

# BERKELEY BUTTRESS

FEBRUARY 2013

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our visitor season ended with visitor numbers having increased by 1% above 2011. This is pleasing, considering that there has been much going on in the country, including the Jubilee, and poor weather, and that people are watching their pennies. We are looking forward to the 2013 season.

The Friends have restored three Tapestries in the Morning Room. They are early Brussels Tapestries depicting the story of Isaac and Rebecca and were woven by the Pannemakers after cartoons by Raphael. The hanging mechanisms were redone and they have had linen patches stitched to the back.

The Gondola lamps will be

returned to the Great Hall by Easter, having been rewired and had their heads strengthened. They will continue to be a major feature when we have events at the Castle.

The family and Trustees are very grateful for all that the Friends have contributed to over these last 6 months. This has allowed many objects in the Castle to have been restored and given great pleasure to the visitors at the Castle. I look forward to seeing you all as we build up to a new visitor season at the Castle, and a full programme of Friends events throughout the year.

*Charles Berkeley*



*Madresfield Court, location of the FoBC Summer Outing*

# NEW CASTLE GUIDE BOOK

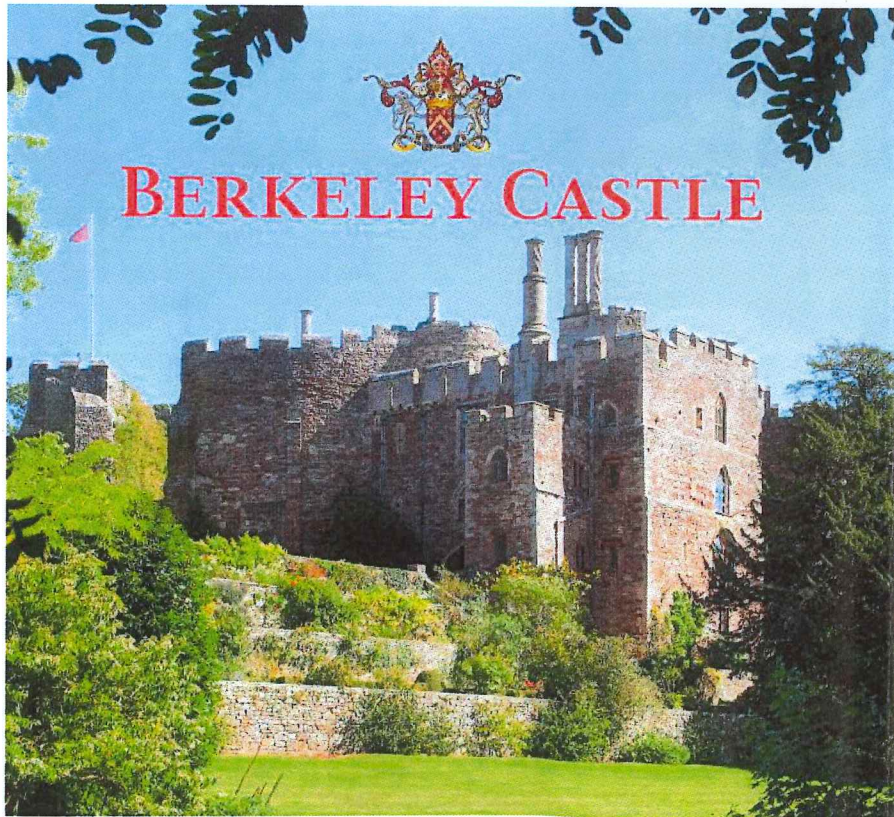
by the Editor

After twenty years, albeit with a few corrections and amendments, the existing Guide Book was felt to be out of date and not quite what current visitors to the Castle are looking for. Also, new research and knowledge has brought some of the information in the old Guide Book into question. Castle Archivist, David Smith, has been an unfailing source of new information and has

shown the compilers what needed to be changed and updated.

The Guide Book has a dual role: it is both a visitor's guide when walking round the Castle, and a souvenir of their visit to Berkeley.

With that in mind, David Smith has written a new introductory historical section, explaining the important place Berkeley Castle and the Berkeley family have



The front cover of the new Guide Book

played in English and British history for almost 850 years.

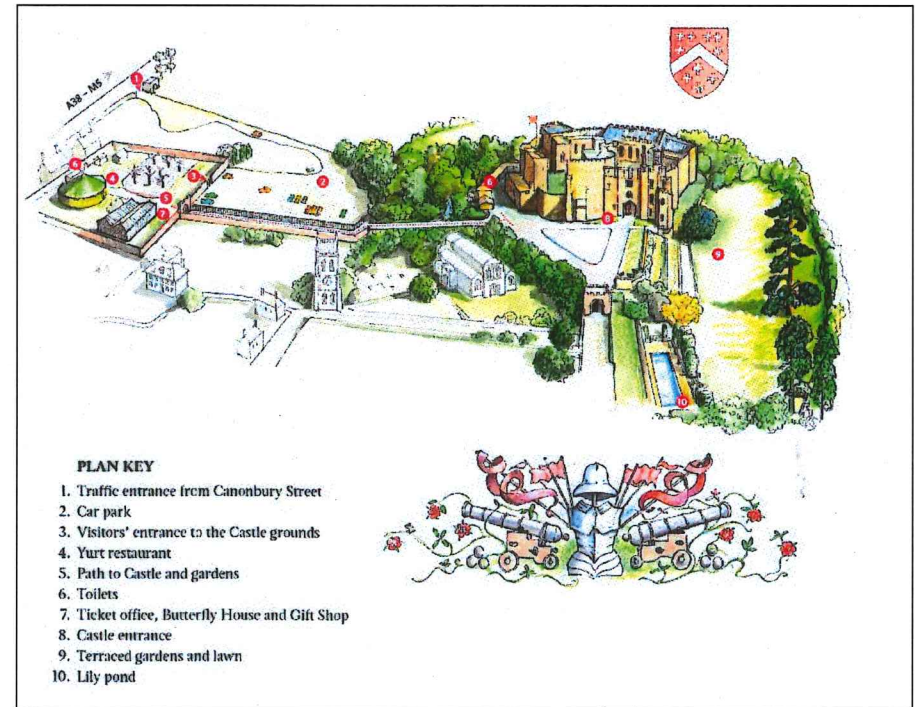
The chosen publishers, Scala, also publish high-quality guides to Gloucester Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Cardiff Castle, and Leeds Castle, and have produced excellent proofs of the new Berkeley Castle Guide Book. The book is currently on its way to the printer.

New photographs were taken for the Guide Book by Wiltshire photographer Andrew Desmond. His skill has brought the Castle and gardens alive in a new and vibrant way, with photographs taken from new angles, with a particularly striking view over the gardens from the roof of the Inner Gatehouse.

Another innovation is Michael Mogg's delightful hand drawn birds-eye view of the Castle, giving reference points within the Castle grounds, as well as showing neighbouring places of interest, St Mary's parish church and the Edward Jenner Museum.

The 2012 photograph of the Berkeley family shows all of the present family, including the youngest generation, comprising Violet, Wilfred and Mary.

The guide book will be on sale in the Castle Gift Shop this summer. Friends of Berkeley Castle who would like a copy can obtain a 10% discount when they show a current membership ticket.



Birds-eye view of the Castle, drawn by Michael Mogg

# THE PRINCE'S VISIT to BERKELEY CASTLE

a report from the Gloucester correspondent of  
*The Morning Post, London; Wednesday, 7th October, 1807*

Original spelling & punctuation retained

## GLOUCESTER, OCT. 5.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Sussex, set off on Friday from Whitley Court, the seat of Lord Foley, on their intended visit to the Right Hon. The Earl and Countess of Berkeley, at Berkeley Castle, in this county. The hour of the Royal Brothers reaching this place being uncertain, the Gloucester Cavalry and Volunteer Infantry were under arms during the whole day; but their Royal Highnesses not being apprised of this circumstance, and having visited Lord Beauchamp at Madresfield, on their journey, did not reach this city till half past eight o'clock, which naturally prevented the compliment intended by the military, on their arrival here.

They only changed horses at the King's Head, and proceeded without alighting from their carriages, for Berkeley, where their Royal Highnesses arrived about half past ten, when the joyful tidings were immediately announced by a Royal Salute of twenty one guns from the Berkeley Artillery. The Royal Visitors were received and welcomed at this hospitable mansion by Lord and Lady Berkeley and their amiable family, with that cordiality and urbanity by which they are so eminently distinguished; and the Royal Standard has ever since

been flying upon the battlements of this ancient castle.

On Saturday last, deputations from the Corporations of Gloucester and Bristol (who had been previously invited by Lord Berkeley to dine with the Royal Party on that day) waited upon the Prince of Wales at Berkeley Castle, for the purpose of congratulating His Royal Highness on his arrival in this county, and requesting the honour of a visit to their respective cities. The Deputation from this city, consisting of Richard Naylor, Esq. Mayor, the Sheriffs, Town Clerk and several other Members of the Body Corporate, were joined at Berkeley, by their Noble Recorder, his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, and their worthy High Steward, the Earl of Berkeley. About four o'clock they were introduced into the Audience Chamber, when the Recorder addressed the Prince. [Unfortunately, the Prince's reply, where he refers to being "... under the roof of this castle, so famed for its family and antiquity ..." is not completely legible. Ed.]

The Deputation from Bristol, consisting of the Senior Alderman (in the absence of the Mayor) the Sheriffs, Town Clerk and other members, were then admitted to an audience, when R. Worrall, Esq. the Town Clerk addressed the Prince, "begging him to accept

their sincere and unfeigned congratulations on the recovery of His Royal Highness's health, and that, with his usual condescension, he would visit that ancient city.

The Prince graciously accepted the invitation and appointed Tuesday (to-morrow) for the purpose of visiting Bristol, and afterwards dining with the Corporation of that city.

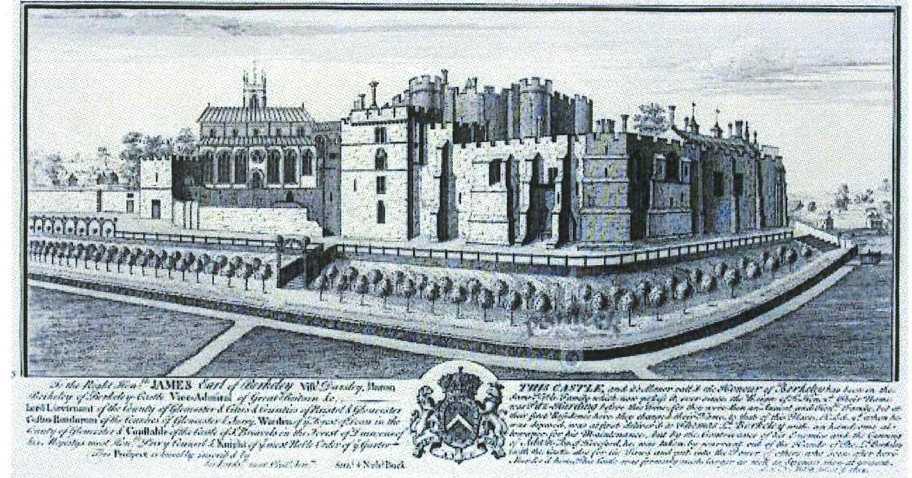
After the Deputations returned, they were introduced to the Countess of Berkeley, and the company in the drawing room, comprising, in addition to the Royal Party, a number of the neighbouring Gentry; and soon after five o'clock, the doors of the drawing room were thrown open, and the whole party sat down to a most sumptuous entertainment, set out with the highest degree of

taste and elegance.

In the music, a select band, under the direction of Mr. Mutlow, Organist to our Cathedral, assisted by Mr. Magrath, and other vocal performers from Bath, gave some admirable glees, &c. in the evening, with which the Princes were much pleased.

The company were highly gratified with the unaffected condescension, and truly fascinating manners and address of the Prince of Wales; and every eye beamed with joy, on observing the improved appearance of his Royal Highness's health. Nothing could exceed the polite attention of Earl Berkeley to his guests; and his amiable Countess, by her affability and unwearied solicitude, anticipated even the wishes of her numerous visitors.

THE SOUTH EAST VIEW OF BERKELEY CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

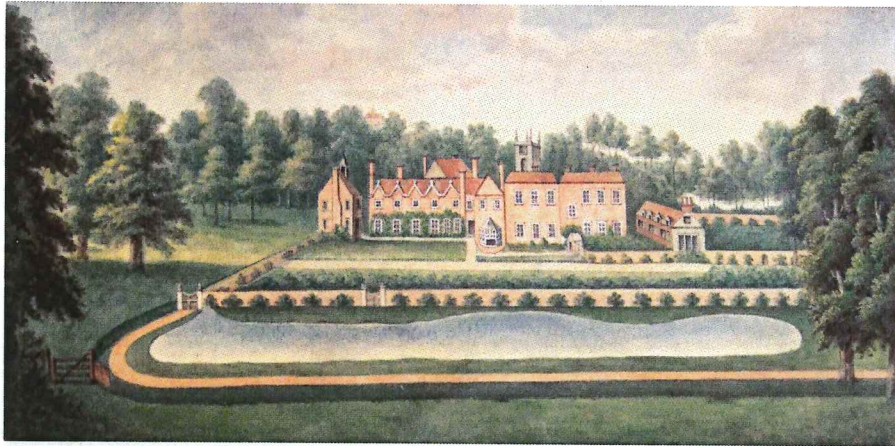


Engraving of Berkeley Castle by Samuel & Nathaniel Buck, circa 1800.  
 Some garden features can still be seen: the steps to the Lower Lawn and the Yew hedge (now solid, not arched) by the modern Lily Pond.

## THE BERKELEY'S OF SPETCHLEY

Last November the Castle Archivist, David Smith, gave another of his fascinating talks to the Friends. His theme was 'The Berkeley's of Spetchley'. He outlined the rise of Mr Berkeley's family, from Thomas Berkeley (1439-48) a son of James, Lord Berkeley, through Rowland (who purchased the Spetchley

estate) and Sir Robert (a famous Caroline lawyer). He went on to explain how the family became Roman Catholic again, why they lived in the converted stables from the Civil War to the 1830's and brought the family up to date with Mr Berkeley's grandmother, Rose, and her sister, Miss Ellen Willmott.



The ancient & modern mansions at Spetchley Park  
(details from the Berkeley pedigree)

The highlight of the afternoon was the opportunity to see the unique Spetchley Berkeley's family Pedigree document unrolled in its entirety (also a first for David Smith). The 20'-long document traces the family from before the Norman invasion to the nineteenth century.

Lavishly gilded and illustrated and showing numerous coats of arms, it ends with a cartouche, showing numerous 'quarterings', the shields of families which the Berkeley's of Spetchley Park married.

We are most grateful to Mr John Berkeley for allowing the display.



Mr John Berkeley, Mr David Smith (Castle Archivist) & FoBC members examining the spectacular Berkeley Pedigree document

## FoBC Events During 2013

*Prices for non-members in brackets.*

### **Tuesday 7 May:**

**7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle**

**FoBC AGM and Talk by Stuart Prior: Archaeological Project Update.**

This is your opportunity to hear what the Committee have undertaken on your behalf during the past twelve months and have planned for the future.

Following the very interesting talk by Philippa Moxon after last year's AGM, the Committee have decided to hold Stuart Prior's ever-popular talk on the same day. Immediately after the AGM, Dr Prior will provide an illustrated update on Bristol University's ongoing excavations in Berkeley.

Cash bar available from 7.00pm. Gates open at 6.45pm. **£9 (£12).**

### **Tuesday 28 May:**

**1.45pm for 2.00pm in the Castle Car Park**

**Tour of the 2013 Bristol University Archaeological Department excavations in Berkeley with Dr Stuart Prior.**

Meet by the Picnic Area in the Castle visitors' car park at 1.45pm.

Please wear appropriate footwear. **£3 (£6).**

The Castle's Yurt Restaurant will be open to FoBC members and to the public for refreshments on that day, until 5.00pm.

### **Thursday 20 June:**

**10.45am at Madresfield Court, Worcestershire**

**FoBC Members-only private visit to Madresfield Court.**

FoBC President, Charles Berkeley, has kindly arranged with the Lygon family for FoBC members to enjoy a private tour of Madresfield Court.

No refreshments. Limited numbers.

**£12 FoBC members only.**

Following the tour of the house, members might then wish to lunch at The Swan Inn at Newland, or the restaurants at Spetchley Park Gardens or at the Malvern Theatre.

Members will be responsible for their own travel arrangements. (The Postal Code for Madresfield Court is WR13 5AH). It will be helpful to know of any members willing to car-share.

*For more information about Madresfield Court, see the article on page 10.*

## FoBC Events During 2013

*Prices for non-members in brackets.*

### **Sunday 18 August:**

**6.00pm on the Gun Terrace.**

**FoBC Summer Party hosted by Charles & Daisy Berkeley.**

Come and enjoy Pimms and canapés, with a rare opportunity to wander round the gardens when the Castle is closed to the public. Members may purchase additional tickets for the Party as a means of introducing potential new Friends.

Gates open at 5.45pm.

**£12 (£15), including drinks and nibbles.**

### **Wednesday 16 October:**

**7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle.**

**Quiz Night and Supper.**

Make up, or join, a team of four at this sociable event. Everyone is welcome: you don't have to be an Egghead or a Mastermind to take part! Interval supper is included.

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

**£9 (£12), including supper.**

### **Sunday 17 November:**

**3.00pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle**

**Talk by David Smith, Berkeley Castle Archivist**

David Smith will introduce members to Frederick Augustus Berkeley, 5th Earl of Berkeley (1745-1810), his wife, Mary Cole, and his legacy.

Documents on display from 3.00pm: the talk will begin at 3.30pm.

Afternoon tea will be served afterwards in the Long Drawing Room.

Gates open at 2.55pm.

**£10 (£13), including tea.**

### **December (date to be finalised):**

**in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle**

**Christmas Carol Concert.**

Details will be included in the Autumn edition of the Berkeley Buttress.

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### **BOOKING TICKETS FOR FoBC EVENTS**

A booking form is enclosed with this issue of the Berkeley Buttress, please indicate your choices and enclose the appropriate payment. Tickets for the private tour of Madresfield Court will be issued in date order. If your request for ticket(s) is not successful, you will receive a refund.

# MADRESFIELD COURT

*Location of the Members-only private summer tour  
on Thursday 20th June (see page 8 for details)*

Madresfield Court, a moated house at the foot of the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, is the ancestral home of the Lygon family and seat of the Earls Beauchamp from 1815 until the death of the last Earl in 1979.

A distinguished collection of fine furniture, art and porcelain are housed within the 136 rooms at Madresfield, which was named one of the best 50 houses in Britain by Sir Simon Jenkins in his book on 1,000 historic houses.

Much of the house dates from re-modellings in the 16th and 19th centuries, but the heart of the house is still the 12th century Great Hall. The Arts & Crafts decorated chapel is one of the greatest glories of Madresfield. It was designed by Philip Hardwicke and sumptuously decorated by a team of west midlands craftsmen.

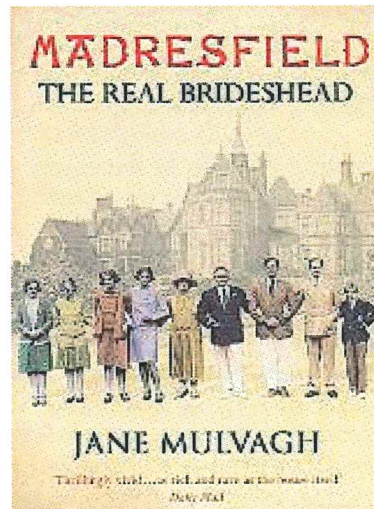
Evelyn Waugh was a friend of the family and a frequent guest in the time of the 7th Earl. According to the diaries of Chips Channon, Waugh based the Flyte family in 'Brideshead Revisited' on the Lygons. His imaginary house (particularly the Chapel) was partly modelled on Madresfield.

Plans were drawn up in 1938 for Madresfield to become the home of the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret and possibly of the King and Queen as well.

The UK Government would have moved to various locations in Worcestershire if bombing in and

around London, or a high risk of invasion, made a move necessary. The BBC would have moved to Evesham: Government Ministers would have lived at Hindlip Hall and Bevere House, with Cabinet meetings at Malvern College; Parliament would have convened just across the county boundary in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford upon Avon. The Prime Minister, Winston Spencer-Churchill, would have lived at Spetchley Park, then owned by Mr Berkeley's father, and the Royal Family would have lived in the tree-screened seclusion of Madresfield Court.

If you would like to learn more about Madresfield and the Lygon family, there is a fascinating book, 'Madresfield: The Real Brideshead' by Jane Mulvagh and available in hardback, paperback or Kindle.



Madresfield Court from the air



The Arts & Crafts interior of the Chapel at Madresfield Court

## THE HUNSDON JEWELS

*from the Conservation Management Plan*

Diana Scarisbrick, the great authority on historic jewellery, has reminded us, "of all the arts jewellery is the most ephemeral and fragile. Stones drop out, enamel cracks and precious stones that are part of its fascination attract thieves." Because of their rarity very often the best evidence for jewellery of the Tudor and Jacobean courts is in portraiture rather the jewels themselves. So the survival of the Hunsdon jewels in the Berkeley Castle collection is unique and the same writer has demonstrated their importance: "Of all the Tudor royal jewels which have survived, the Hunsdon heirlooms are the most remarkable."

This small but quite exceptional collection of heirlooms comprises a bracelet, a cameo, a girdle prayer book and a ship pendant. They are prime examples of the custom of gift-giving at Court and they demonstrate that the monarch also gave to her courtiers as well as receiving their presents to her.

The rock crystal bangle is mounted in gold and set with



clusters of cabochon rubies and sapphires; it was made in the court workshops of the Emperor Akbar, in Agra or Delhi, and is "the earliest surviving piece of Mughal court jewellery in the world."

The ship pendant is made of gold, enamel, ebony, diamonds and pearls; the ship has green and white sails, five cannon and is said to represent the Golden Hind in which Sir Francis Drake sailed round the world between 1577-79. On the deck Cupid crowns Victory, who is blowing a trumpet.



The cameo, set as an enamelled gold pendant, is Italian sardonyx and shows Perseus rescuing Andromeda. Its workmanship has been described as "a tour-de-force [which] matches the best engraving of the great cameo-cutters of ancient Greece and Rome."



There is also a girdle prayer-book with the prayers of Edward VI inside, one cover bears a roundel of translucent green and red enamel and on the other is a shell cameo bust of a young warrior.

"The Protestant king is said to have recited these prayers on 6th July 1553 "two hours before his death ... thinking that no one could hear him. This memento of her brother's piety on his deathbed was reputedly worn by Elizabeth at the beginning of Mary's reign to signal the princess'



love of her brother and sympathy with his religion."

What makes the Hunsdon jewels even more remarkable is the fact that documentation exists to prove the Berkeley connection and to demonstrate that contemporaries were as impressed as we are by their rarity and quality. When he died in 1603 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Hunsdon bequeathed them to his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Berkeley, describing them thus:

"... my greate Aggate wherein is embossed the portraiture of Perseus and Andromede ... my Jewel with two fare and great Amafistes oriental and my Jewll of the great diamonde of the golde Myne or otherwise called a Topas oriental sett aboute with diamonds ... I esteeme them right Jewells and Monuments worthe to be kepte for their beautie and rareness and that for money they are not to be matched nor the like yet knowne to be founde in this Realme w[hi]ch maketh them rightlie Jewells of estimate[i]on."

Their aesthetic and historic importance is shown by the fact that the Hunsdon jewels are now on loan to the Victoria & Albert Museum, where a case is devoted to them in the British Galleries.

Wills and inventories of the 16th and 17th centuries show that the Berkeley family and their kinsfolk owned a remarkable collection of jewellery. When Lady Hunsdon died in 1627 she bequeathed her daughter "my best pearle chaine containing one thousand great pearles worth one thousand poundes and above."

## FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE COMPLETED PROJECTS

**For our new members, here is the complete list of projects which have been funded by FoBC.**

The Tapestries in the Morning Room have undergone a major programme of conservation.

The two Venetian Lamps in the Great Hall and the two Florentine lamps in the Long Drawing Room have been repaired.

Replica Chain-mail and a stand in the Screens Passage was made.

Long Case Clocks in the Billiard Room and Long Drawing Room were repaired and are maintained.

The Oak Monks' Bench in the Buttery has been repaired.

Dining Chairs in the Billiard Room have been restored, re-covered or re-caned.

Carvings of Berkeley Hunt Horses and Hounds in the Billiard Room (Dining Room) have been restored.

A number of paintings have been restored and/or cleaned:  
Sir William Berkeley (Billiard Room);  
Charles Berkeley (Great Hall);  
Rev. Thomas Fuller (Morning Room);  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Earl in Oxford (Billiard Room)

The paintings in the Great Hall have been re-hung and secured.

Two Victorian Day Beds in the Long Drawing Room & a Window Seat in the Small Drawing Room have been re-upholstered.

Conservation work has been undertaken on the 1640's Bible in the Morning Room and it now rests on a special cushion acquired for the purpose.

The Plume Fountain in the Lily Pond was purchased and installed.

Plants & seeds have been purchased for the Walled Garden.

Tropical plants have been purchased for the Butterfly House.

## BERKELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**President Mr J. Berkeley**

The Berkeley Local History Society was formed some 30 years ago. At meetings the invited speakers talk about the history of the area. The topics are varied and, as an example, we have had talks about the River Severn, including putcher fishing along the Berkeley shore, lave net fishing off the Lydney shore, the Aust ferries, river pilots and imports to Sharpness.

Society members have carried out research projects, the churchyard monumental inscription survey of 1986 is a useful source for family historians and a small group are just finishing a transcription of the Berkeley Borough manorial rents 1747-1964. The History Society also organises tours around the town for visiting groups.

Meetings are held in the library on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.45pm. Membership costs £3 per year. Meeting fee: £2 and non-members £3. Everyone is welcome to join or just come along to a meeting.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, 7th May 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Berkeley Castle will be held in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th May 2013. All paid-up members of the Friends are entitled to attend and to vote at this meeting, which is an opportunity to hear about the work of FoBC during the past year and to view the finances.

It is also the meeting at which the FoBC Committee and Officers are elected.

Current members are as follows:

### **Officers:**

**Chairman**, David Bowd-Exworth  
**Deputy Chairman**, Paul Walkden  
**Treasurer**, Kalpna Shah  
**Secretary**, Jane Handoll

### **Committee members:**

Eleanor Garratt-Taylor,  
Diana Merrett, Valerie Moores,  
Alison Thompson & Val Watts

Committee members consider and plan FoBC events, talks and visits throughout the year. There are many new projects in the Castle and gardens which could benefit from FoBC support and finance; the Committee discuss these and agree which will be supported. Further opportunities to support and to promote the Castle and FoBC arise from time to time.

There are places on the Committee to be filled at this AGM. Terms are for three years and the Committee usually meets on the first Monday of each month.

The office of Chairman will also fall vacant at the end of the AGM. Officers serve for two years.

Nomination papers for members of the Committee and for the post of Chairman are available from the Castle office (contact details on back page).

## MEMBERSHIP & TICKET APPLICATIONS

Please return your membership and ticket application forms, with the appropriate payment, to the Berkeley Castle Estate Office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The Annual General Meeting is open to all paid-up FoBC members, but tickets are required if you wish to stay for Stuart Prior's talk afterwards.

Tickets for the private visit to Madresfield Court are limited and will be issued in strict date order. Unsuccessful applicants will be refunded.



## CASTLE 2013 OPENING DATES

There are important changes to the days that the Castle is open to Friends of Berkeley Castle and members of the public.

**Easter Weekend: Friday, 29th March-Monday, 1st April**

**April: every Sunday (and Easter Monday)**

**1st May-30th September: Sundays-Wednesdays**

**October: every Sunday**

**The Castle is open from 11.00am-5.00pm**

*(last admission, one hour before closing)*

The Castle is available for weddings & civil partnerships, receptions and other private events on Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

## THE FINAL WORD

I would like to thank all members of the Friends of Berkeley Castle for your support and assistance during my two-year term of office as Chairman, particularly my fellow Committee members. Having been a founder member of the Friends, it will be very strange to be stepping back. However, you have a dedicated Committee and I know you will continue to support them as they continue to work for the benefit of the Castle.

*David Bowd-Exworth*



### Friends of Berkeley Castle

c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BQ

T: 01453 - 810 303 E: friends@berkeley-castle.com

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

### FoBC Officers for 2012-2013

Chairman - David Bowd-Exworth

Deputy Chairman - Paul Walkden

Treasurer - Kalpna Shah

Secretary - Jane Handoll