



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

FEBRUARY 2015

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

From Our President



First may I thank all Friends for their contribution towards repair and restoration during 2014; the family and Trustees value this hugely. We had many good evenings last year and we look forward to another full programme of events for 2015. One of the highlights should be the visit to Chavenage House in July. I hope to see many of you in the spring when we welcome visitors to the castle again, and we also have a busy year ahead for the Friends.

One of my favourite places to visit is Virginia in the States. Governor William Berkeley governed the colony for over three decades and was one of the most important men in Virginia. He arrived in 1642 and left a mark on Virginia through diversifying the economy and his involvement in signing Land Patents, an important role for Sir William during his tenure. One of the other important roles the Governor had involved granting commissions of administration. In England, legacies were governed by the canons of the Church of England. When a person died intestate, a bishop appointed someone to take control of the estate to clear accounts and dispose the remainder to the rightful heirs. As there were no bishops, nor church courts in Virginia, these administrations fell to the Governor. Later on in 1676 Bacon's rebellion escalated from a disagreement over Indian policy to an uprising of planters and servants which made Governor Berkeley flee Jamestown for several months. There were stringent taxes that came about through him restricting Indian trade to a handful of licensed colonists, and building a series of Forts.

As a result Sir William was removed from office and sent back to England. It was decided that Governors would in future promote more of the Crown's

interests, and this caused years of unrest between the British government and the Virginia General Assembly.

The other connection we have with the States is George Berkeley, a philosopher who became Bishop of Cloyne. He was a fascinating man who had many theories and one of them was that solid objects did not exist and were only in the mind of those who perceived them! Not everyone was in agreement with his philosophy but this was a time when people were debating some of life's important subjects and issues and these thoughts needed to be expressed to provoke discussion. He spent some time in the States and went to Newport, Rhode Island in order to continue his studies as well as set up a Plantation house.

He later on established a scholarship program at Yale in the States and donated a large number of books to them. The University of California was named after him and the town of Berkley (note the spelling) in Massachusetts was founded and named after him, and Berkeley library at Trinity College, Dublin was also named after him.

I have spent a lot of time over the years wandering around the rooms in the Castle and looking at the many pictures on view. I imagine the times these ancestors lived in and would learn about the connections to the family and how some of these pictures came to the family. I would try and learn about some of the great artists who painted some of our great portraits and landscapes, trying to develop an understanding of why these pictures were so special to Berkeley. One of my favourites is of Admiral Sir George Cranfield Berkeley, painted by Thomas Gainsborough. He was the 4th Earl's son and is shown as a young officer in the mid 1780s. It is a wonderful portrait and shows him with his naval sword held in the air. He seems a very confident man in this pose and in the background you can see his vessel being tossed around in the stormy seas. He had served under his cousin Admiral Keppel and Lord Vincent for a time and he must have led quite a life on the ocean in the time of Admiral Lord Nelson and other great commanders of our seas. He married his distant cousin Lady Emma Lennox from Goodwood House around the time this portrait was painted.

Charles Berkeley

From the Chairman



Welcome to the latest edition of the Berkeley Buttress and I hope you find the contents of interest. Thank you to all contributors for the time taken to write articles and all those involved with its preparation, organisation and distribution.

Our programme of events for the forthcoming year is now organised and a complete listing is the centre spread of your newsletter. The booking form enclosed covers the first half of the year, as a number of members had requested that we split the events into two parts, so another booking form will appear in your Autumn Buttress for the events taking place later in the year. I hope you agree that we have an exciting line up this year.

The enclosed photograph was taken at the Berkeley Show last year on the Berkeley Castle Stand; what an awful day weather wise and a tragedy for the show committee and society, with catastrophic financial implications. Their committee is currently fundraising to 'Save Our Show'. Another fundraising project is the Berkeley Church Bell Tower which is in urgent need of major repair work to re-hang the bells. Some of our members have spoken of the importance of these projects and a number of members are involved with these two important local projects; we wholeheartedly support these two initiatives and wish them all success.

Thank you to you all for your continued support.

Paul Walkden

paul_walkden@hotmail.com

'Strange Sale of Antiquities'

Sir,

The article 'Strange Sale of Antiquities' submitted by an unidentified contributor to the August 2014 Berkeley Buttress posed questions about the original publication. Whilst continuing my research into the Castle's 1804 William Gray Chamber Organ I came across the same(?) un-edited article which had been copied to the Cheltenham Chronicle and Parish Register, dated 1 December, 1857. At the end are the words 'Bristol Times'. So, the original is in the Bristol Times sometime just before 1st December 1857.

The piano that was sold was, presumably, the piano-forte (square piano?) once in the music room, and by then would have been very unfashionable. It fetched 2s 3d and no doubt the description that it may once have been 'touched by fairy fingers' assisted in its sale! It had been described briefly in 1836 by the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley, M.P. in his three volume work on Berkeley Castle: '... having re-entered the vestibule, two staircases are before us: the one descending, leads into the library; the other ascending, which we follow, conducts to the music room. This apartment is cheerful in its appearance, and well arranged; a fine organ between the windows, which have the same aspect as the breakfast parlour; a piano-forte at the other end ...' The Chamber Organ which by 1857 was also unfashionable, managed to escape the sale. An 1858 entry in Sir Maurice Berkeley's accounts records that payments were made for piano hire, this presumably necessitated by the use of the Great Hall for charitable concerts.

One on the evening of Monday 29 January 1869 raised funds for Dursley Choral Union. An audience of 250 – 300 were entertained by a choir of forty trained under Mr W D Rootham, conductor of the Bristol Madrigal Society. The press report listed the choir members and programme which included items accompanied by Harmonium, Violoncello and Piano (played by Mr [later Sir] C. Hubert H Parry, composer and music historian). Another concert on 19th January 1882 was in aid of the Berkeley Cottage Hospital. The performers included several distinguished amateurs amongst the ranks of the aristocracy in addition to well known composers and nobilities in the musical world. Interestingly, special railway arrangements with reduced fares were made to facilitate the attendance of visitors from distant places. The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post detailed report gave the names of various guests, visitors and the programme. Mr C. Harford Lloyd (Organist of Gloucester Cathedral) conducted Part Songs, Songs, Duets etc., which included a trio for violin, harmonium and piano-forte, arranged by Saint Saens, from Wagner's 'Lohengrin'. Help was kindly given by Messrs. Dale, Forty and Co. of

Cheltenham, who also lent a fine-toned iron grand piano-forte by Bechstein. On 13 February 1889 a concert with a difference also raised funds for Berkeley Hospital. There were two vocalists and the instruments were given as violin, piano-forte, Hungarian cymbal and xylophone together with Herr Carl Schulz, zither and philomile (Herr Schulz billed as zitherist to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales).

There is much to learn from newspapers of the time!

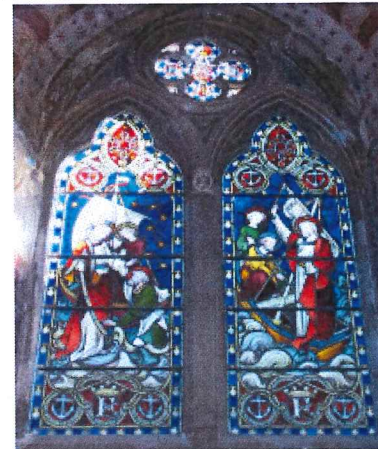
Philip J Wells
Berkeley, Gloucestershire.
24 August 2014

* * * * *

St Mary's Church & the Berkeley Family By Peter Yardley - Sunday 7th September 2014

This was the first joint event held for the FoBC and members of St Mary's Church. It took place in the church so we were well situated to observe the various Berkeley family memorials both during and immediately after Peter's fascinating illustrated presentation.

Peter gave each of us a copy of the entire Berkeley family tree, plus a more detailed version – described as “much pruned and very selective” - focussing on the Berkeleys and some of their family connections from the early 18th century onwards. These were invaluable in placing the many individuals and their respective monuments in the church, “in context”.



Starting with the early origins of the church, Peter explained that the Norman doorway and font were probably placed in their current positions around 1340, at the same time that significant building work was being carried out at the Castle. Dissolution took place at the time of Edward VI in the 16th century.

Moving on to specific features of the church and their linkages to the Berkeley family, Peter advised that it is likely that all 3 chantry chapels in the church were founded by the family.

Continued on page 12

Dr. Edward Jenner - 1749-1823

We all know of the international fame of Dr. Edward Jenner of Berkeley and his amazing work on inoculations and smallpox, which ultimately led to the eradication of this terrible disease.

But besides this work and his medical practice he was a great naturalist.



Jenner had an abiding interest in natural history and in 1770 became the pupil of John Hunter who wrote and published much on natural history; he encouraged and cajoled Jenner into helping him with specimens because Hunter had a problem obtaining them in London. It was on Hunter's recommendation that Jenner was chosen to catalogue the botanical specimens brought back from Captain Cook's first voyage to the Pacific in 1771. It is reported that he made such an impression he was offered the post of ship's naturalist on Cook's following expedition. Whether this was the case or not, he certainly did not take up the offer. Jenner had decided to return to Berkeley and take up his position as a country doctor.

In the late 1770's the hedgehog came under Jenner's close scrutiny, his work here centred on the animals' digestion during hibernation.

Hunter gave Jenner a jackal crossed with a dog, which Jenner thought was a handsome animal, but lacked the understanding of common dogs and is easily lost! That would be an interesting find in Berkeley!

In particular his work on the cuckoo brought recognition; here his scientific study brought to science the amazing fact that the cuckoo lays its eggs in other bird's nests. This has to happen at exactly the right time, so that the cuckoo hatches first and then sets about removing the host's own eggs or young in an amazing adaptation. The young cuckoo has a special shape to its back;

he also noted how the young cradles the offending eggs or young to eject them from the nest. This he first recorded on the 18th June 1787. Initially Jenner was ridiculed on his paper outlining this amazing feat. In fact it wasn't until Eric Hoskings, the great natural history photographer, filmed this sequence that it was finally proven in 1946.* One can only imagine the time and effort Jenner must have put into his research, locating and watching cuckoos in the vale, then watching them, who in turn would be watching other host bird species! He observed; Meadow Pipit, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Hedge Sparrow as host species.

His scientific paper on the cuckoo was published in the 'Transactions of the Royal Society' in 1788 for which Jenner was elected a Fellow on 25th February 1789.

In his latter years Jenner took up his interest in bird migration, working predominantly on swallows as a summer migrant. Up until this time it was believed that birds hibernated at the bottom of ponds! Another myth was that Barnacle Geese turned into Barnacles; hence Monks of the day ate them on Fridays, a fish day!

Jenner marked birds, including Swifts, proving that they returned to the same location for breeding. He commented "migratory birds come here for scarcely any other purpose than to produce an offspring". The winter thrushes; the Fieldfare and Redwing autumn migrants also intrigued him. He suggested that winter migrants arrived for no other reason that it was due to a lack of food. Jenner was a real pioneer of early scientific work on this subject. Jenner's paper on migration was read to the Royal Society on 26th January 1823 some six months following his death.

For those wishing to know more of Dr. Edward Jenner's work on Natural History, 'A Bio-Bibliography of Edward Jenner 1749-1823' by W.R. LeFanu, published by Harvey and Blythe, Ltd in 1951 is of particular interest.

As a member of the Friends you have a free pass to the widely acclaimed Jenner Museum issued with your membership card. The Museum is the old chantry where Jenner lived and worked. It is a must see!

Paul Walkden

Opening Times 2015 for Dr Jenner's House: 3 May to 30 September, 12:00 to 17:00 on Sundays to Wednesdays.
in addition, open every day from 3 - 10 April & 25 - 30 October.

FoBC Events during 2015

(Prices for non-members, adult/child, in brackets)

Order Form for April – September events is included with this edition.

Order form for September- December events will be included with the August edition.

Monday 27th April: Talk by Henry Phythian-Adams, followed by FoBC AGM – 4.30pm in the Great Hall

This event will commence with a talk by Henry Phythian-Adams (MA, English Local History) on the Berkeley family mausoleum in Berkeley Church, followed by a tour of the mausoleum. The earlier-than usual start time for this event is to enable the tour to take place in reasonable light levels. We will return to the Great Hall at approximately 6.30pm.

Nibbles will be provided and a pay bar will be available prior to the AGM which will start at 7pm. The AGM will cover the activities of FoBC during the past 12 months and explain what we have planned for the future. There is no charge for attending the AGM. **The price for the talk & tour is £9 (£12)**

Wednesday 13th May: Talk by Dr Mark Horton on the Bristol University Archaeological Department excavations in Berkeley - 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

This ever-popular event will give us an update on the exciting findings from the 2014 dig and explain the University's plans for the 2015 excavation work. Cash bar available from 7pm. Gates open at 6.45pm. **£9 (£12)**

Wednesday 10th June: Tour of the Berkeley Archaeological Dig sites, led by Dr Stuart Prior - 1.45 for 2pm

This is an exciting opportunity to see the sites of, and findings from, the dig. Prompt arrival please! Meet on the Gun Terrace. **£3 (£6/£2)**

11 June: Talk on the Battle of Waterloo by Julian Humphrys – 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall

To mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo we are privileged to welcome to Berkeley Castle Julian Humphrys, Development Officer for the Battlefields Trust and a regular contributor to BBC History Magazine. Julian will deliver a talk on this decisive battle in European History.

Cash Bar available from 7pm. Gates open at 6.45pm. **£12 (£14/£6)**

Wednesday 8th July: Visit to Chavenage House, Tetbury, GL8 8XP - £25 including lunch

An opportunity for FoBC members to visit this atmospheric Elizabethan Manor House which is of historical significance, particularly regarding its role during the English Civil War. Only two families have owned Chavenage and we will have the privilege of a private tour by a member of the family, Caroline Lowsley-Williams.

Meet in Chavenage Car Park 10.45am, tour commences 11am.

Sunday 9th August: FoBC Summer Party hosted by Charles Berkeley - 6pm

Come and enjoy Pimms and canapés and the peace and quiet of the castle gardens. Members may purchase additional tickets for the party as a means of introducing potential new Friends.

Gates open at 5.45 **£14 (£16/£6) including drinks & canapés.**

Wednesday 23rd September: Quiz Night and Supper - 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

Last year the "revamped" quiz was particularly successful so we will be repeating the format this year. You can make up or join a team of four and you don't need to be a genius to do well! Supper will be provided and a cash bar will be available from 7pm.

Gates open at 6.45pm. **£10 (£12/£6) including supper**

Thursday 22nd October: Talk on the Battle of Agincourt by Neil Eddiford - 7 for 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

Neil Eddiford, an expert on medieval archery and its associated history is to talk to us about the Battle of Agincourt which took place on 25th October 1415 and was a major English victory in the Hundred Years' War.

Cash bar available from 7pm. Gates open at 6.45pm. **£12 (£14/£6)**

Sunday 22nd November: Talk by David Smith, Castle Archivist 3 for 3.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle

This year David's popular annual talk will be about "George, Lord Berkeley, 1613 - 1658". After the talk, afternoon tea will be served in the Long Drawing Room. Gates open at 2.45pm, documents on display in the Great Hall from 3pm. **£12 (£15/£6) including afternoon tea.**

December Information on any Christmas events will be provided in the Autumn Edition of The Butress.

Admiral Sir George Cranfield Berkeley – 1753-1818

Painting in the Great Hall

by Thomas Gainsborough

The Berkeley family has long been associated with the sea and the Royal Navy, as illustrated by the fine collection of paintings in the Picture Gallery at Berkeley Castle. It is no surprise, therefore, that the great portrait by Thomas Gainsborough of Admiral Sir George Cranfield Berkeley hangs in pride of place above the fireplace in the Great Hall.



Thomas Gainsborough (1727–1788) was born in Sudbury in Suffolk and studied art in London, under, amongst others, William Hogarth. By 1759 he was living and working in Bath painting portraits of fashionable society, but landscape painting was his first love. He was one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in 1774 and by this time he was painting a number of royal portraits. Gainsborough felt that he deserved the post of Royal Portrait painter but George III was persuaded to appoint his rival, Sir Joshua Reynolds, instead. Gainsborough is recognised as one of the originators of the C18 British landscape (John Constable greatly admired his work and was influenced by it) and it was this that he concentrated on for the last 10 years of his life.

George Cranfield Berkeley was the younger son of the 4th Earl of Berkeley, Augustus, and his wife Elizabeth Drax, whose portraits hang either side of the fireplace in the Great Hall. As a younger son there was no title or lands to inherit – these went to his older brother, Frederick Augustus, the 5th Earl. However, it was his grandson and great grandson who became the 7th and 8th Earls respectively as the 5th Earl's line did not produce any legitimate male heirs. George joined the Navy, aged just 13, in 1766 (see his portrait as Midshipman on the landing, outside the Morning Room). His first commission was on board the Royal Yacht 'Mary' commanded by a relative Augustus Keppel (his portrait, by Reynolds, hangs on the staircase leading from the

Picture Gallery to the Dining Room). During his illustrious naval career George Berkeley saw action during the American Revolutionary Wars, the battles of Ushant, in the West Indies and Ireland. Whilst in command of the Marlborough (in the Picture Gallery) Berkeley was severely wounded in the Battle of the Glorious 1st of June in 1794; he was awarded the Gold Medal for his conduct. In 1807 his actions, following British naval desertions in North America, almost led to the outbreak of hostilities and contributed to the Anglo-American wars of 1812. He was recalled to Europe and spent the next few years as Commander in Chief off the coast of Portugal, ensuring and protecting supply routes for Wellington during the Peninsular War. He was created a full Admiral in 1810 and Lord High Admiral of the Portuguese navy. Wellington said of George Berkeley that he was 'the best naval commander he had ever co-operated with'.

Alongside his naval career, George Cranfield Berkeley was also an MP representing constituencies in the west of England for 27 years. He married Emily Charlotte Lennox, descended from the 1st Earl of Richmond (and thus King Charles II) in 1784; he was, by all accounts, a devoted family man and it was said that his marriage was 'a pattern of domestic happiness scarcely to be equalled'. Whilst he was not involved in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, his daughter Anne married Captain Thomas Hardy, who was with Nelson on the deck of the Victory. It is just possible that Admiral Sir George Cranfield Berkeley is one of the few men who actually knew exactly what Nelson's dying words were – 'Kiss me Hardy', or possibly 'Kismet' (fate) or even perhaps 'Case me Hardy' – which they did, bringing Nelson's body back to England in a barrel of brandy!

Jane Handoll



Christmas Concert in the Great Hall

Continued from page 5/...

The mausoleum was built c. 1450 for James, 11th Lord Berkeley; many of the earlier Berkeleys were buried in Bristol Cathedral. The Rood Screen dates from the 15th century and incorporates a number of shields showing Berkeley family alliances. The shields themselves were recorded in the 18th century.

Other notable memorials and other features of the church linked to the Berkeley family and pointed out by Peter include:

- The "Sea Window", a memorial to Maurice, 1st Baron Fitzhardinge, a younger brother of William, Earl Fitzhardinge.
- Pulpit – a memorial to Charles, 3rd Baron Fitzhardinge;
- West Window – given by Lady Georgina as a memorial to her husband, the 2nd Baron Fitzhardinge;
- East Window of the south aisle – given by Mrs Madeleine Jenkinson of Eastwood Park, a grateful niece, as a memorial to the 2nd Baron and Lady Georgina;
- The window by the War Memorial, given in memory of Elton Gifford, "Head of House" at the Castle. In a census, he was involved in local affairs as a founder of the "Berkeley Show".

Peter then led a short tour of the church to enable us to view the family memorials more closely; one of the most impressive being the magnificent tomb to Thomas, 8th Baron Berkeley, and his second wife Katherine, Lady Berkeley.

This most enjoyable and informative presentation was well rounded off with a delicious tea served by Chris and Ann Smith, which included a fine selection of cakes provided by the respective Friends' committees.

Small Drawing Room Arachne tapestry split at lower edge before conservation



Myths and Legends of Berkeley Castle a report taken from a talk given on **Sunday 23rd November 2014**

In his erudite and inimitable way, David Smith entertained and enlightened a full house of Friends on Sunday afternoon, in the Great Hall of the Castle. He attempted to dispel some of the many myths and legends that lie embedded in the Castle's long history, but whether he succeeded in getting rid of them for good remains to be seen.

Myths and legends arise over time from a number of sources – out of pure invention, from other stories concerning other places and families, through misinterpretation and misunderstanding, and inevitably through scribal error. David has examined a range of sources including documents, chronicles (the most important of these, for the Berkeleys, is of course John Smyth's 'Lives') and stories surrounding, or invented by, housekeepers since the C18, who were in effect the earliest tourist guides – the size of the 'tip' at the end of the tour was commensurate with the elaboration of the history!

Myths about Berkeley began even before the Castle was built – Smyth cites Robert Fitzhardinge as descended from a Danish royal line, but in fact the family was Saxon; Roger of Berkeley was not 'on the wrong side' in the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda; being related to the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford who supported Matilda and her son Henry, Roger would also have been of this persuasion, but it was feared that he might change sides and was therefore threatened.

Perhaps the most prominent myth, especially with the 800th anniversary coming up next year, surrounds the frequently told story that the Barons of the West met at Berkeley before riding on to Runnymede for the signing of Magna Carta by King John. The greatest pressure on the king was from the northern barons, and although Robert II Lord Berkeley supported their aims, they met at BRACKLEY in Northamptonshire, not Berkeley! A simple scribal error which appears elsewhere too. However, Robert Lord Berkeley was present at the sealing of the great document and the current Mr Berkeley and his sons and grandson are the only males directly descended in the male line from an ancestor who was at Runnymede.

Berkeley's most infamous prisoner has also given rise to many stories, and weeding out fact from fiction is no easy matter. Edward II was kept in honourable captivity, with his own household and certain privileges. It is possible that Edward did escape, but only once and he was quickly recaptured, after which time security was tightened. The command by Roger Mortimer for the prisoner to be 'despatched' may well have been prompted by rumours of another escape attempt. (Interestingly, David made no mention of a Red Hot Poker...).

And what of Dicky Pearce? If his story is not true then who is buried in the churchyard, and who wrote his epitaph? One of the castle's best loved tales may be just legend.

David brought along a number of documents, pertinent to some of these 'myths & legends', for the Friends to see; amongst the exhibits was the beautiful Godwin Cup which is another item in the castle which has given rise to unsupportable legends. The role of Godwin himself, as often quoted, cannot be substantiated – he may well have destroyed the Nunnery but it is unlikely that he ordered his nephew to impregnate the nuns, bringing them into disrepute! And we all know, now, that the Cup never did belong to him, as it has been dated from around 1580/1610, so Tudor rather than Saxon. Another case of the housekeeper dreaming up stories while she polished it?

And as for the enormous Toad....

The guides will continue to tell the story of Berkeley Castle, as it was and is now, but maybe their tours will be just a little bit shorter next season!

After conservation



Extract from Textile Conservation Report carried out by Textile Conservation Ltd., Unit 3, Minto Road Industrial Centre, Ashley Parade, Bristol.

Chair at top of Grand Staircase with canvas-worked seat, highly unstable condition; pack/transport to conservation studio; vacuum; infill areas of loss in embroidery using pieces of plain colour matched fabric and stitching; apply colour matched net overlay; secure unravelling areas of fringe.

Before:



After:



Visit to the Studio

Six of us visited the Studio in Bristol during December, we were made very welcome; Alison Lister Director and Principal Conservator talked us through the history of the studio, the variety of work carried out and the choice between conservation and restoration.

There were several items being worked on including our tapestry of Vertumnus and Pomona from the Small Drawing Room, it had been taken to the studio for full conservation. It had been surface cleaned had the popper tape and lining removed, it was vacuumed and wet cleaned and given a full stitched support and new lining and Velcro. We saw it while it was on the frame being given its full stitched support; it comes back to the Castle on March 31st.

Thank you Alison for a fascinating morning.

Eleanor Taylor

BERKELEY CASTLE OPEN DAYS AND PRICES FOR 2015

1st April to 29th October: Sunday to Wednesday inclusive

Opening Times: 11:00am - 5:00pm

Always closed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Butterfly House is open May – September
Sunday to Wednesday inclusive

Castle, Gardens and Butterfly House Admission Prices:

Adult: £10.00 Junior (age 3 - 16): £5.50

Children under 3 are free

Concession (aged 60+) and full-time Student with valid student card:

£8.50

Family (2 adults and 2 children): £28.00

Tel: 01453 810303

E: info@berkeley-castle.com

W: www.berkeley-castle.com

We regret no dogs, except service dogs, are allowed anywhere on
the premises

Friends of Berkeley Castle

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

T: 01453 810303 E: friends@berkeley-castle.com

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

FoBC Officers for 2014 - 2015

Chairman - Paul Walkden

Deputy Chairman - Diana Merrett

Secretary - Jane Handoll