



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

SPRING 2019

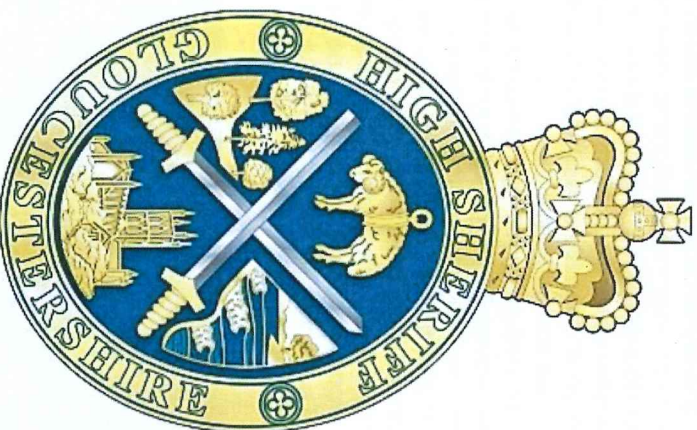
FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

Charles Berkeley, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire

The Friends of Berkeley Castle offer our congratulations and good wishes to our President, Charles Berkeley, whom Her Majesty the Queen has appointed as the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire for the year 2019-2020. Charles will be sworn in at a ceremony in Gloucester Cathedral in March.

In this honour, Charles follows in the footsteps of his father, who was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and of Worcestershire.

The badge of office, shown right, depicts the sword of mercy (with the broken tip) crossed with the sword of justice. The symbols show (clockwise from the top) a Cotswold sheep, the River Severn, Gloucester Cathedral and the Royal Forest of Dean.



The badge of office of the
High Sheriff of Gloucestershire.

From our President

The collection of portraits at Berkeley Castle are fascinating and you will all be able to see two fine paintings of Robert and Teresa Sherley at some point this coming season. We are moving them from a bedroom on the private side and they will probably be hung in Drake's Bedroom or in the King's Gallery. They were painted by Marcus Cheeraerts the Younger, one of the first artists working in Britain to paint on canvas rather than on panel.

Sir Robert Sherley was the envoy from Shah Abbas to the courts of Europe and his wife, Teresa, was the daughter of Ismael Khan, who was a

Circassian Christian nobleman at the Shah's court. Sir Robert travelled to Persia where he became a favoured guest of Shah Abbas and worked to help the Persian Army, trying to impose discipline and teaching them to use Artillery. He was later sent to help James I and became envoy to him. He gathered support with him for a crusade against the Turks. He later travelled to Germany and was created Count Palatine by the Emperor Rudolf II in Prague.

Sherley served as the Shah's envoy until 1628 when, following a breakdown in their relationship, he was informed that the Shah no longer needed his services. He died shortly after this and his widow Teresa was stripped of her possessions and accused of apostasy, having converted in her youth from Islam to Christianity. She was arrested but then exonerated. She left Iran for Rome.

You will enjoy seeing the two full length portraits as they are both very decorative. He is wearing a full length knee coat of Persian material and she is wearing an embroidered dress of brocaded Italian silk decorated with pink flowers. Interestingly, you will see a jewelled pistol in her right hand! This could represent her intervention to save her husband from an assassination attempt by the Portuguese during their travels in the East. They are fascinating and will cause much discussion by all who see them.

I hope you all have a wonderful 2019 and I look forward to seeing you all at the Castle.

Charles Berkeley



The orangery, in the grounds of Frampton Court, destination of our 2019 visit.

From our Chairman

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Berkeley Buttriss.

Your Committee has been organising another exciting year of events, which are listed in the centre-fold of this edition. We look forward to meeting you in the coming year. Another new and exciting departure for us is the planned trip to America, to celebrate the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival, the 400th anniversary of the settlers from the Berkeley area celebrating the first official Thanksgiving in America. [See back page: Ed.] A remark by Professor Mark Horton at one of our talks started the ball rolling and we are indebted to Althea Hamlyn who has organised this event.

The auditors decided that the Friends group should have its own bank account, which has been set up, so could I request that if you pay your membership by standing order, please alter your payment to the new account: members have been written to about this matter.

This will be my last editorial as your Chairman: six years in the Chair is, I believe, quite long enough. Sue and I joined as founder members and I joined the Committee in 2009. Sue and I will still be attending as many of our events as time permits. I would like to pay tribute to the hard-working committee which has supported me and the Friends since its inception.

Thank you and I look forward to catching up at one of our events.

Paul Walkden



Our out-going Chairman, Paul Walkden.

Thomas Hayward of Berkeley: a forgotten champion

by David Smith, former Castle Archivist

In John Trevisa's translation of Higden's Polychronicon he adds to the author's list of modern wonders:
...Thomas Hayward of Berkeley hath in the mold of his head, poll and forehead but one bone all whole therefore he may well suffer great strokes above on his head and push against men and horse heads, and break strong doors with his head and it grieves him not.

The Polychronicon was a universal history and geography of the known world compiled by Ranulph Higden in the mid 14th century. John Trevisa was vicar of Berkeley from 1379 to 1402 and chaplain to Thomas IV Lord Berkeley, who commissioned him to translate from Latin into English several important text books so that those not fluent in Latin could read



David Smith and Stuart Prior at the Castle last October (photo: Valerie Moores).

them. Trevisa's translation was completed in 1387. In it he occasionally added comments of his own as in this example.

This description of Hayward reminds me of the Miller in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*:

*'He was short shouldered, broad, a thick knarre [sturdy fellow]
There was no door that he nolde heave off harre [lift off its hinges]
Or break it at a running with his head'*

I used to think that this last line was a flight of fancy but in Thomas Hayward we have a real man who could do this. Chaucer's poem was written between 1387 and 1392. Is this just coincidence, or could he have read Higden's book in translation? Is it possible that John Trevisa of Berkeley, now barely remembered, accidentally contributed this little piece of local knowledge to one of the greatest poems in the English language?

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 12th September 2019

by Jane Handoll

Tracy Borman will be familiar to many of you from her books and from her appearances on television – most recently with Danny Dyer in his search for his Right Royal Family which brought him to Berkeley Castle. Tracy is joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces as well as being an authority on the Tudors and author of several books on this period. But it's not the Tudors she's going to talk to the Friends about; it's about the subject of her very first book, Henrietta Howard. She was a King's Mistress and the Queen's Servant – and she is buried in the Berkeley family mausoleum next door to the castle! How come? After leaving court, she married George Berkeley, the youngest son of Charles, 2nd Earl of Berkeley.

We are delighted and privileged that Tracy has agreed to talk to and, no doubt, entertain, the Friends later this year. Don't miss this excellent speaker! Put the date in your diary now!



Tracy Borman

Frampton Country Fair

by Diana Merrett

The weather was kind in September (unlike the previous year) and once again FobC had a display stand to welcome members and visitors. We enjoyed a steady stream of visitors. Linda Lewis doing a grand job of encouraging adults and children to try on the helmet and setting the longbow. One gentleman even managed to put on the heavy chain mail hauberk and knew exactly how to get it off, which others have found difficult. We were not certain whether the Tudor headdress complemented the chain mail but with the child-sized wooden sword it added to everyone's amusement, with many photos being taken. The gazebo was safely packed away before the rain made an appearance and a good day was had by all.

Eleanor Garratt-Taylor added:

We had various items on sale and the new FobC Christmas cards were a particular hit. We were in a good position, adjacent to stands that promoted the PDSA and which sold up-cycled items from Stroud; there was a varied selection opposite our stand too.

The Show went very well and had a great atmosphere, buzzing with crowds. At the Arena the hounds were particularly popular, along with the "tent pegging". Do join us next year; it's a cracking day out!



Frampton Country Fair, 2018 (photo: Adam Waller).

Bristol Cathedral & Berkeley Castle

Notes on Jon Cannon's talk to the Friends

Jon Cannon, Keeper of the Fabric of Bristol Cathedral, gave a fascinating talk about the strong links between the Cathedral and Berkeley Castle. Both were built by the same man, Charles Berkeley's ancestor, Robert Fitzharding. He founded the Abbey of St. Augustine 'for the good of [his] soul' in 1140, three years before he was granted Berkeley Castle. Henry II added to the endowments of the abbey in 1154 and Berkeley church was later added to the abbey's endowments. Robert became an Augustinian canon at the abbey he had founded and was buried before the high altar in 1170. Many members of the Berkeley family were also buried in 'their' abbey, the last being William, Marquess of Berkeley, in 1492.

The east end of the abbey church was rebuilt between 1298-1332 and is the largest hall church in the U.K. Of the 57 intact coats of arms in the east end, in glass or stone, 35 are the arms of the Berkeley family. Almost every tomb in the east end is of an abbot or a Berkeley. Many Berkeley tombs feature a 'starburst arch', a variant of the Berkeley Arch seen at the Castle.

By the late C15, the family's support for the abbey had waned and Abbot Newland (1481-1515) may have compiled the Newland Roll document to encourage the family to rekindle its links. It worked and the Prior's Lodging, cloisters, upper part of the gatehouse, dormitory and refectory were rebuilt; a new nave was also begun. A statue of the founder was placed on the new section of the gatehouse and can still be seen there today.

The links were broken when the abbey was dissolved by order of Henry VIII and elevated to the status of Cathedral of the new See of Bristol in 1542. They were re-established when the late Mr Berkeley was asked to become patron of the Cathedral's group of friends, known, in honour of its founder, as The Fitzharding Society. Their magazine is called 'The Buttress'.



A statue of Robert Fitzharding on the abbey gatehouse of Bristol Cathedral. He holds a model of the abbey (photo: Jon Cannon).

FoBC Events During 2019

Prices for non-members in brackets.

Tuesday 30 April: 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle:
Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Karen Davidson, the **Castle Archivist**, about Charles Berkeley's great-great aunt, Miss Ellen Willmott (owner and designer of gardens in England, France and Italy, sponsor of plant-hunting expeditions and keen photographer), and Berkeley Castle. Gates open at 6.45pm. Cash Bar from 7.00pm. Tickets (only required for the talk) £9 (£12).

Thursday 6 June: 2.15pm in the Castle Visitors' Car Park for a 2.30pm start:
A visit to the University of Bristol Archaeological Dig in the paddock, plus tea & biscuits and an exhibition of archaeological finds in the Castle. Tickets £4 (£6), including tea & biscuits. Please wear practical footwear.

Thursday 4 July: 2.00pm for a 2.15pm start at Frampton Court:
Members' visit to Frampton Court, by kind permission of Mr Rollo Clifford. Park in Frampton Manor farmyard (which will be signposted) and meet at the Wool Barn for the tour. After the tour, tea and home-made cake will be served in the Cart Shed. Tickets £18, including tea (FoBC members only, maximum 40).

Thursday 12 September: 6.00pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle:
A talk by Tracy Borman about Henrietta Howard (1689-1767), wife of the 9th Earl of Suffolk and, secondly, of the Hon. George Berkeley. (See p. 5.) Gates open at 5.30pm. Cash Bar after the talk. Tickets £8 (£10).

Sunday 22 September: 6.00pm in the grounds of Berkeley Castle:
Friends of Berkeley Castle Summer Party, hosted by Charles Berkeley. Drinks and canapés in the Castle gardens (indoors if wet). Tickets £14 (guests of Friends £16).



Frampton Court, destination of the members-only visit on 4th July.

Autumn & Winter Dates for your Diary

Further details will appear in the Autumn edition of the Butress.

Thursday 17 October: Guided Talk by Arthur Price about the stones of Berkeley Castle. Arthur Price will take us around the Castle, looking at the different types of stone used in its construction, maintenance and repair.

Thursday 28 November: American Thanksgiving Supper. We shall enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal and hear from those who went to Virginia for the 400th anniversary of the first official Thanksgiving celebrations.

Sunday 15 December: Pre-Christmas Party. Festive party food and drink in front of a roaring log fire, with seasonal music, poetry and prose.



Tea Party at Lord Harrington's House. St. James's, by Charles Philipps, c1731.

Henrietta, Countess of Suffolk (the subject of Tracy Borman's talk in September), is in the blue and yellow dress, seated in the left hand group. Her head is inclined slightly towards the man beside the chimneypiece, her future second husband, the **Hon. George Berkeley, MP**. They were happily married from 1735-1746.

(Painting in the Yale Centre for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.)

Worcester College, Oxford

by David Bowd-Exwoth

The 2018 members-only visit to Worcester College, Oxford (kindly hosted by FoBC member and former Fellow and Bursar, Andrew Jardine) provided a fascinating glimpse into life in an Oxford college. Andrew welcomed us and explained the history of the college - founded in 1714 on the site of the mediæval Gloucester Hall (founded in 1283 by St Peter's Abbey, now Gloucester Cathedral) by Sir Thomas Cookes, Bt. of Worcestershire, hence the new name. The College has extensive grounds and has, unusually for an Oxford college, accommodation for every student on site.

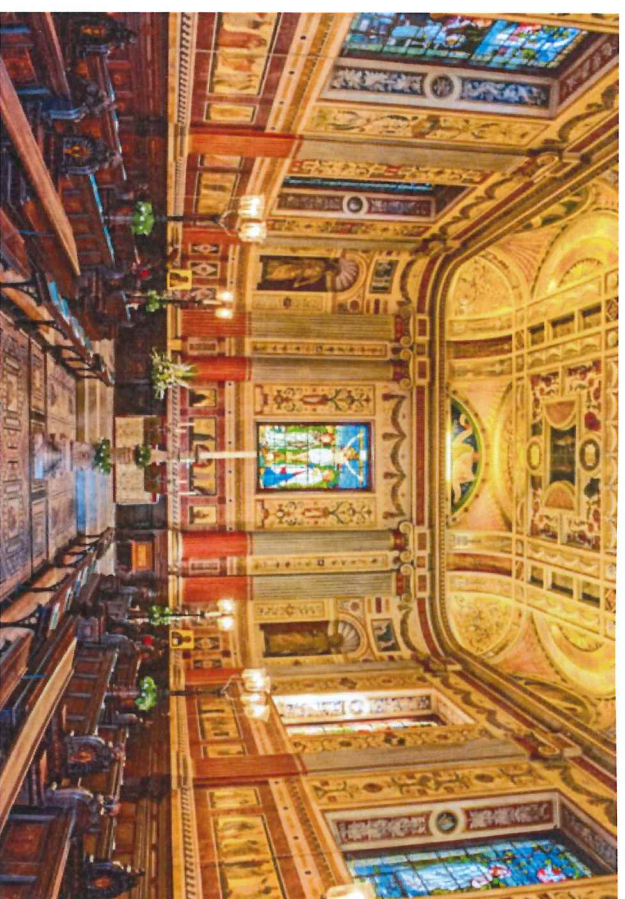
The mediæval block on the southern side of the quad is an example of how the system of staircases grew up in Oxford: each 'cottage' was paid for by a different religious foundation; Peishore Abbey, Malmesbury Abbey, Winchcombe Abbey, etc., for their own monks and students. Each building was a self-contained unit, with individual rooms opening off a staircase.

Members then divided into two groups, one led by Andrew and the other by the Head Gardener, Simon Bagnall. Simon took our group around the magnificent gardens for which he is responsible. He explained how his planting schemes have to take into account the low-lying ground, the recent warm summers and the micro-climates within different sections of the gardens. Huge fronds of banana plants tower over some borders, while others offer a more intimate planting plan. In the area to the north of the older buildings, formal box balls mix with prairie planting to good effect. A link with the Berkeley family is that Ellen Willmott (Charles' great-great-aunt) is believed to have helped design a border at Worcester College.

Andrew showed us around the Chapel and Hall of the College, both very different rooms despite being of similar size. Both were designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, with internal decoration by James Wyatt, architect to George III. However, in 1864 the Chapel was redecorated in a far more opulent style by William Burges (you can see his work at Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch). The chapel is filled with life and colour, from the lavishly painted ceiling (retaining, but adding to, Wyatt's work) and the richly stained glass, through to the wall panels, carved animals on the stalls and the inlaid opus vermiculatum and opus sectile floors. In his biography of Burges, J. Mordaunt Crook writes, "Burges had turned Wyatt's Georgian box into a treasure chest." A complete contrast was the coolly elegant Hall, where Wyatt's decorative scheme has been restored. Further highlights were the wonderful first floor library and the modern Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre - and the excellent College tea and cakes!

More photos have been posted to the FoBC Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/>

Acknowledgements: Simon Bagnall; Andrew Jardine; Worcester College website; 'William Burges and the High Victorian Dream'; J. Mordaunt Crook.



The Chapel of Worcester College, as redecorated by William Burges in 1864.



The Head Gardener of Worcester College, Simon Bagnall, talking to FoBC members about the lush planting in the border behind the mediæval 'cottages'.

Admiral Sir George Berkeley, GCB

by David Bowd-Exworth

Admiral Sir George Cranfield Berkeley (1753–1818) is depicted in three paintings on display in the Castle's public rooms: on the landing beside the door to the Morning Room he is shown in one painting as a young Midshipman and in the neighbouring family portrait he is shown as a naval officer, but the best known picture of him is the swashbuckling portrait over the Great Hall chimneypiece. Familiar as he is, there is much more to the man than the oft-repeated story of the Anglo-American incident of the USS Chesapeake.

This naval officer and politician was born on 10th August 1753, the second son and youngest surviving child of the eight born to Augustus, fourth Earl of Berkeley (1716–1755), and Elizabeth (1720–1792), daughter of Henry Drax, MP for Charborough, Dorset, Lady of the Bedchamber to the Princess of Wales. George was educated privately and then at Eton from 1761 to 1766. He joined the royal yacht Mary, under his cousin Rear-Admiral Augustus Keppel, which took Princess Caroline Matilda to Denmark for her marriage to King Christian VII. George served as her page.

Between 1767–69, George participated in a survey of Newfoundland, becoming proficient in seamanship, surveying and numerous other skills.

Following the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, George served on HMS Victory, in which he commanded a gundeck at the First Battle of Ushant. He gained his first independent command the same year, when he took over the 8-gun HMS Pluto and in 1782 was given the captured ship of the line HMS Pegasus. Whilst aboard her George was approached by a young William Cobbet, who wanted to volunteer for the navy. George dissuaded Cobbet, who later credited Berkeley with saving him from the "most toilsome and perilous profession in the world".

In April 1783, George Berkeley finally gained a seat in parliament. He would remain in the County of Gloucestershire's MP for the next 27 years and took the position seriously, becoming an important independent MP. The following year George married Emilia Charlotte Lennox, daughter of Lord George Lennox. His sister commented that they were "a pattern of domestic happiness scarcely to be equalled". The couple had three daughters and two sons and remained a close family, George bringing his family with him on long voyages and overseas postings. (In 1807, his daughter, Louisa, married Captain Thomas Masterman Hardy, of Battle of Trafalgar fame.) In 1786 he commanded HMS Magnificent and remained with her until 1789 when he became Surveyor-General of the Ordnance.

Returning to sea when the French became a threat, in the Battle of the Glorious First of June, 1794, George's ship, HMS Marlborough, was unmasted in close combat with several French ships and he was badly wounded in the head and thigh, having to retire below after a period to staunch the

bleeding. He was amongst those selected to receive the gold medal struck to commemorate the action, only awarded to those felt to have played a significant part in the victory.

In December 1804, on being appointed inspector of sea fencibles by Henry Dundas, Lord Melville, he began an exhaustive, fourteen-month survey of Britain's coastal fortifications ahead of Napoleon's anticipated invasion attempt. George became a vice-admiral on 9 November 1805, and, in April 1806, took up his new appointment to the North American command. It was under his direct orders that the incident between HMS Leopard and USS Chesapeake took place (see end-note).

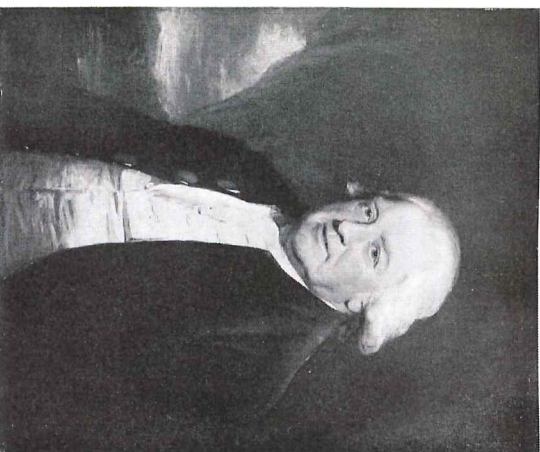
Having embarrassed the British government with this action, George was recalled home. However, public opinion supported his orders, so he was moved to command in Lisbon in the hope that he could organise the chaotic supply system for Wellington's army in the Peninsula War. George recognised that only a dedicated and organised convoy system could keep the supply of men, food and material regular and consequently set one up. Simultaneously, he re-equipped and galvanised the remnants of the Spanish Navy, rescuing several ships from capture by the French as well as using frigates to supply partisan units all along the coast of Portugal and Northern Spain. By 1810, Wellington could truthfully say of George that, "His activity is unbounded, the whole range of the business of the country in which he is stationed, civil, military, political, commercial, even ecclesiastical I believe, as well as naval, are objects of his attention". George was promoted to full admiral and made Lord High Admiral of the Portuguese Navy by the Portuguese Regent in Brazil. By 1810 he had used sailors to man Spain's coastal defences, freeing up soldiers for Wellington, and had also formed a squadron of river gunboats to harry French units. George's final sea voyage was to return to Britain aboard HMS Buffeur. George retired in 1812, again laid low by ill health. He and Wellington remained good friends for the rest of their lives, and Wellington later stated that George was the best naval commander with whom he had ever cooperated. Later rewards included being made a Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1813 which was converted to a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in 1815.



George Cranfield Berkeley, wearing the gold medal awarded to him for his significant role in the Battle of the Glorious First of June, 1794.

George and Emilia retired to his house at 14 South Audley Street, London, where his gout continued to plague him with severe pain for the rest of his life. He spent some time during this period conversing with lifelong friend Edward Jenner, whose vaccine for smallpox Berkeley had persuaded the government to investigate, particularly relating to the health of the navy. George was eventually confined to bed as a result of chronic gout, and he died 201 years ago, on 25th February 1818, aged 64.

Acknowledgement: the National Dictionary of Biography.



George Cranfield Berkeley
by Sir William Beechey.

***The Chesapeake–Leopard Affair** was a naval engagement that occurred off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia, on 22nd June 1807, between the British warship HMS Leopard and the American frigate USS Chesapeake. The crew of Leopard pursued, attacked, and boarded the American frigate, looking for deserters from the Royal Navy. Chesapeake was caught unprepared and after a short battle involving broadsides received from Leopard, the commander of Chesapeake, James Barron, surrendered his vessel to the British. The Chesapeake had fired only one shot. Four crew members were removed from the American vessel and were tried for desertion, one of whom was subsequently hanged. Chesapeake was allowed to return home, where James Barron was court martialled and suspended from his command. The Chesapeake–Leopard Affair created an uproar among Americans. President Thomas Jefferson initially attempted to use this widespread bellicosity to diplomatically threaten the British government into settling the matter. The United States Congress backed away from armed conflict when British envoys showed no contrition for the Chesapeake affair and actually delivered proclamations reaffirming impressment. Jefferson's political failure to coerce Great Britain led him toward economic warfare and the Embargo of 1807.

More Autumn 2018 Events

by David Bowd-Exworth

If was, as always, a pleasure to hear **Dr Stuart Prior**, of the University of Bristol, speak about the archaeological dig in Nelmes' Paddock beside the Castle drive. The project in the paddock has been running since 2005, during which archaeologists have uncovered the site of St Michael's Lane, which formerly ran from the High Street to the western entrance to the churchyard. Students have excavated the foundations of mediaeval houses and workshops, and their associated artefacts, and part-skeletons. 2019 will be the final year of excavations at this interesting historic site.

In November, **Philip Taubenheim**, of Wotton Auction Rooms, gave the Friends an interesting and entertaining talk about his work as an auctioneer and valuer, such as the occasion when he had to get a safe-breaker to drill into the safe of a house he was clearing because no-one could find the key; the only item in the safe was the spare key! Philip went on to talk about, and value, some of the items members had brought along for him to look at, and he explained why some items, such as dining room furniture, are now out of fashion. The internet has had a huge impact on salerooms, with many buyers putting in an online bid instead of attending in person. One of Philip's tips was that, if you want to sell Granny's tea service, the most likely buyers will live in South Korea.



Philip Taubenheim at the Antiques Afternoon (photo: Valerie Moores).

Your FINAL CHANCE to join the FOBC Trip to Virginia in November 2019

Highlights include visits to Berkeley Plantation, Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestown, the Yorktown battlefield and its American Revolution Museum.

We shall fly from Heathrow on 1st November and stay seven nights in Williamsburg, returning to Heathrow on 9th November.

The overall cost is likely to be between £1,400 and £1,700, with optional transport between Berkeley and Heathrow, depending whether you share accommodation or pay a single-room supplement.

Do join our group, currently about 30, on this exciting and historic trip. Contact Althea Hamlyn: lahamlyn@googlemail.com or 01453 811723.

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 many home-made items in the Yurt restaurant (excluding bought-in items).

You must show your membership card at the time of purchase.

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 Butress and photos and a précis of previous events.

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group, where you can add your own comments, ask questions, or post photographs.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/>

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FOBC Officers for 2018-2019

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