



# BERKELEY BUTTRESS

AUTUMN 2019

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

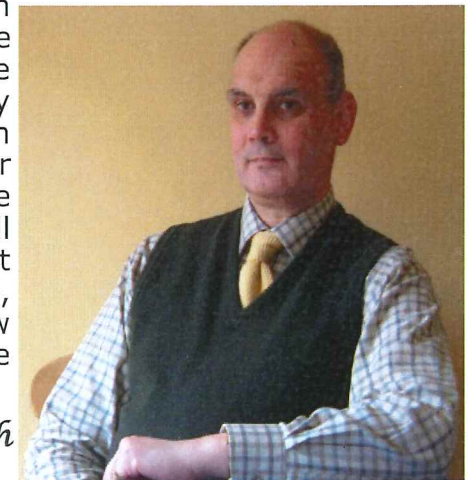
## From the Chairman

For those who don't know me, I have worked at the Castle, in various roles, for over fifteen years, latterly as the Shop Manager. I can be found on most days in the Castle shop, checking your membership cards.

I begin my Chairmanship at an exciting time for the Friends of Berkeley Castle. In September, we have a talk by renowned historian Tracy Borman, who, although an authority on the Tudor period, will be telling us something of the life and loves of the lady known to history as Henrietta Howard, a countess, royal mistress and, at last, the happy wife of George Berkeley. I am grateful to our Secretary, Jane Handoll, for making the arrangements.

At the beginning of November FoBC will be undertaking its first foreign visit - to Virginia, to commemorate the first official American Thanksgiving in December 1619 an idea planted by Prof. Mark Horton. Committee member Althea Hamlyn has put together an interesting itinerary. Those who are unable to go on the trip will have the opportunity to hear about it at our own FoBC Thanksgiving Supper on 28th November, the same date that Americans will commemorate that very first Thanksgiving 400 years ago, held by settlers in the New World from Berkeley and the nearby towns and villages.

*David Bowd-Exworth*



## **2019 A.G.M. and Talk by the Chairman**

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 30th April, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman, David Bowd-Exworth; Deputy, Diana Merrett;  
Treasurer, Mary Frost.  
(Jane Handoll continues as the Secretary until 2020).

The following were elected to the FoBC Committee:  
Eleanor Garratt-Taylor, Althea Hamlyn, Linda Lewis, and  
Valerie Moores.

FoBC President, Charles Berkeley, thanked Paul Walkden for his six-years service as Chairman and at the end of the meeting Charles presented Paul with a print of the Castle as a thank-you from his fellow Committee members.

The AGM was followed by an interesting talk by the Berkeley & Spetchley Estates Archivist, Karen Davidson.

### **Karen Davidson's Talk**

The Archivist gave a fascinating talk, this time about the photographs taken and developed by Charles Berkeley's great-great-aunt, Miss Ellen Willmott. Karen showed us a wide variety of pictures, taken from the end of the C19 to the early C20. Many were of the Castle and gardens in the days of Lord Fitzhardinge and of Lord Berkeley, and we could see the changes wrought by the last Earl. Looking at her photos opposite, it is possible to see the two whale bones which were a feature of the C19 Castle and also the ugly chimney cowls put on top of the Tudor chimney stacks to stop the wind blowing smoke back down the huge flues.

There were also photographs of France and Italy, including one of a family sitting on the Calais quayside, a location still similar today. Miss Willmott was an early pioneer of photography, from a young age. She photographed what interested her, and it certainly interested us!



*Photos of Berkeley Castle, taken by Miss Ellen Willmott*



## **Richard Gibson, the Sleeping Dwarf** *by Linda Lewis*

The Castle has some new additions since opening in April.

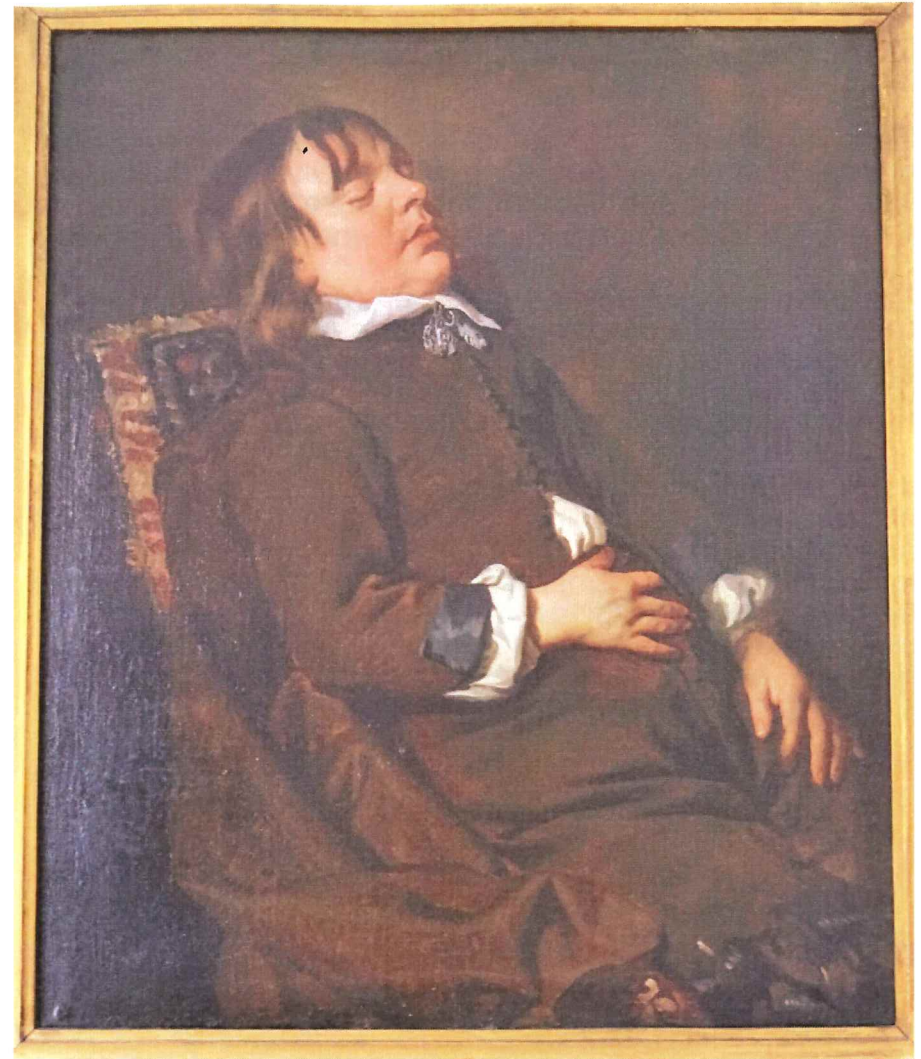
One is a painting by Sir Peter Lely, (1618-1680). He established himself in Britain as a portrait artist and was recognised by the Restoration Court: Charles II appointed him as the King's Principal Painter.

The portrait, on the Grand Staircase Landing, is of the dwarf Richard Gibson, himself a painter of miniatures. Lely and Gibson were friends, and it is thought that, after a dinner together, Richard Gibson fell asleep and Lely sketched and then painted the portrait. Richard Gibson was originally a page at the house of a 'Lady at Mortlack' ( Mortlake, a town on the Thames). He was apprenticed at James I's tapestry factory at Mortlake to Francis Cleyn (1582-1658) director of design at the Mortlake Tapestry Works. As you have probably seen, we have two Mortlake Tapestries in the middle Larder room, the only two English Tapestries in the Castle.

Richard Gibson married Anne Shepherd, also a dwarf: she was known as the 'Queen's dwarf', a maid and companion to Queen Henrietta Maria. They were both said to be 3'10" tall. Their wedding was held at court, and the bride was given away by King Charles I. They had 9 children all of normal size, of whom three became successful painters. Gibson was appointed the King's Limner, after which he was appointed drawing-master to the two daughters of James, Duke of York. His colours were typically soft and muted. He was described as one of the most eminent modern limners (a painter, especially portraits and miniatures).

Drake's Bedroom off the Kings Gallery, is now open to walk into, you can see three C16/17 paintings brought from the private apartments: Robert Sherley, his wife Teresia, and Lucy Harrington, a friend of Elisabeth Berkeley.

Do use your membership cards to come and see them.



**Portrait of Richard Gibson**  
*by Sir Peter Lely*

*This portrait of Richard Gibson, by his friend and fellow painter, Sir Peter Lely, is colloquially known as 'The Sleeping Dwarf'.*

*It can be seen at the top of the Grand Staircase.*

*See the article opposite, by Linda Lewis.*

*(Photo: Josh Nash.)*

## **Dig Visit** *by Eleanor Garratt-Taylor*

Mark Horton welcomed us once again to that hole in the ground that I am beginning to understand, that place where it seems the Romans might have had a fort in the C1 AD, a find that came towards the end of this year's dig.

This year a bone die was brought up (possibly Tudor); the vertebra of a porpoise (high class Anglo Saxon food); a D-shaped buckle, the gilding still shining brightly. The unusual finds found in the last 48 hours of the dig meant a re-think about filling it all in.

You'll remember that last year Mark told us this was to be his last with Bristol University. He moves to the Royal Agricultural University's new Department of Archaeology in Swindon and it seems that Mark is hoping to continue at Berkeley, despite Bristol University's decision not to continue overseeing the dig. Next year, Stuart Prior will be at Lower Hazel, a site of the Anarchy period. He would welcome us there if we'd like to visit.

Stuart was on site throughout the Bristol dig and changed appointments to be with us during the Friends' visit to the dig site, his determination rewarding him with a steady recovery from his frightening health collapse.

They described to us the sense of continuity at Berkeley over a 2,000-year story of British History. A layer of clay had preserved artefacts and archaeology approximately one metre deep in a horizontal line. The older end is the top end of the site, where Roman artefacts have been found and are to be carbon dated. Anglo Saxon coins have been found. We know that there was a high class Anglo Saxon monastery on the site.

In 2019 a new ditch, very deep with the entrance to the North in the paddock was found with the same alignment as the Church. We know the Church is on the site of the Anglo Saxon Minster. A second Church on the site of the tower with Anglo Saxon buildings was previously found.

## **Dig Visit, continued** *by Eleanor Garratt-Taylor*

Towards the High Street, medieval buildings have been found and to the east of High Street a sump or well was found, probably C13, and there would have been springs and drainage. There was also a C13 rubbish tip in the South West corner.

*Continued on page 10 ...*



Professor Mark Horton and students at the University of Bristol dig.  
*(Photo: Adam Waller.)*

## Autumn & Winter Events

### Talk by Tracy Borman

**Thursday 12th September: 6pm in the Great Hall.**

(see opposite page for details)

**Tickets: £8 (non-members £10)**

### Summer Party

**Sunday 22 September: 6pm-8pm in the Great Hall.**

Our annual drinks & canapes Summer Party has been delayed a little this year due to Charles' commitments as High Sheriff, but it promises to be as enjoyable as ever.

**Tickets: £14 (guests £16)**

### The Stones of Berkeley Castle

**Thursday 17 October: 3pm in the Outer Bailey.**

Arthur Price will show us the different types and sources of stone used in the Castle's construction, maintenance and repair. Followed by Afternoon Tea in the Castle.

**Tickets: £12 (non-members £15)**

### American Thanksgiving Supper

**Thursday 28 November: 7pm for 7.30pm; Great Hall.**

Enjoy a traditional American Thanksgiving meal and hear from those who went on the FoBC trip to Virginia.

#### **Main Course:**

*sage buttered roasted turkey, with stuffing  
(vegetarian nut roast as alternative)  
cornbread sauce, cranberry & orange sauce  
mashed potato, green bean casserole  
roasted carrots, gravy*

#### **Dessert:**

*duo of pumpkin mousse parfait, with caramelised nuts, and apple pie with salted caramel ice cream*

**Tickets: £30 (non-members £34)**

### Pre-Christmas Party

**Sunday 15 December: 7pm-9pm in the Great Hall.**

Festive food, drink and music with a huge Christmas Tree and a roaring log fire. Berkeley Castle at Christmas.

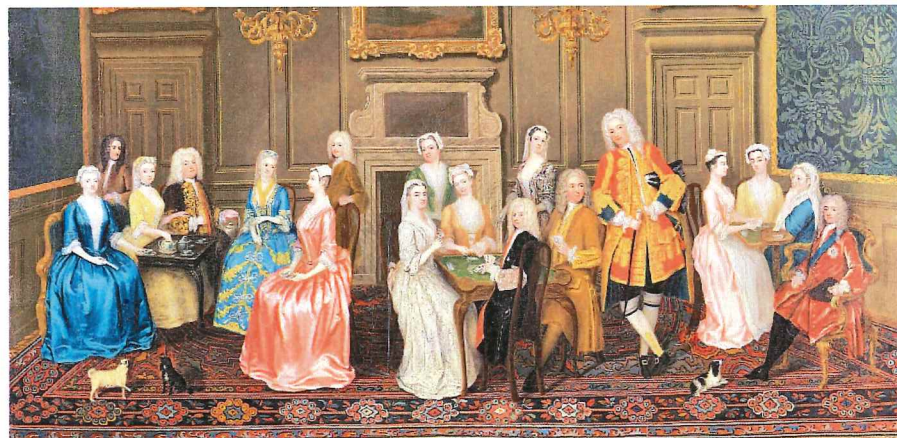
**Tickets: £10 (non-members £12)**

## Tracy Borman on Henrietta Howard Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 an authority on the Tudors and author of several books.

She is going to talk to the Friends about the subject of her first book, Henrietta Howard. She was a King's Mistress and the Queen's Servant – and is buried in the Berkeley family mausoleum next to the Castle. After leaving court she married George Berkeley, the youngest son of Charles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Berkeley.

We are delighted that Tracy has agreed to talk to the Friends. Tickets will sell fast: order yours now!



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

*Henrietta, Countess of Suffolk is in the blue and yellow dress, seated in the left hand group. Her head is inclined towards the man beside the chimneypiece, the Hon. George Berkeley. They were happily married from 1735-1746.*

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

## **Dig Visit, continued** *by Eleanor Garratt-Taylor*

On the last day, a V-shaped ditch approximately four metres deep, running North-South, was found, possibly surrounding a Roman period Fort. A military garrison? The Roman Port and Fort idea is speculation at this stage and research will continue. A source from across the River Severn supplied iron for the Roman Army. Berkeley was once a site of smelting and slag deposits can be found near Wickwar.

It had been proposed that the site should be filled in, as Bristol University isn't going to return, but Mark suggested keeping it open for his future students and so we might be able to visit the paddock site for some time to come, exploring the history of Berkeley.



One of the students surveying the site at the University of Bristol dig.  
*(Photo: Adam Waller.)*

## **Frampton Visit** *by Althea Hamlyn*

On a warm and sunny afternoon, 50 of us assembled at the Manor Farm and were conducted over to Frampton Court by Janie Clifford. After a group photograph on the imposing steps, we divided into 4 groups to view various parts of the house, gardens and museum.

We were told that the Clifford family was given lands in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire when they came over with William the Conqueror and derived their name from building a castle on a cliff beside a ford, which the Hereford line of the family inherited.

Outside, it was explained that the current house was built in 1731-33 by Richard Clutterbuck, after he demolished a C17 house belonging to his maternal grandmother, damaged in the Civil War. Richard Clutterbuck, a bachelor, used the house as a glorified hunting lodge, but on his death it reverted to the family of John Clifford, his great



Frampton Court: the entrance front.  
*(Photo: Editor.)*

uncle, whose daughter married Nathaniel Winchcombe of Stratford Park in Stroud. They lived there and changed their surname to Clifford.

The middle block is faced with Bath stone, the wings made of brick faced with stucco. In the Italian style, living rooms were on the first floor, kitchen on the ground floor with servant quarters in the left wing. Each wing sports an enormous chimney structure, in the left-hand of which was hung a bell. Since the family was not particularly wealthy, the house was never substantially changed and remains an excellent example of Georgian architecture.

Walking through the shady garden, we had a view of the Strawberry Hill Gothic Orangery, beyond the Orangery Pond. This was built in 1750 as a garden house. It contains a stone spiral staircase and had a collection of



Frampton Court: FoBC members with Janie Clifford.  
(Photo: Editor.)

plants in the lower rooms which were destroyed by fire in 1860. In the late 1940s, it was converted to a dwelling and is now a holiday house available for rent, sleeping 8.

In another part of the garden, we saw the late C18 Dovecote, which has 600 nesting boxes, high up to keep rats away from the squabs. The cupola was rebuilt using Frampton oak.

The 30 acres of parkland contain several lakes, a result of extensive gravel workings. Hilda Clifford had a light railway constructed to take the gravel from Frampton to Gloucester in the early C20 [*fencing from the line can still be seen beside the A38 Ed.*].

Inside, the house is furnished with genuine mid C18, largely Chippendale-style, furniture, except for a Queen Anne sofa and set of chairs which perhaps came from the C17 house.

We admired the pine-clad Hall with its large oak table and fire seat, made for the Manor in 1947 for Major Clifford, designed by Robert ('Mouseman') Thompson and moved to the Court in the 1960s. At the bottom of the stairs is a moveable dog-gate; when Queen Mary visited and coveted it, Henriette Clifford was pleased to say that not only was it original, but it was also screwed to the wall! In contrast to the family china in the dining room, there was an early C18 pewter dining service displayed on the walls.

We saw the Dining Room, with oak panelling (given a dark stain by the Victorians), and C18 family tableware (designed in London, made in China - with a two-year wait for completion of the order) on a large dining table. There were beautiful Bristol-made tiles in the fireplace and an unusual Spode asparagus serving set. Family portraits included those of Henry Francis Clifford (killed in Palestine in 1913), his wife Hilda and daughter Henriette, born posthumously. When she married Peter Haggie and gave birth to three sons, David, Rollo and Robin, the family name was changed once again by deed poll back to Clifford. There was also a portrait of Rosamund, daughter

of Walter Clifford, mistress of Henry II, reputedly poisoned by Queen Eleanor.

In the Drawing Room, there was a magnificent wooden fireplace and over mantle, carved in Bristol, beautiful tiles again, and a display of early Worcestershire porcelain. Our attention was drawn to an ingenious games table which included an ivory chess set, beloved by Arthur Negus when he was entertained by Henriette.

Upstairs in the main block, there are five bedrooms, which are now let for Bed and Breakfast guests. What were once dressing rooms are now fitted out as modern bathrooms. One of these had wainscoting above the bath which came from the C17 house. In the bedrooms, there was (Georgian) white painted panelling, original pelmets and fireplace tiles; an original Hepplewhite four-poster bed with dimity embroidered hangings occupied one bedroom, where there was also a large C18 Belgian tapestry, which was replaced, while it was away being cleaned, with one by Grayson Perry. Displayed on the bed were examples of C18 embroidered waistcoats. Along the walls were coloured drawings of plants done between 1840 and 1860 by the six unmarried daughters of Henry and Elizabeth Clifford, some of which are included in the book "Frampton Flora" which latterly was a favourite of Richard Mabey. One of the daughters drew all the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century houses of Frampton, naming the inhabitants.

Finally, in the Basement of the main house, we saw an extensive family tree, dated 1673, which showed links with the Berkeley family: in 1154, Letice Berkeley married Richard Clifford; and in 1330, Isabel de Berkeley married Robert Clifford; when he died in 1345, his three sons were cared for by Isabel's brother, Thomas Berkeley. There were also displays of local history and events from the C12 until nearly present day.

After this most interesting and extensive tour of Frampton Court, we went back to Manor Farm barn for a welcome cup of tea and delicious cakes. Many thanks to all involved in the organisation of this enjoyable visit.



Frampton Court: a group photograph of FoBC members, with our hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Rollo Clifford.  
(Photo: Paul Walkden.)



Photo: Philip Wells



## A Puzzle

Did anyone spot this lead rainwater hopper, dated 1733, at Frampton Court?

Do you know where there is a similar one at Berkeley Castle?

*Answer: beside the door to the Estate Office.*

## Benefits of FoBC Membership

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.

## 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 Buttress and photos and a précis of previous events.

**[www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html](http://www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html)**

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group.

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

### **Friends of Berkeley Castle**

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

### **FoBC Officers for 2019-2020**

Chairman: David Bowd-Exworth Deputy: Diana Merrett  
Treasurer: Mary Frost Secretary: Jane Handoll