaging documents.

"Now I'm embarking on another adventure at Berkeley and Spetchley! I'm looking forward to getting to know you all, and I will probably be finding a few opportunities for volunteers as time goes on. I will keep you posted!"

The May visit to the archaeological dig site with Professor Mark Horton was followed by tea and an opportunity to view the exhibition of finds displayed in the Picture Gallery. Mark was, as always, an enthusiastic and erudite guide and he was able to explain what had been found so far and to answer questions. Unfortunately, the weather broke the next day and the following week little further excavation was possible. The Anglo-Saxon ditch the students had been excavating during our visit was completely full of water! It is now thought to be an early boundary ditch of the Anglo-Saxon minster, causing earlier opinions about the boundary to be revised. The archaeology is constantly making new finds and throwing up new questions.

The University still have a potential Norman wall, an unknown circular feature, the



Professor Mark Horton assessing the site

FoBC Christmas Cards



The Committee have produced two Christmas Cards using snowy images of Berkeley Castle. The first card shows the Culloden Pine on the Lower Lawn catching the last rays of the winter sun on its red trunk and the second card shows the Castle and Outer Bailey through the archway of the Outer Gatehouse.

The cards are A5 size, leaving plenty of room for personal messages on the first inside page, while the greeting says, 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year'. The cards do not bear a date, so any you don't send this year can be used next Christmas.

Cards, with envelopes, cost 80p each, £4 for 5 and £6 for 10, and will be available from the Committee at FoBC events at the Castle between now and December and, from 11am-4pm on Castle open days, from Eleanor in the Gun Room or from David in the Gift Shop. Cards can be posted to members who live further afield and the cost of postage and packing will be added. Please contact the FoBC office (details on the back page of the Berkeley Butress).

We hope you will support FoBC by buying some cards to send to your friends, because the cards advertise the Castle and FoBC.

Travelling to Oxford

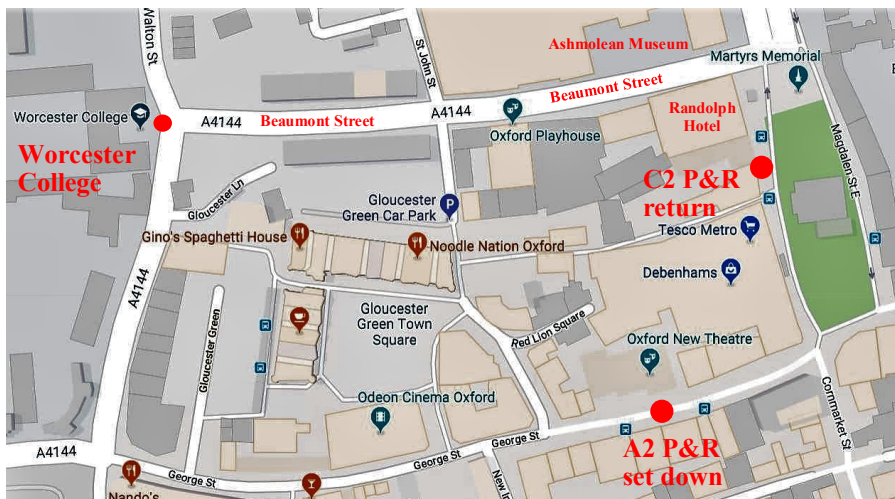
How to get to Worcester College, Oxford, on 6th September

By rail: the 11.50am from Stonehouse (change at Swindon and Didcot Parkway) and the 12.03pm from Bristol Parkway (change at Didcot Parkway) arrive in Oxford at 1.17pm. The College is a short taxi ride away.

By road, via the A40, A44 and Peartree Park & Ride. Allow 2 hours: On the approach to Oxford you will pass over a couple of high bridges and under the city by-pass. Keep in the left-hand lane and at the first roundabout (with a petrol station on your left) take the first exit - the A44 for Evesham. Move to the right-hand lane and Peartree Park & Ride is about 1/4 mile on the right. (Lavatories are available at the service station off the next roundabout on the A44.) After parking, purchase your ticket from the machines near the bus stop; keep your ticket with you. The number 300 bus leaves every 10 minutes on its 15-minute journey.

Alight from the bus at the main city-centre stop in George Street (at the bottom of the map below) and turn left. Walk back along George Street to the staggered crossroads and turn left into Magdalen Street. St Mary's church will soon be on your right and here you will pass the bus stop for the return trip to Peartree Park & Ride. Take the first road on your left, which is Beaumont Street (the Randolph Hotel is on the corner and the Ashmolean is opposite). Worcester College is at the far end of Beaumont Street (see the photo on page 8) and we shall meet outside the main entrance at 2.00pm.

To return to Peartree Park & Ride, walk back along Beaumont Street and turn right into Magdalen Street. The C2 bus stop for the number 300 bus is a few yards along this street.



Anglo-Saxon ditch and other smaller features to investigate, so we hope to be able to visit the site again next year.

Following a change of venue, the Amici Chamber Choir gave a delightful concert in St Mary's Church. The music ranged widely in period and style, from Monteverdi and Byrd to living composers, from the glories of Tudor church music to 'Hard-Hearted Hanna, The Vamp of Savanna', by Milton Ager. 'Northern Lights' was a hauntingly beautiful Norwegian work, while the three Spirituals from America brought the evening to a wonderful finale. We were all delighted that Amici concluded their West Country tour with a visit to Berkeley.



Diana Merritt thanking the Amici choir.

'Even In Arcadia There Am I.' The so-called Folly, the castellated tower in the Whitcliffe Deer Park, is a fairy castle where Rapunzel might live. In July, a large group of Friends met in the Estate Yard and walked to the Folly, where we were able to explore the building.

The ground floor room has a vaulted ceiling and huge fireplace and on the table in the centre of the room Roly Brown, the Berkeley & Spetchley Estates Director, had laid out earlier plans for a building on the site, dating from 1804. The first plans were rather more elaborate than the final plans of the Folly, which was built in 1816.



Roly Brown speaking to the Friends in the Whitcliff Deer Park.

From the Ballroom upstairs, we had the most wonderful views; the sun reflected off the River Severn in silver light, with both Severn Bridges clearly seen, along with Berkeley church tower and the rolling views of the Deer Park towards the Cotswold escarpment. We explored the Folly from cellar to roof, we were enchanted and thrilled. The

Friends had a wonderful evening. Thank you, Roly, for giving up your time.

The Summer Party, held in the Great Hall, was a lovely, sociable evening, which went with an extra sparkle thanks to Tom Stevenson's generous donation of the Prosecco we enjoyed. Thank you, Tom. (Photo overleaf.)



Mary Berkeley (Daisy & Charles' daughter) was charming at the Friends' Summer Party earlier this month. She was particularly persuasive when encouraging members to help empty her trays of food.

Trip to Virginia, November 2019

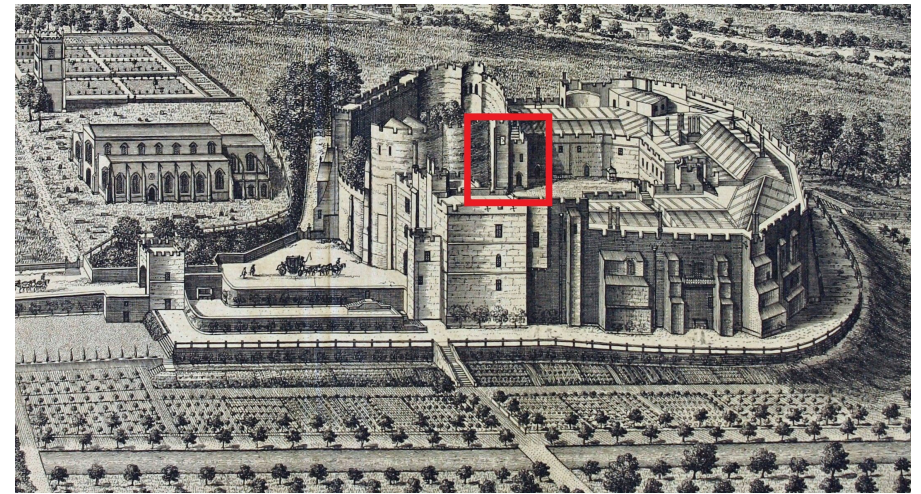
400th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Berkeley Settlement in Virginia, 1-9 November 2019.
from Althea Hamlyn

A group of Friends of Berkeley Castle is arranging a tailor-made visit for this celebration, which is being co-ordinated by FoBC member Althea Hamlyn. Highlights include visits to Berkeley Plantation, Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestown, the Yorktown battlefield and its American Revolution Museum.

We shall fly from Heathrow (via New York) to Norfolk, Virginia on 1st November 2019 and stay 7 nights in Williamsburg, returning to Heathrow on 9th November 2019.

Transport from Berkeley to and from Heathrow will be arranged. The overall cost is likely to be between £1,350 and £1,660, depending on sharing accommodation or having a single room.

Twenty five people have already signed up, but there are places for a few more to join them. For further details, please contact Althea: lahamlyn@googlemail.com or 01453 811723.



Part of the engraving of Berkeley Castle c.1708, by Johannes Kip.

detailed image of Berkeley Castle and the surrounding land, much of which is unchanged to this day.

One piece of Kip's drawing that is no longer present is the large sundial on the southern face of the Keep. Positioned in a visible place at the heart of the Castle, near the Keep steps, this would have been a communal timepiece. This may have been the 'new Dyall' supplied by William Berrow of Bristol and recorded in the Stewards Accounts in 1701. This sundial no longer exists; surely our newest timepiece, made from stainless steel, will be here for another 300 years at least.



Section of the above engraving.



A wall-mounted sundial.

A New Dyall

by Josh Nash

Last September, many scenes from a film called 'Johnny English 3' were filmed here at the Castle. The crew built a huge set in the Great Hall which was big enough to climb up on safely and examine the portraits of the 4th

Earl of Berkeley and his wife and son.

The pair of portraits were painted by the Scottish artist Gavin Hamilton (1723-1798). After studying in Rome from 1748-1751, Hamilton returned to Britain and set himself up painting portraits in London until his permanent emigration to Rome in 1756. Based on the 4th Earl dying in 1755 and on the age of his son in the picture, it is safe to say that these portraits were painted during Hamilton's time in London.

Hamilton is a very interesting character; his main source of income during his latter period in Rome was as an archaeologist/antiquities dealer, a true pioneer in the field of digging up old objects and selling them to members of the British Aristocracy on the Grand Tour.

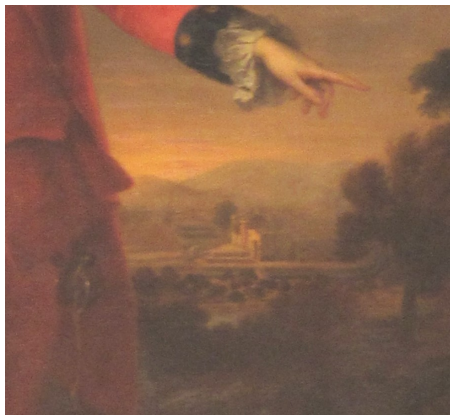
On close inspection of the portrait of the 4th Earl, it became clear that



The 4th Earl by Gavin Hamilton.

Hamilton's scenic rendition of the Castle, visible below the 4th Earl's left hand, was entirely based on an earlier engraving by Johannes Kip, paid for by the 2nd Earl of Berkeley in 1708. Kip was a Dutch engraver who travelled Britain widely, engraving views of country houses for the gentry.

Blending his own imagination with preparatory drawings and using cartographic techniques, Kip has created an incredibly accurate and



Detail of the above portrait.

All Change

by David Bowd-Exworth

Below is a photograph of the Long Drawing Room, taken in the early years of the C20. Since then there have been many changes to the room and the paintings and furniture have been moved. As Henry Phythian-Adams explained in a previous edition of *The Buttress*, this room was originally the Solar, the private room of the lords of Berkeley Castle. By the early C19 it had become the Dining Room and it was here that the Prince Regent and his brother, the Duke of Sussex, were entertained by the 5th Earl. Later, it became the principal Drawing Room of the Castle.

The painting of Whitehall Palace from St James's Park (above the chimneypiece) is now in the Jenner Larder. The two portraits of Anne of Denmark and her husband, King James VI & I (beyond the fireplace) are now in the King's Gallery, and the portraits of the 4th Earl and of Elizabeth Drax with the young 5th Earl (end wall - also see pp 12-13) are now in the Great Hall. The two C18 armchairs on the right, with their original red covers faded to a light brown, are now in the Dining Room; one of them can be seen in the portrait of Lord Fitzhardinge in the same room. The large crystal chandelier is no longer in the Castle and the panelling was stripped from the walls on the instructions of the 8th Earl in his process of making the Castle look more like his idea of a mediaeval castle.



A New Display Cabinet

by Jane Handoll

A display cabinet has recently been created out of a cupboard next to the 'Stubbs' fireplace in the Picture Gallery. It is filled with family treasures not seen before, both fascinating and beautiful. There is a definite 'eastern' flavour to many of the items displayed which connects with a number of the pictures in the gallery of ships belonging to the East India Company and the trade they enabled from the very earliest years of the C17.

George, the 1st Earl of Berkeley, was a member of the East India Company having married Elizabeth Massingberd, daughter of the Treasurer. He amassed great wealth through the company. Trade was not just with India but further afield with China, Japan and other countries in South East Asia.

Several of the items on the shelves reflect the new and fashionable (and expensive) taste for tea and coffee in the C17. There is a lovely Middle-Eastern style coffee pot, commissioned around 1718 by James, 3rd Earl of Berkeley, bearing his coat of arms, and a very small porcelain teapot made in China around 1700 in



a distinctive rusty colour known as Batavian Brown. Next to it are two beautiful silver tea caddies, c. 1753, whose contents, China tea leaves, would have been almost

Countess of Granard). Elizabeth married the 6th Lord Craven in 1767. Their Berkshire 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



Entrance to Benham House, Berkshire.

seat to adorn the carriage drives and are prominent features on the A4.

Shortly afterwards, 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.

In the late 1770s Elizabeth built herself a cottage at Fulham, using money she had won on a lottery ticket. She used it as a place where she could escape from London with her friends and where she could entertain her lover, the French ambassador. She sold the house in 1805 to Walsh Porter, a friend of the Prince of Wales, who visited Craven Cottage several times. It is now the home of Fulham Football Club, which was built on the site.



Craven Cottage, Fulham, Middlesex.

Unexpected Berkeley Connections

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



Eastnor Castle ceiling.

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.

Eastnor Castle, near Ledbury, is a symmetrical Georgian castle built for the Somers-Cocks family and, like Berkeley, is open to the public and is used for weddings and private events. The 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. The connection was Ann, a daughter of the 4th Lord Berkeley of Stratton, who married James Cocks.

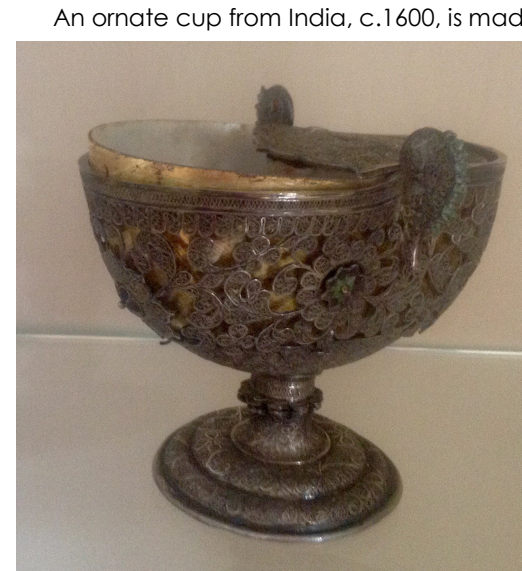
Highclere Castle in Hampshire, the family seat of the Earls of Carnarvon, is well-known as the setting for the Downton Abbey TV series. However, the family have been settled there for much longer than Sir Charles Barry's Victorian house would suggest and the garden and park contain features from previous centuries. Facing the East Lawn is a roofless temple, known as Jackdaw's Castle, which incorporates columns from the ruined Berkeley House in London. Lord Berkeley of Stratton's impressive house in Piccadilly 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.

Elizabeth Berkeley (1740-1828) 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,



Jackdaw's Castle, in the garden of Highclere Castle.

as valuable as their containers! On the same shelf are two early Victorian teapots, made in London in 1845, in the Chinoiserie (Chinese) style although their brew may well have come from India by that time rather than China – a certain amount of commercial espionage and theft of seeds apparently went on in the 1840s! Mr & Mrs John Berkeley regularly used these teapots.



An ornate cup from India, c.1600, is made from the exoskeleton of a nautilus shellfish encased in silver; nautilus shells were an exotic symbol of far distant lands and would reflect the owner's status and wealth. On the same shelf are three caskets, probably used for holding snuff, made from hollowed out agate with silver gilt and green enamel mounts. They date from around 1800 and came from central Asia.

On the top shelf is a large plate from the dinner service which belonged to the Berkeleys of Stratton, other pieces of which can be seen in the China Room. Central

to the design is the Berkeley of Stratton coat of arms and their motto 'Pauca Suspexi Paucora Despexi' (Few Admired, Fewer Despised) flanked by the curious semi-naked, club-wielding, tam-o-shanter wearing 'soldiers' of this branch of the family! Before the English potteries could produce fine bone china, wealthy families would commission dinner services direct from China. The finished articles might take years to arrive, possibly packed in chests full of tea, and there was no returning them if they weren't just right! But perhaps the most fascinating items of all are 3 pieces of cutlery, a knife, fork and spoon, in rock crystal with gem-set gold mounts in the shape of wolf or dog heads. They are fabulous!

This new cabinet and its displayed items are well worth a look, so do use your membership cards to visit the Castle before the end of the season and see for yourselves.



FoBC Events During 2018

Prices for non-members in brackets.



The entrance to Worcester College, Oxford

Thursday 6 September: 2.00pm at Worcester College, Oxford:

A members-only visit to Worcester College, led by Andrew Jardine.

FoBC members will have a private tour of the College and gardens, led by the former Bursar, Andrew Jardine (whom you may remember as the former Agent of the Berkeley & Spetchley Estates), and by the Head Gardener. St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester (elevated by Henry VIII to become Gloucester Cathedral), founded Gloucester College on this site in 1283. That college was closed down at the Reformation and became Gloucester Hall from 1560. It was re-founded, as Worcester College, in 1714. In addition to the surviving mediaeval 'cottages', the college has work by leading architects Nicholas Hawksmoor, James Wyatt and William Burges. Situated on the western edge of Oxford (it was known as Botany Bay in the late 19th century), there are attractive gardens and extensive grounds, including a sizeable lake. (See page 14 for travel directions.)

Tickets £25 including tea & cake. Limited to 40 members - almost sold out.

Thursday 18 October: 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle:

Talk about the University of Bristol Archaeological Dig.

Dr Stuart Prior will talk about the latest results from the archaeological dig in the Castle Paddock. We are delighted Stuart is well enough to speak to us and we look forward to being both informed and entertained by him.

Gates open at 6.45pm. Cash Bar from 7.00pm.

Tickets £9 (£12).

Sunday 18 November: 2.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle:

Antiques Afternoon.

Wotton-Under-Edge auctioneer Philip Taubenheim will talk about some of the items brought along by members of the audience, followed by one of our popular Afternoon Teas in the Long Drawing Room. Those attending are invited to bring along a family treasure or an item of interest (at your own risk) and Philip will select some of these for inclusion in his talk.

Gates open at 2.00pm.

Tickets £15 (£18) including Afternoon Tea in the Long Drawing Room.

Sunday 9 December: 2pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle:

Talk by John Cannon, Keeper of the Fabric at Bristol Cathedral, who will explore some of the many Bristol and Berkeley links.

Robert Fitzharding, Charles Berkeley's direct male ancestor and the builder of Berkeley Castle, founded St Augustine's Abbey as a college of Augustinian canons. After building Berkeley Castle, Robert chose to retire from the world and become one of the canons at St Augustine's: he and many of his descendants are buried there.

At the Reformation, part of the Abbey church was saved from destruction and in 1542 became the cathedral of the newly founded diocese of Bristol. Gates open from 1.30pm.

Tickets £10 (£12) including Mulled Wine & Mince Pies.



The Cathedral Church of the Holy & Undivided Trinity, once St Augustine's Abbey, seen across College Green, so named after Robert Fitzharding's College of canons.