

### **BERKELEY BUTTRESS**

#### **SPRING 2020**

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

#### From our President

I was delighted to be asked to be a guest of Graham Woodlief and Arch Berkeley, descendants of the settlers who landed in the United States that celebrated the first Thanksgiving. I was very taken by the wonderful welcome we received throughout our four days, but especially on the Sunday at Berkeley Plantation. We were introduced to

many relations of the two families and my wife, Daisy, remarked how many have visited England over the years, returning often to explore their heritage and their family connections.

We were invited on Saturday evening to a dinner at the Plantation, where there was a re-enactor playing the part of Captain John Woodlief, the commander of the ship 'Margaret', and he was very amusing as he read out the list of ten instructions from the Virginia company. This was very well done and gave us an



Charles & Mary Berkeley in Virginia. (Photo: Valerie Moores.)

insight in to how well they tell the story to the visitors to the historic site and, indeed, tell the story at Jamestown and at other related sites.

Our daughter Mary enjoyed the very generous food helpings, especially the pancakes, and this set her up each day as we were extremely busy both during the day and in the evenings! I am sure when asked at school, "What was so special about your trip to America", she would have been able to say she saw where the ship 'Margaret' landed and that it had on board some early settlers and that a family relation (Richard Berkeley) was part of that trip. Being asked to speak in front of 5,000 people was a highlight, although I was particularly nervous in front of such a gathering!

I was very impressed with the variety of events on the Sunday and the setting overlooking the James River was spectacular. We were introduced to Jamie Jameson, who owns the Berkeley Mansion and Plantation and farms the land. He was fascinating on the changes over the last four centuries in the way the land has been used and how the house has evolved as a visitor attraction and historically important site.

Our visit to Jamestown was very interesting and showed us the importance of getting the message across to visitors, both old and young, about the origins of Virginia and how this fits in with our British history.

I am so glad that the Friends of Berkeley Castle were able to organise a trip and that we were all part of a memorable and historic visit to Virginia. In 400 years much has changed along the James River and in Virginia, but there is still the same story that will be told to many generations from around the world, that the Berkeley Plantation is the site of the first official English-speaking Thanksgiving in the United States of America.

I wish you all a happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you in the Spring and through the year.

Charles Berkeley

## FoBC Trip to Virginia, November 2019 by Althea Hamlyn

In May 2017, Professor Mark Horton gave a talk to the Friends, in which he told us that in 1619, Richard Berkeley was one of four London based businessmen who commissioned John Woodlief and crew to sail the *Margaret* to Virginia. They landed on 4th December, after a two month voyage, at what became known as Berkeley Hundred. 2019 would be the 400<sup>th</sup>anniversary of this expedition and the first official English Thanksgiving in America. (Modern day Virginians are insistent that this should not be to be over-shadowed by the voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620 and their Thanksgiving at the Plimoth Plantation, Massachusetts, almost two years later!)

Graham Woodlief, descendant of John Woodlief and President of the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival, says that the 1619 landing put Berkeley Castle's name on Virginia's



The owner's elegant C18 house at Berkeley Plantation, where Charles, Daisy and Mary Berkeley dined (see page 1)



The FoBC group at the Berkeley Plantation, where the 400th Thanksgiving Anniversary celebrations took place. (Photo kindly taken by the coach driver.)

map forever. Decades later a Berkeley relative, Sir William Berkeley of Stratton (whose portrait hangs in the Dining Room) became Virginia's most influential C17 colonial governor and the colony produced many scientific pioneers, westward explorers, military heroes and countless statesmen including seven U.S. Presidents. Two of these, William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison, have immediate connections to Berkeley Plantation.

I decided to arrange a group to join the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, so after about 18 months of planning and with the help of a London-based travel agent, 30 of us set off on 1 November for an 8-day stay in Williamsburg. The main focus of the trip was to attend the celebrations at Berkeley Plantation on Sunday 3 November. We were recognised by our black scarves with the FoBC logo and were welcomed by Graham Woodlief. Under clear blue skies and a hot sun, there were re-enactments of the landing; a parade in which we took part; music; crafts;

tribal dancers; and a presentation (with Charles Berkeley amongst the speakers) highlighting the profound influence of Berkeley Castle upon Virginia.

On another day, we had a visit to the Colonial National Park, which includes Jamestown. There we saw excavations at the original settlement, reconstruction of the dwelling area of James Fort and of a Powhatan Indian village. We then went to the very new Visitor Center in Yorktown, where we learnt about the American Revolution, saw the reconstruction of a C18 farm and toured the Yorktown battlefields.

Another visit was to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, where we had an extensive guided coach tour, hearing



Re-enactment of the landing on 4th December 1619, with Native Americans watching the 'Margaret' at anchor on the James River. (Photo: Valerie Moores.)

more about the Revolution and also about the C19 Civil War. Finally, quite close to our hotel, we visited C20 Bassett Hall, home of the Rockefellers, who funded the restoration and reconstruction of Historic Williamsburg in the 1930s. We had a couple of days to explore this area at our leisure, and also visited three modern Williamsburg wineries where the product and some local food was sampled. Truly, "If you like history, you'll love Virginia".

After this very enjoyable visit in brilliant weather, exploring five centuries of American history in the week, most of the party returned to the U.K. on 9 November, but some took advantage of being in the U.S. to visit Washington and New York, and friends and family in other areas.

Subsequently, at a very successful Thanksgiving Supper in the Great Hall on 28 November, attended by nearly 100 Friends and guests, we saw the short video of the visit compiled by John Stump – thank you John. He also made a longer one which he hopes to show later this year.



Sculpture, 'A Wind Fair' by David H. Turner, 2010, at the entrance to the Colonial National Park.





Native Americans at Berkeley Plantation and Jamestown. (All photos: Valerie Moores.)



Leading the parade at Berkeley Plantation on 3rd November.

More photos on pages 14 & 15...

# Tracy Borman's Talk: Henrietta Howard by Jane Handoll

A large number of Friends gathered in the Great Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> September to hear historian, author and broadcaster, Tracy Borman, speak. We were privileged and pleased to have enticed her to Berkeley – and for her part Tracy was delighted to visit because, although her first book about Henrietta Howard featured a connection with the Berkeley family, she had never been here before. Moreover, as the Berkeley mausoleum is the final resting place of Henrietta, Tracy was able to spend a memorable half hour, thanks to Charles Berkeley who accompanied us, inside this beautiful chapel, soaking up the atmosphere and admiring all the memorials.

Tracy Borman has held a number of posts in Heritage over the years and is currently joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces in London (which include the Tower of London, Kensington Palace, Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace). Her headquarters are in Hampton Court, a fitting office for someone whose main interest is the Tudors. But Tracy's first book was about a remarkable C18 lady, Henrietta Howard, née Hobart, and she told us her story in an illuminating and most entertaining way.

Henrietta was born in 1689, a time of turmoil and national crisis of the Glorious Revolution. Her family, the Hobarts, lived at Blickling Hall in Norfolk but her initially stable and privileged life was turned upside down in 1697 when her father was killed in a duel and her mother died a few years later. This was to be the beginning of a roller-coaster ride for Henrietta; she suffered tragedy and misfortune but eventually rose to the challenge and gained wealth, popularity and eventually happiness through the benefit of her natural wit, beauty and intelligence.

Aged 16, Henrietta married Charles Howard, a younger son of the Earl of Suffolk, but he turned out to be a drunkard, a gambler and a violent man, and before long the couple were plunged into debt and her life descended into a bleak existence. There was one son, Henry, whom she adored.

Queen Anne was on the throne but having no living heirs the throne of England was due to pass to the Electorate of Hanover so Henrietta and Charles moved to the German court in the hopes of escaping their poverty.

Henrietta, witty, well-read and intelligent, was taken under the wing of George, the eventual Prince of Wales, and his wife Caroline, becoming a lady in waiting to the Princess. By 1717 Henrietta escaped her miserable, violent marriage and separated from her husband, but in so doing she lost custody of her son, Henry, and never saw him again. There was a split too in the Hanoverian court, George I and his son falling out and leading separate courts, the Court of St James' Palace versus the Wales' followers at Leicester House. In 1718 Henrietta became Prince George's mistress. It was an affair of convenience, the two were very different; she was the darling of society, he was dull and boring, but it gave her protection and



Charles Berkeley with Tracy Borman in the Berkeley Mausoleum, the burial place of Henrietta Howard. (Photo: D B-E.)

security. Tracy suggested that one reason they made an ideal couple was that Prince George's boorishness was countered by Henrietta's partial deafness!

By the mid 1720s Henrietta began to build Marble Hill, by the Thames at Twickenham, and established her own 'court' there, in part to get away from her lover, by now King George II. She was very involved in its design and building. Marble Hill was completed in 1729 and became the centre of her fashionable world. She was the muse for the literati, poets and writers such as Swift, Gay and Pope.

Another stroke of good luck occurred in 1731 when her husband (they were not divorced, only separated) became, unexpectedly, the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Suffolk, and Henrietta became the Countess. When the Earl of Suffolk died in 1733, she recieved a pension from the Court and she established herself at Marble Hill to a life as the centre of fashionable society and the 'hostess with the mostest'!

Henrietta's later years were some of her happiest. She met and fell in love with George Berkeley, fourth son of Charles second Earl of Berkeley, a cultured and intelligent man of letters. He was the love of her life and their marriage was a happy, if relatively short, one. George Berkeley died after 11 years together and Henrietta took some solace from her neighbour, Horace Walpole of Strawberry Hill. In 1767 Walpole paid one last visit to Marble Hill and was shocked to learn, the next day, that Henrietta had died following his visit, in her 79<sup>th</sup> year.

A remarkable woman, Henrietta Howard rose above tragedy and misfortune, knew poverty and great wealth; she was both of her time and way ahead of it, and she lies buried just a few yards from Berkeley Castle, the home of her beloved second husband, George.

#### Castle Season, 2020

11am-5pm, every Sunday - Wednesday, Sunday, 29th March - Wednesday, 28th October. Membership Cards must be shown on entry.

## Frampton Country Fair by Linda Lewis

Once again the much used marquee was put up for the Friends of Berkeley Castle stand. Weather-wise an excellent sunny, blue-sky day. We had a good position facing the main ring, and were able to cheer Paul Walkden, former Chairman of the Friends committee, the founder and long-term organiser of the Frampton Fair, who was standing down after this year's Fair.

Due to the good weather the Fair was very busy with many interesting stands, including our own promoting Berkeley Castle and the Friends. Many people stopped to say hello and to chat and some new members joined on the day. It's a good day out and each of us were able to take turns and have a look around. We always need volunteers to help run the stand for an hour or so, so please put your name forward for the next Fair in September!



Committee members Eleanor Garratt-Taylor, Diana Merrett and Jane Handoll, after successfully assembling the Gazebo at Frampton Country Fair. (Photo: David Bowd-Exworth.)

### FoBC Events in 2020 prices for non-members in brackets

Annual General Meeting & talk by Dr Jim Pimpernell. Tuesday, 21st April at 7.30pm, in the Great Hall, followed by a talk about changes in the management of the Berkeley Estate between 1698-1810.

Tickets: £9 (£12). Cash Bar from 7pm No ticket is required to attend the A.G.M.

Talk by Professor Mark Horton.

Thursday 11th June: 2.30pm in the Great Hall.

Mark Horton, now Professor of Archaeology at the Royal Agricultural University, is an informative and entertaining speaker and we are delighted to welcome him back.

Tickets: £10 (£12), including tea and cake.

Ticket order deadline: Sunday 31st May.

Members-only visit to Warwick: Lord Leycester's Hospital (with lunch) and the Beauchamp Chapel. Thursday, 2nd July. Coach departs Berkeley Castle visitors' car park at 9.00am (time to be confirmed). The Beauchamp Chapel is the burial place of Elizabeth Berkeley, Countess of Warwick, who instigated the Great Dispute between rival claimants to the Castle and other Berkeley property: there is also a Berkeley link with Lord Leycester's Hospital, arising out of that dispute. Tickets: £35, including travel, admission & lunch. 45 SPACES AVAILABLE - please book promptly.

Summer Party, hosted by Charles Berkeley. Sunday 26th July: 6pm-8pm in the Castle Gardens. Our annual drinks & canapes party, when FoBC members

have the extensive gardens all to ourselves.

**Tickets: £14 (£16)** 

Ticket order deadline: Sunday 12th July.

**Frampton Country Fair: Sunday 13 September.** Volunteers will be needed to staff the FoBC stand.

Talk by Peter Yardley.

Thursday 17th September: 7.30pm in the Great Hall.

'A Personal View of the Records in Berkeley Castle', which, Peter says, could include anything from Queen Elizabeth to Mrs Long's lavatory bucket!

Tickets: £10 (£12). Cash Bar from 7pm.

A booking form for these last two events of the year will be issued with the Autumn Buttress.

Talk by Karen Davidson. Thursday 22nd October: 2.30pm in the Great Hall, followed by Afternoon Tea.

The Castle Archivist will talk about 'The History of Berkeley Castle and the Berkeley Family in 15 Documents'.

Tickets: £12 (£15), including Afternoon Tea.

Private Guided Tour and Pre-Christmas Party Sunday 13 December: 7pm-9pm in the Great Hall.

A special guided tour of the Castle, focussing on the many projects with which the Friends have been involved, followed by a party in the Great Hall.

Tickets: £12 (£15)



Lord Leycester's Hospital, Warwick.



Recreating the colonists' landing and Thanksgiving at Berkeley.



Reconstructed fence at the site of Jamestown settlement. Berkeley would have had similar rudimentary defences.



Shopping, old style and new style, at Historic Williamsburg.



At the Historic Williamsburg Capitol Building. (All photos by Valerie Moores.)

### The Stones of Berkeley Castle by Arthur Price

Just what are the main building stones of the Castle seen today? The walls are formed mainly of rough and coursed rubble 'Old Red Sandstone', predominately dull red, but also rose, grey, beige and pale blue in colour. They have a texture from fine to coarse with occasional larger quartz pebbles and softer marl inclusions. Many display signs of bedding in their weathered surfaces. Out-cropping in seams within red marls, they would have been quarried from the actual Castle site itself, where the terraced gardens disguise the ancient quarries, as well as from other quarries just to the south of the town.

Many 'dressings' are of cream to grey Jurassic oolitic limestones, used for axe cut quoins on the buttresses, as well as for doors, windows, chimneys and battlements, and occasional ashlars within the main wall fabric. They would have come via Berkley Heath, where green lanes lead to quarries on the hills between Stinchcombe Hill and Dursley.

Along this route came two other building stones. Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone came from 'The Quarry' at Cam. This is easily identified by its earthy iron brown colour as well as the fossil oysters, seashells and belemnites it contains. The 8<sup>th</sup> Earl considered that this stone came first to the Castle in Tudor times. The youngest building stone found scattered around the Castle, in plain walling as well as occasional decorative voussoirs above window arches, is actually a post ice-age spring deposit found in Dursley. Soft when first quarried, it could be chopped out with a spade. Called 'Puff Stone' or Tufa, it is often misidentified as a volcanic tufa. It is characterised by its rough and holed appearance. Found in buildings between Bristol and Tewkesbury, wherever there was Berkeley influence, the deposit was worked until the 1920s.

The mortar was made of Jurassic limestone, burned at the quarry in kilns, the end result being lighter and easier to transport. Slaked with water it released a dangerous amount of heat and steam (no health and safety in those

days); mixed with local sand it was used to hold the stones together. The walls were originally lime-washed, the whole building becoming a regular white colour which would have created an even more impressive fortress on the hill, to be viewed with awe and perhaps fear.

There are other stone types found in lesser amounts - grey Lower Lias Mudstone, either from Hock cliff on the River Severn or quarried inland a few miles south of the Castle. A mottled rough, pink, grey, pale blue nodular Devonian limestone is said to have been quarried in the C18 from a reef in the Severn at Sharpness as well as from the shore cliffs at Lydney.

As transport improved, stones from further afield were used. A 'fiery hot' Triassic sandstone can be seen in the Inner Bailey, C19 and C20 repairs in pale pink, grey Triassic sandstones from south Gloucestershire as well as Carboniferous grey/blue Pennant Sandstone from the north Bristol coalfield used in some of the south facing windows. A C20 window overlooking the present main entrance is either Devonian Red Wilderness Sandstone from Mitcheldean or from St Bees in Cumbria.

When visitors first approach the Castle they are confronted by the black slag blocks, in the Estate Office, dated c.1810. This was a by-product of the Bristol brass industry.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Earl introduced many antique ready-made architectural features made from French limestones, one in the Apostles' Porch is very like Caen stone, while other windows on the east side of the Castle have a much coarser grain.

The tea was good too!

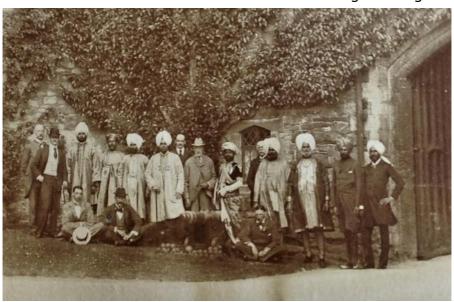


Arthur Price. (Photo: Valerie Moores.)

## Indian Visitors to the Castle by David Bowd-Exworth

Newspapers of July 1897, including the Pall Mall Gazette and the Gloucestershire Echo, recorded a visit to Lord Fitzhardinge by two distinguished visitors from India, the Maharaja of Kapurthala and the Thakore Sahib of Morvi.

The visit came to light at our visit to Frampton Court last July, when Rollo Clifford showed some of us a photograph album he had recently acquired. It contained some late C19 pictures of Berkeley Castle, but what puzzled him was a group of Indian gentlemen with Lord Fitzhardinge beside the gate to the Inner Bailey and again at an unidentified location. Whilst it was obvious that the visitors were in Britain for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, it wasn't (and still isn't) clear why they visited Berkeley. FoBC member, Philip Wells, searched through numerous newspaper reports and found that they arrived at Berkeley Road railway station on Friday 2 July, stayed overnight at the Castle and returned to London the following evening.



The Indian princes, with Lord Fitzhardinge in the centre, at Berkeley Castle (cropped from original).

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars escorted the visitors to Berkeley, whose streets were decorated for the occasion. 'At the entrance to the town a grand triumphal arch was erected, the four uprights being Venetian masts...' The guests were so pleased with their welcome to the town and the Castle that they sent to London on Friday evening for their regalia and attendants. 'The Princes went through the stables and kennels and inspected the shorthorns at his lordship's Home Farm, and the deer in Whitcliffe park on Saturday morning. At 3pm there was a parade of his lordship's noted pack of foxhounds in the Castle meadow... the Indian Princes and their suite and the whole of his lordship's guest being present.'

The Berkeley Troop of the Hussars escorted the princes back to Berkeley Road railway station where, after another photograph was taken, they caught a special train back to London. After each journey to and from the railway station, Lord Fitzhardinge paid for the Hussars' dinner at the Berkeley Arms and Prince of Wales respectively. It must have been quite a visit!



Photograph thought to be taken at Berkeley Road station. (Both photographs by courtesy of Rollo Clifford.)

# Etched Glass on the Grand Staircase by Josh Nash

Because of its position, it is difficult to see the detail of the large window above the Grand Staircase, so it is often overlooked by the visitors to the Castle. The window is composed of two types of decorated glass. We can fairly assume the stained glass which makes up the border was made somewhere around the year 1740, as there is a panel in the bottom right corner decorated with this date. The etched glass which comprises the majority of the window can be dated with much more accuracy.

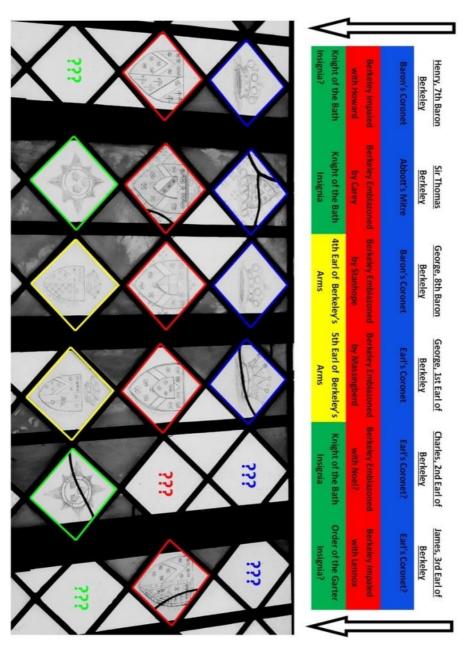
When examined from the roof there are several personal inscriptions that have been drawn onto the inside and the outside of the glass. 'W F Shrapnell drew this window Feb 05 1805' has been written on the internal face, as well as 'J Phillips Glazier 1806'.

William Fisher Shrapnell was a friend of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley and became an Archivist here at Berkeley Castle. One of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl's sons, Grantley Berkeley, suggests that Shrapnell was the prime mover in arranging any forgeries that were required to bolster the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl and Mary Cole's claim that an earlier wedding took place! It is presumed that Shrapnell was commissioned by the Berkeley Family to design and draw this window.

James Gastrell Phillips was a local glazier, who lived at 22 High Street. His bills for lead work and glazing crop up in the Steward's Accounts for the Castle throughout the early 1800s. I am indebted to Peter Yardley for pointing this out.



The signature of J Phillips, Glazier. (Photo: Josh Nash.)



A description of the etched symbols in the panels of the window above the Grand Staircase. (Photo: Josh Nash.)

Another inscription, on the outside, reads 'Frederick Augustus Earl of Berkeley died Aug 10 1810'. The only other inscription on the outside of the glass, a signature of WF Shrapnell, conjures up the possibility that Shrapnell went up onto the roof to mark, in a very subtle and personal way, the death of his employer and friend.

Several of the diamond panes display extremely fine lead repairs. At first glance the order of the etched designs makes little sense but at some point in the window's history it must have suffered major damage, some panes of glass being repaired and some being lost, the gaps created resulting in a confusion of the original design. The columns of vertical panes relate to individual members of the Berkeley family, their coronet of rank, impaled or emblazoned marital arms and the insignia of any chivalric order they were a member of, moving from left to right through successive generations with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Earls (in yellow in the diagram) nestling in the middle of the Insignia Row.

Sir Thomas Berkeley died before his father and therefore did not ascend to the Barony of Berkeley. Hence, his column is topped by the Abbot's Mitre rather than a Baron's Coronet. He was created a Knight of the Bath in 1603 at the coronation of James I.

George, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Berkeley was created an Earl in 1679; this is shown by the change from the 4-pearled Baron's Coronet to the 5-pearled Earl's Coronet. He was not a member of any specific chivalric order.

Charles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Berkeley's column has been badly damaged; his Earl's Coronet and his emblazoned marital arms are no longer here. He was created Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II in 1661 and this is commemorated by the inclusion of his insignia.

James 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl's Coronet and insignia have also been lost. There could be an argument that the insignia of Henry, 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Berkeley, and of James, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl, were not included in the original design as their omittance maintains

the window's compositional aesthetic. But, because of the broken panes of darkened glass around the prospective positions, I believe they did originally feature. James, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Berkeley, was installed as a Knight of the Garter in 1718 and, because this was the highest order of chivalry, I doubt it would have been left off such a celebratory window, again reinforcing the supposition that his insignia and that of Henry, 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Berkeley, have been lost.

concluded overleaf...



The arms of Augustus, 4th Earl of Berkeley, and Elizabeth Drax. The shield is surrounded by the Collar of the Order of the Thistle, from which hangs the badge of that Order. (Photo: Josh Nash.)

There are further discrepancies with the theory put forward in the diagram. George, 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Berkeley, became a Knight of the Bath at the creation of Charles Stuart as Prince of Wales in 1616, but there is no room to display his insignia due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley's pane filling the gap. Another incongruence is the lack of space for the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl's insignia denoting him as a member of the Order of the Thistle; presumably the general aesthetic was responsible and not a rivalry between father and son, as the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl was never a knight of any chivalric order.

#### **FoBC Members' Discounts**

Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased in the Castle Gift Shop (except books).

The Yurt is under new management.
Your Chairman will let you know by e-mail if there will still be a discount for FoBC members.

You must show your membership card for a discount.

### **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 and past copies of the Berkeley Buttress, as well as photos and a précis of previous events.

www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group.

#### Friends of Berkeley Castle

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#### FoBC Officers for 2019-2020

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