



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

AUTUMN 2020

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

Dear fellow Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the Buttress. Because of the lingering outbreak of Covid-19 this edition is being sent to you as via e-mail, so that your Committee and volunteers will not have to meet to collate and staple the Buttress prior to posting.

As I explained in my letter of 15th July, all the Autumn events have been cancelled and you should all have been refunded in full for those tickets you had purchased. If you haven't received your re-fund, please contact the FoBC Admin Team c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley GL13 9BQ.

Despite the lack of events (and the lack of the income they generate), FoBC is still funding a number of projects this year. The largest, in size, is the Berkeley Banner found last year. It is being conserved, and repaired where necessary, so that it can be hung from the ceiling of the Great Hall.



The Berkeley Banner in its original state, with moth holes and missing sections.

(All Berkeley Banner photos by © Alison Lister.)



The Berkeley Banner being washed under controlled conditions.



Fine netting being attached to the Berkeley Banner to help preserve the original fabric.

The paintings I told you about in my letter are being cleaned and conserved and should be back in place in about six weeks. Here is one of my own favourites, a Dutch painting of a canal scene in winter.



Painting of A Winter Scene in the Netherlands (before cleaning).

(Photograph taken by NADFAS volunteers.)

Don't forget that your membership card gives you free entry to the Castle on all normal open days. You will still need to book a timed ticket, but there will be no charge providing you bring your FoBC membership card with you on the day of your visit. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Castle before the close of the 2020 season at the end of October.

David

The Berkeleys at Bosham

by Phil Legg

As we are all aware of the old claim that you could travel from Berkeley to London without leaving Berkeley lands, and given the territorial gains that could be made through marriages, it should not be surprising to find evidence of the family's influence in some far flung remote areas. Nevertheless, when we holidayed in West Sussex last summer, I was not expecting to find any such evidence in the attractive coastal village of Bosham [*pronounced Bozz'm, ed.*].

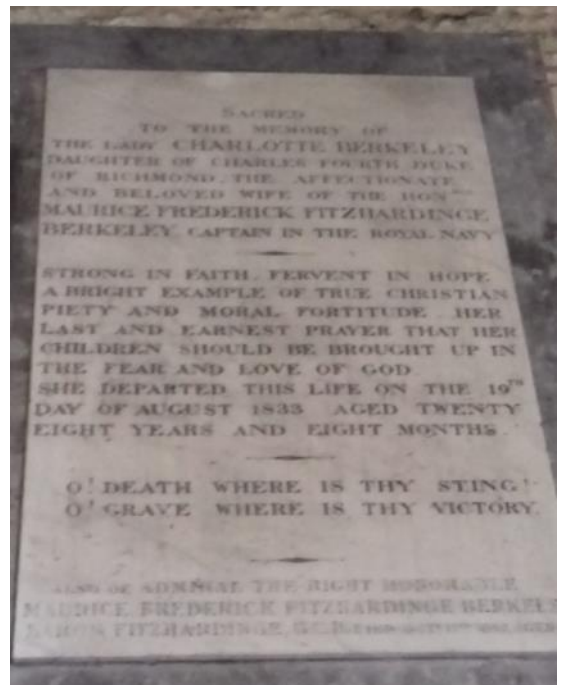


Bosham Parish Church, Sussex.

(Photo reproduced under Common License.)

The parish church of Holy Trinity dates back to Saxon times, and is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry. Inside there are, in fact, a number of memorials relevant to the Berkeleys. A memorial tablet above the north door is dedicated to Lady Charlotte Berkeley, daughter of Charles 4th Duke of Richmond. Her mother had hosted the Duchess of Richmond's ball before Waterloo in 1815, and her father became Governor General of British North America in 1818. As Lady Charlotte Lennox, she married Captain the Honourable Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley RN. He was the illegitimate son of the 5th Earl of Berkeley and Mary Cole. He commanded gunboats in support of Wellington during the Peninsular War in

1810, took part in the capture of Acre in 1840 and was a Whig MP for Gloucester. He became First Naval Lord in 1854 and focussed on manning the fleet and in carrying out reforms prior to the Crimean War. Lady Charlotte died in 1833, aged just 28, and he then married Lady Charlotte Moreton. In 1861, after inheriting his brother's estates, Berkeley unsuccessfully claimed the Barony of Berkeley but he was created 1st Baron Fitzhardinge. He was promoted to full admiral in 1862 and died at Berkeley Castle in 1867. He is also remembered at the bottom of this memorial tablet.



*Memorial to Lady Charlotte & Captain Maurice Berkeley.
(Photo: Phil Legg.)*

Another tablet next to this commemorates the grandson of the 1st Baron Fitzhardinge, Sub-Lieutenant the Honourable Edward Robert Gifford RN. He died aged 23, when HMS Eurydice sank off Dunnose in 1878, one of Britain's worst peacetime naval disasters. Edward was the second son of Robert Francis Gifford, 2nd Baron Gifford, and the Hon. Frederica Charlotte Fitzhardinge Berkeley (eldest daughter of Maurice Berkeley, 1st Baron Fitzhardinge, and sister of the 2nd and 3rd Barons). Eurydice was a Royal Navy corvette refitted in 1877 as a seagoing training vessel. Returning from the West Indies in 1878, she was caught in a heavy snow storm off the Isle of Wight, capsized and sank. Only two of the 319 crew survived.



Memorial to the Hon. Edward Robert Gifford, RN

(Photo: Phil Legg.)

There is also a memorial in the nave to Edric Frederick Gifford VC, 3rd Baron Gifford, who died in 1911. He was the elder brother of Edward and became a lieutenant in the 83rd and 24th Regiments, then a captain and brevet major in the 57th. He actually spent much time on detached duties and it was with the mounted infantry that he served in the Zulu War of 1879, bringing back the assegais that now hang in the Screens Passage*. He was the lord of the manor of Bosham and is buried in the nearby cemetery.

The lordship of the manor of Bosham was owned by the Berkeley family from the late 15th century, but was sold to the 2nd Earl of Iveagh in the 1920s by Lord Edric Gifford's brother, Edgar Berkeley Gifford, 4th Baron Gifford. As we drove out of the village we, predictably perhaps, passed the Berkeley Arms.

**For a full account of Lord Gifford's career and the Zulu spears see the Berkeley Buttress for Feb 2017.*

From our President, Charles Berkeley

I had the great pleasure and honour of being High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 2019-2020, ending my year just before the lockdown in March. As a young man I had seen my father take on that responsibility both in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, but nothing prepares you for a role such as that, actually getting out and meeting the many wonderful people who look after those in need in the county, especially the younger ones who have gone down a difficult path in their lives. I also learnt that there are many older and vulnerable people in the county who are encouraged to learn new skills and again there are many selfless people who are helping them and charities that support them.

I had many highlights in my year, including dining underneath Concorde with Daisy, going to the Remembrance Service in Gloucester and laying a wreath at the War memorial, and Royal visits, many of which were with Princess Anne who supports hundreds of charities and speaks incredibly well on so many different subjects and was extremely interested to meet everyone.



Charles, Daisy & Mary Berkeley, following his investiture as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire at Gloucester Cathedral in March 2019.

I got to know the Gloucestershire constabulary very well and supported the Chief Constable as he gave out special awards in policing, and certificates were handed out in passing-out parades for young officers. They could not have been more generous with their time, allowing me to see policing on a large scale whether with the Driving units on their evening patrols through our towns or with the Police Dog team, which was a great favourite of Mary's! She even got to wear the uniform and to press the police siren, as well as see two well-trained police dogs do their work at Wickselm.

I got to see our judicial system at work at Gloucester Crown Court and watched groups of school children learning about the process at a court day as well as take the part of the personnel at a Magistrates Court as part of their school project.

I saw the many charities such as the Star Centre near Cheltenham, working with young adults with disabilities; the staff work extremely hard to give them a chance to leave with skills so that they can get work placements and jobs in the future.

I had one or two interesting moments, including getting a rip in my velvet breeches before a police visit and having to get a quick repair, hours before going out! On another occasion, I was enjoying a chat with a driver I met before several engagements that day, including Royal visits. I thought I would be in the Cathedral and seated with the mayors at the front just before 3pm when the service started, but to my horror realised that the Royal visitor was getting to her seat early, having had a tour of King's School in Gloucester! I had to be shown to my seat with everyone else already seated!

Then lockdown came along, and I had just finished my year. Sadly I was not able to hand over to Helen Lovatt, the new High Sheriff, but we hope to do this at another time!

Daisy, Mary and I moved house to New Park Farm and have been especially busy with the garden and getting the horses all comfortable in their new stables. Home schooling for Mary has provided challenges but she seems to have done well and enjoyed it. One thing I was glad to do was get a haircut at home at the end of June.

I wish everyone good health and a good rest of the year, and hopefully we will all be able to get together soon as Friends of Berkeley Castle.

Stephen and Matilda: Anarchy *by Linda Lewis*

Henry I had two children, William and Matilda. Matilda was born in 1102. Unfortunately, her brother drowned at sea along with 300 other passengers in the White Ship disaster. This left no clear heir, as females could not inherit the throne. Following Henry's death, his nephew, Stephen of Blois, took the initiative and advantage of the situation: he seized control in 1135, and was crowned King that December. There were three other claimants to the throne; Matilda, her husband Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, and her son, Henry. The disputes turned into a long civil war between Matilda and her cousin, Stephen. The civil war was used as a cover for the settling of local feuds, leaving much of the country in anarchy.

Many, or most, of the nobles and churchmen supported Stephen's claim, believing a woman could not reign in England. Matilda's son was considered too young to take up the throne.

Matilda was quite a formidable woman, she firstly married Henry V, the Holy Roman Emperor, becoming Empress Matilda, but the Emperor died. In 1128, she married Geoffrey of Anjou, with whom she had three sons. She was considered beautiful and arrogant and neither she nor Geoffrey were popular. She was never crowned or settled in England, but returned to France, as did her son.

In 1153, at the Treaty of Winchester, Stephen agreed to accept Matilda's son Henry as his heir (disinheriting his own son, David), and Matilda relinquished her personal claim to the throne. The Treaty of Winchester established the principle that the crown could pass through a female line.



A C15 depiction of the Empress Matilda.

Stephen died a year later, the last Norman king of England, and Matilda's son, Henry, succeeded as Henry II. He was the first of the Plantagenet line of kings (so-called because the family badge was a sprig of broom, 'genista' in Latin and 'genet' in Norman French, hence 'planta genet').

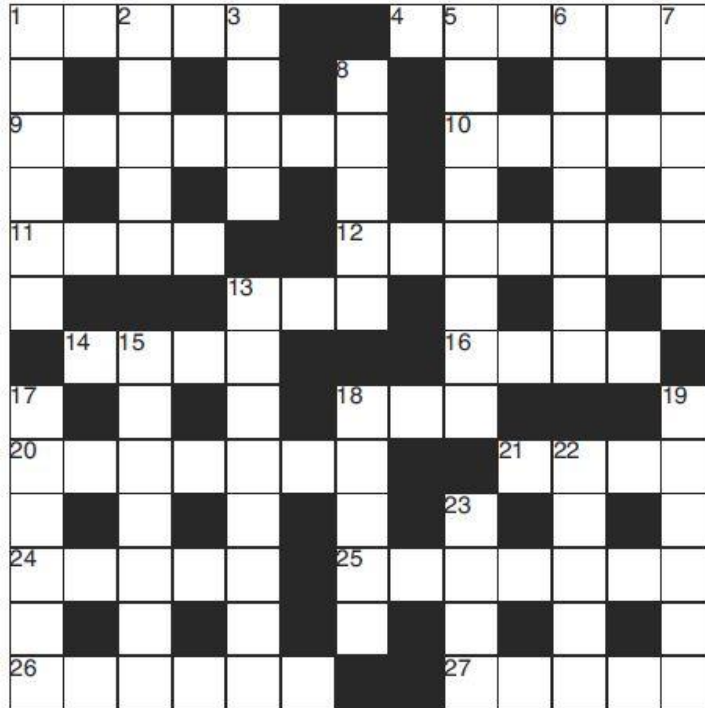
In 1153 along came our hero, Robert Fitzharding, a wealthy Bristol merchant who stood by Matilda's son, and gave him much needed financial help. Robert was rewarded by Henry II when he evicted Roger de Berkeley from his castle and gave it to Robert Fitzharding. Of course a dispute then arose between the de Berkeleys (now of Dursley Castle) and the Fitzhardings. This was settled by King Henry instructing Robert Fitzharding's son, Maurice, to marry Roger de Berkeley's daughter, Alice. This united the two families and over time the family name of the Fitzhardings was changed to Berkeley.

They set about building a stone castle, re-using the stones of the former nunnery of Berkeley (which had been suppressed in the reign of Edward the Confessor, by the machinations of Earl Godwin). From 1154 to 1189 there were eight main building phases of the castle, the first was replacing the wooden motte and bailey that originally stood on the mound. It was a defensive fort against the invading Welsh from across the border, also being able to protect the River Severn from invading ships going upstream to Gloucester. Then, over many hundreds of years, it gradually became the castle you see today. The Berkeley family still live here to tell the exciting tales of Berkeley Castle.

Crossword Puzzle

(answers at the foot of the last page)

(‘BC’ is an abbreviation of Berkeley Castle in the crossword clues and are not part of the clue)



Across

1. Re-enactment of Medieval sport at Berkeley Castle (BC) (5)
4. Which king (II) was killed at BC in 1327? (6)
9. What do BC staff use to put out the candles? (7)
10. Relationship between Richard, Duke of Gloucester and the two young princes he allegedly murdered c.1483 in the Tower of London (5)
11. The lengths to which 17th Century BC ladies would go for their linens (4)
12. No one's fault (2,5)
13. George Cranfield Berkeley went there in 1766, aged 13 (3)
14. Invisible boundary (4)
16. Common feature of unique design exclusive to BC (4)
18. Excluded; not in (3)
20. In the style of Bronze Age Greece; Epic (7)
21. Garment worn by the absent wives of the Indian visitors to BC in 1897 (4)
24. Fraudulent or dishonest acts (Aus.) (5)
25. Out of the ordinary (7)
26. Who accompanied Henry VIII on his visit to BC in 1535? Anne — (6)
27. Lunches served at BC are said to be this (5)

Down

1. The last one in England fell from the minstrels gallery in 1728 and is buried in St Mary's churchyard (6)
2. Antithesis of 25 across (5)
3. Variety of limestone used in the outer walls of BC (4)
5. Sound to which Berkeley troops would have marched (8)
6. Old fashioned; historic (7)
7. Considered; judged (6)
8. Main focus of attention at the Berkeley Show (5)
13. Find one at the entrance to the Berkeley Chapel in Bristol Cathedral; icy stars (anag.) (8)
15. Rear or Red; Captain James Berkeley c.1701 became one, + red ones in the gardens (7)
17. To be found in paintings, tapestries and carvings at BC (6)
18. Happen; take place (5)
19. The last Battle to be fought between private armies on English soil took place here in 1470 (6)
22. Adjacent, borders (5)
23. Where lunches and teas are served at BC (4)

Members of the FoBC Committee hope you have enjoyed reading this e-mailed version of the Berkeley Buttress. Issuing the Autumn edition of the Buttress in an electronic format is something that we have been considering and was rather forced upon us this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We would be glad of your comments about receiving the Autumn edition as a PDF in future years: the Spring version will continue to be printed, because there are a number of other pieces of paperwork which need to be sent out at the same time. If we have no e-mail address for you, we shall (as with this edition) continue to send you a printed copy.



*Berkeley Castle, Seat of the Right Honourable Lord Segrave, 1827.
(detail of a hand-coloured print in the possession of the editor.)*

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Crossword Solutions

Across: 1. Joust 2. Edward 9. Snuffer 10. Uncle 11. Ellis 12. No blame 13. Sea 14. Haha 16. Arch 18. Out 20. Homeric 21. Sari 24. Korts 25. Unusual 26. Boleyn 27. Tasty
Down: 1. Jester 2. Usual 3. Tufo 5. Drumbeat 6. Archaic 7. Deemed 8. Arena 13. Sacristy 15. Admiral 17. Cherub 18. Occur 19. Nibley 22. Abuts 23. Yurt

