



# BERKELEY BUTTRESS

SPRING 2023

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

## From our President

A Happy New Year to all the Friends of Berkeley Castle. I hope you all had a good Christmas and start to 2023.

We have had a very good year and much has been done in the Castle to look after the wonderful chattels and to preserve our fabulous Castle. I was able to see the painting of George, Baron Berkeley, last week and it is looking magnificent, the colours are rich and the canvas looks great. It is also a very fine painting, and Josh has put together a fascinating item about him in this Buttress and included a fascinating insight into his life and travels in Europe, and his relationship with his Mother.

The conservation of two gilt card tables has also been funded by FoBC and I am sure they will look fabulous when back in the Drawing Rooms. The Tompion clock and the lacquer longcase clock have had conservation and cleaning work done to them and I am sure that once the clock movements are back we will have two rare clocks in place again. We have four



*One of the chairs, in the style of Daniel Marot, which the Friends have paid to be cleaned and conserved.  
(Photos: Josh Nash.)*

chairs back, that were on the Grand Staircase and in the Morning Room, that have been conserved and cleaned: they are in the style of Daniel Marot and his circle.

I am extremely proud of how much has been done for the Castle over many years, thanks to the Friends, and it is so important that all who visit the Castle, whether it be as a tour visitor or a wedding guest or private function visitor, learn about the chattels and their history, and that the Friends have contributed towards those items being part of the Castle and its rich history.

We had a number of excellent events over the last year including Tracy Borman and her story of our Kings and Queens and their various character traits that contributed to their lives governing the British Isles; Sarah Wordsworth spoke about many battles that the family were involved in; Mark Horton spoke about Drake and his links to the family and Castle and Julian Humphrys spoke on how to capture a castle and what was required during a siege!

I look forward to seeing you all through the year and being able to attend some of the events for 2023: we will also remember the passing of a local Berkeley man, Dr Edward Jenner this year. There are events happening locally that will hopefully capture his life and worldwide recognition.

*Charles Berkeley*

**FoBC Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, 30th March 2023  
7.30pm in the Great Hall, Berkeley Castle**

You are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Berkeley Castle will take place at Berkeley Castle on Thursday, 30th March, commencing at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to find out what your Committee has been doing on your behalf. The Chairman will make his Annual Report and the Treasurer will present the Financial Statement.

The period of office of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer ends at this meeting: all are willing to stand for re-election and have been nominated and seconded.

## **Members-only trip to Tewkesbury**

***by Diana Merrett, FoBC Vice Chairman***

Last September, the Friends of Berkeley Castle visited Tewkesbury, and before entering the famous Abbey, enjoyed a guided tour of the historic medieval streets.

Our very knowledgeable guide began by taking us to Swillgate Lane, which backs onto the River Swillgate (no prizes for guessing the origin of the name!). One can only imagine the smell which would have pervaded the area at the time. From here we traversed through Lily's Alley into Church Street and continued as far as Fish Alley. All the buildings along both sides were decorated with banners bearing various family coats of arms, including, of course, the Berkeley colours which adorned the Berkeley Arms Hotel. Red and white roses were everywhere, symbolising the Wars of the Roses. The Bloody Meadow, which was the site of the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, was pointed out to us.

Continuing down the High Street, we arrived at the River Avon, where we learnt about the commercial aspect of Tewkesbury, which was a thriving trading port situated at the confluence of the River Avon and River Severn. Here, many barges would have plied their trade, some bringing grain to Healings Flour Mill, which only closed in 2006. In the C13 lamprey and salmon were supplied to the



*Tewkesbury Abbey from the south east.*

*(Photo: Wikimedia commons.)*

Crown and, as well as the well known Tewkesbury mustard, horseradish was also produced: both are mentioned in Shakespeare's play, Henry IV. Known also for brewing, malting, pin-making and framework knitting of stockings, Tewkesbury has a long history of trading goods for money. In the C11 Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, established it as a Market Town, which it has been ever since.

After leaving our Town Guide, we stopped for lunch before going to the Abbey to meet our Abbey Guide. The Abbey, which was founded by Robert Fitzhammon in the C11 and consecrated in 1121, has many wonderful Norman features. The nave is dominated by fourteen enormous pillars surmounted by Romanesque arches, but the original Norman ceiling would have been higher and made of wood.

There are many tombs in the Abbey, including those of many early abbots, and three of the chantry chapels, built in memory of the Abbey's benefactors, namely the Fitzhammon, the Beauchamp and the Despenser families, are very elaborate. The remains of Hugh Despenser the Younger, who was a great favourite of Edward II, were collected from Hereford after his execution in 1326 and were interred here. Originally the tomb was a very fine one and would have contained over 40 statues. The stained glass in the Abbey is amazing, consisting of both medieval and Victorian windows. Family ancestors and prophets are depicted in the medieval glass, whilst along the walls of the north and south aisles the life and deeds of Christ are chronicled.

The organ in the choir is reputed to have been played by the poet, John Milton (when it was moved to Hampton Court Palace on the orders of Oliver Cromwell) and is therefore named after him. In 1737 it was removed from Magdalen College, Oxford, to the Abbey. There is also an enviable collection of misericords and gilded bosses, some known as the Green Man, and the font is quite spectacular. This wonderful Abbey was visited by Queen Elizabeth II in 1971, when she distributed the Royal Maundy money.

Our day spent in Tewkesbury was most interesting and extremely enjoyable, thanks to Linda Lewis, who made all the arrangements for this very successful outing.

# The Battles of the Berkeleys

*by Sarah Wordsworth*

Sarah gave a most interesting talk about some of the battles the Berkeley family have been involved in, this being an extension of the exhibition she curated during the 2022 summer season. These ranged from Bannockburn (where Thomas, 1st Baron, his son and their retinue were all captured and held to ransom), Crecy, Poitiers (where the 4th Baron was one of the few English captives and had to be ransomed for the modern equivalent of £1.1 million) and Agincourt.

The 'Agincourt Roll' in the Castle is the account roll of John Mowbray, Earl Marshal from 1414-1415. This rare document lists what a nobleman might take on a medieval campaign. Mowbray promised to serve in person, with four knights, 45 men-at-arms and 150 archers. He took his household with him, including his baker, barber and three minstrels. He spent over £70 (almost £30,000 today) on new armour and took his bed, mattress and



*The Battle of Agincourt.*

pillows. He packed an iron latrine seat, with a tent to surround it. He also took his own cook, a barrel of salmon, and beer, wine and cider and took two chaplains and equipment for a chapel.

Sarah covered the Battle of Nibley Green, a skirmish in an ongoing family feud that was not settled until almost 140 years after the battle, and the final surrender of the Castle by Sir Charles Lucas to the Parliamentary troops in September 1645.

Sir George Cranfield Berkeley ordered his men to board the USS Chesapeake to reclaim British deserters, which was a major cause of the Anglo-American war of 1812-1814. However, when in charge of naval support during the Peninsular War, the Duke of Wellington said of him, "It is impossible for two officers to be on better terms than we are".

Maurice Berkeley was Commander of HMS Thunderer at the capture of Acre and two cannon seized from there stand in the Outer Bailey. The Castle archives hold a list of what else the British brought back, which included 100 hair cloths, 1000 spades, 12 canvas bags and 40 door frames. Gosh! Maurice was a member of the Board of Admiralty, where he argued for the reform of sailors' food, clothing and pay.

Sarah's talk concluded with more recent conflicts: an account of five men from the town who died during the Boer War (there is a Boer rifle in the Screens Porch and a memorial window to them in Berkeley parish church) and the story of Victor Hill, whose parents worked in the Castle. Victor took part in the famous 1943 Dambuster raid during World War II.



*Sir Charles Lucas,  
Governor of Berkeley Castle,  
by Charles Reilly.  
(Colchester Castle Collection.)*



## **Berkeley & Lydney in the Golden Age of Elizabethan Seafaring**

*a talk given by Mark Horton*

It was a pleasure to welcome Mark Horton to the Castle again. Mark now lives at Gatcombe Pill, near Lydney, which was the home of Sir William Winter (c.1525-1589) which has links with Sir Francis Drake.

Regular visitors to the Castle will have heard of the alleged links between the Castle and Drake: Drake's Chest, Drake's furniture, Drake's visits to the Castle while seeing his mistress across the River Severn, and Drake's Room. Mark proceeded to examine all these stories.

Following research, the chest is a C16 Venetian Marriage Chest: Mark showed us other examples, with similar painted Venetian galleys and external decoration. In her 1585 Will, Elizabeth Killigrew (wife of Sir Maurice Berkeley of Stratton) left her 'cipres Coffer' to her daughter, so the chest can only have come to the Castle after the Stratton branch of the Berkeley family died out.



*The Cypress Chest in the Kings' Gallery,  
which, the label claims, is 'From Sir Francis Drake's Cabin.'*

Drake's ebonised furniture in the Tower Room was made in India and dates from the C17, after Drake's death. There are identical chairs, now in the V&A Museum, which once belonged to Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill.

Mark explained that former Housekeepers used to show the Castle to visitors: the better the stories, they told, the better their tip. (Do you remember a previous Buttress article with the tale of an early C19 Housekeeper ordering a new bedspread because, for a fee, she let visitors snip off pieces of 'Edward II's original bedspread'?)

Drake's Bedroom was the Willow Bedroom until the Castle was opened to the public in the 1950s.

The story of Drake having a house (and mistress) across the river is more complex. Mark believes it possible that, between August 1573-July 1575, when there is a gap in the accounts of Drake's career, he may have stayed at the house of his naval friend, Sir William Winter. The house is on the western bank of the Severn, where Drake could have spent a few years out of the limelight.

As always, Mark left us with lots to think about and, perhaps, altered stories for the Castle guides to tell.



*The house at Gatcombe Pill, which belonged to Sir William Winter. Sir Francis Drake may have spent some time here between 1573-75. (Picture in the possession of Mark Horton.)*



## Summer and Early Autumn Events

Jackie Lantelli will speak about sculpting with wire after our A.G.M. in April. Many of us saw her poignant soldiers in Slimbridge, marking the centenary of the Armistice. She also made the stunning wire sculptures at the Castle, as well as the popular robins which fly off the shelves of the Castle shop. After the talk, the cash bar will remain open and there will be finger food and snacks, so that we can enjoy some time together.

In May, we shall celebrate the Coronation of the King with an evening of Fizz and Canapés and in June, author Sandra Lawrence will speak about 'Miss Willmott's Ghosts: the extraordinary life and gardens of a forgotten genius'.

At the start of our Summer Party in July, Charles will speak briefly about being High Sheriff of Gloucestershire.

In September, Tracy Borman will speak to us about Anne Boleyn and her daughter, Elizabeth I: 'The Mother & Daughter who Changed History'. Tickets will be available to the public from 1st August, so FoBC members should order tickets before that date.



*Two wire soldiers in the Outer Bailey, sculpted by Jackie Lantelli.  
(Photo: Alannette Photography, by permission of BCCT.)*

## 2023 FoBC Events

Prices for non-members are in brackets.

An events order form is enclosed with this edition of The Buttress.

### **Thursday 30th March: Annual General Meeting, followed by 'Sculpting with Wire' by Jackie Lantelli.**

Jackie made the stunning wirework figures for the Castle and gardens (Elizabeth I, the Jester, etc.) and makes birds which are sold in the Castle Gift Shop. She will talk about her inspiration and her method of making these superb works of art. Finger food and snacks.

**7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £12 (£15) for the talk.**

### **Sunday 7th May: Coronation Celebration.**

The Friends will celebrate the King's Coronation by holding a Drinks & Canapés party. Dress: smart casual.

**6pm-7.30pm. £15 (Guests £18). Raffle.**

### **Thursday 15th June: Talk by Sandra Lawrence. Miss Willmott's Ghosts.**

Miss Ellen Ann Willmott was the very talented sister of our President's great grandmother. Her many achievements in horticulture, botany, landscape architecture, photography and more, should have made her one of the most well-known trailblazers of her age. Instead she became known as a bitter, cantankerous and eccentric woman. Sandra Lawrence has been granted unparalleled access to her archives and has uncovered the secrets behind this thorniness. This tells it all: gossip, sisters, rivalry, squandered inheritance, forbidden love, bad marriages and, at the heart of it all, trailblazing talent. Light snacks.

**7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £10 (£13).**

### **Sunday 30th July: Friends' Summer Party.**

Charles will give a short talk, in the Great Hall, about his period as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, 2019-20. We can then explore the Castle gardens in their high summer splendour, while enjoying Pimms and party food.

**6.30pm-8pm. £15 (members only).**

## **2023 FoBC Events, continued**

Prices for non-members are in brackets.

An events order form is enclosed with this edition of The Buttress.

### **Thursday 21st September: Talk by Tracy Borman: 'The Mother & Daughter who Changed History'.**

In her third talk to the Friends, Tracy will detail the lives of Anne Boleyn and her daughter Elizabeth I. Both mother and daughter enjoyed the life of the court before falling from favour, Anne being executed by her husband and Elizabeth being banished to the royal palace of Hatfield by her sister, Mary. Elizabeth became one of England's best known and popular queens. Gloriana's unmarried state was the name of the American colony of Virginia. Her reign became known as the Elizabethan Golden Age.

After the talk a light Ploughman's Supper will be served.

**7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £16 (£19).**

### **Thursday 19th October: Sarah Davies.**

#### **A Talk about, and Demonstration of, Stained Glass.**

As we have read in Josh Nash's informative articles in The Buttress, stained and painted glass has been a part of the fabric of Berkeley Castle for many years. Last summer, Sarah demonstrated her art and she will speak about the history and use of stained glass and demonstrate some glass items.

**7.30pm. Cash Bar from 7pm. £12 (£15).**

*Tickets available in the Autumn.*

### **Sunday 26th November: Bill Church's Winter Tales. Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Seasonal Stories.**

Bill is a popular history storyteller and he will regale us with stories from the past while we enjoy mulled wine and mince pies in front of a crackling log fire on a dark winter afternoon. The Great Hall was the location of many such evenings in the mediaeval period, so it will be a fitting end to our 2023 season of FoBC events.

**4.30pm. £15 (£18).**

*Tickets available in the Autumn.*

## **Berkeley and the '45**

*by FoBC member, Phil Legg*

On 19 August 1745 the 'Young Pretender', Prince Charles Edward Stuart, raised his standard at Glenfinnan in the Scottish Highlands and began the last Jacobite uprising for a Catholic Stuart restoration on behalf of his father, James. This caught the British Army by surprise, as they were then heavily committed to fighting the French in Flanders, and in September the Jacobites captured Edinburgh and defeated the Hanoverians at Prestonpans. The Jacobites then marched into England and took both Carlisle and Manchester in November.

The uprising posed a real threat to the Protestant Hanoverian monarchy and led to a number of emergency measures being adopted. From the end of September and into October, regiments were brought home from Flanders, provisional battalions were formed from diverse holding companies, the Militia were embodied and magistrates were putting forward criminals as possible recruits. In Scotland and the English counties, various associations recruited volunteers for provincial regiments for home defence. The quality of these new units was very mixed and few, apart from some Scottish units, saw any serious employment, but they were a clear indication of the panic that was spreading.

One new type of unit was the nobleman's regiment. The aim of the nobles who volunteered to raise and maintain these units was to demonstrate their patriotism and loyalty, but also to gain access to certain allowances. Fairly soon, however, the true cost of this sponsorship led to them seeking Crown support by getting the regiments included in the regular establishment. This was reluctantly agreed once they were judged to be 'half compleat' and so fifteen such regiments received numbers – the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Horse, and the 67<sup>th</sup> to 79<sup>th</sup> Foot – although contemporaries continued to refer to them by the names of their colonels, as in the regulars. The Earl of Berkeley's Regiment (72<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot) was in this category.

Augustus Berkeley (1715-55), 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley, was a former lieutenant-colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot Guards

and so was in a good position to raise one of these new regiments, being also Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire from 1737. Berkeley's unit was 'to be raised for Our Service in our County of Gloucester', but was not to be limited to its borders. It was 'half compleat' by 23rd November and a few days later Berkeley was able to use his influence to get a drum-major and a corporal from his old Guards regiment to train his new battalion. Many of the noblemen's regiments had blue coats, but Berkeley chose red with green facings.

Marching Orders record that Berkeley's Regiment moved all its companies to Bristol in December, where they formed the garrison alongside the regular 24<sup>th</sup> Foot. In March 1746, they sent a company-strength detachment to attend on Princess Caroline, fourth child of King George II, in Bath. In June all companies (nine from Bristol and one from Bath) marched to Gloucester.

Family legend says that the regiment marched to Scotland but arrived after the battle of Culloden in April 1746, but there does not seem to be any evidence that they ever left England. Bernard Falk noted that the Earl "commanded a regiment raised to fight the Jacobite rebels, but does not appear to have got as far as Culloden". It is known, however, that Marching Orders did not contain all the movements of some regiments, so there is still some room for doubt.

There were discipline problems in several of the noblemen's regiments and Berkeley's was no exception. It is possible that the officers could not adequately control the



*Augustus, 4th Earl of Berkeley  
(Photo: Josh Nash.)*



soldiers due to their own lack of previous military experience, and the men did not fully understand the nature of military discipline nor the implications of collective action. In March 1746, a Regimental Court Martial in Bristol sentenced several of Berkeley's men to be flogged for an unknown crime, but on the day of the punishment a crowd of off-duty soldiers assembled to object, which constituted mutiny. Some of the armed escort present refused to control the crowd and were themselves arrested. This led to a General Court Martial in April when a total of 3,000 lashes were ordered, although all were eventually pardoned. There were also examples of desertion from this regiment.

'Bonnie Prince Charlie' and his Jacobites had reached Derby, only about a week's march from Gloucester, when they decided to withdraw in December 1745. Even then they still gained some victories, chiefly at Falkirk in January 1746, before being decisively beaten at Culloden Moor on 16 April. In June it was decided to disband the noblemen's regiments. Only one had seen action, Kingston's 10<sup>th</sup> Horse, but others had been used on lines of communication or to guard prisoners. Berkeley's Regiment was disbanded at Gloucester on 26 June 1746 by Major-General Pulteney. The men were allowed to keep their uniforms. At least two of its former soldiers received benefit from Chelsea Hospital as Out-patients: one lost several fingers in a firearms accident and another lost the use of both arms due to smallpox.

There are three items in Berkeley Castle that raise questions about this period. In the Great Hall there is a portrait of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl by Gavin Hamilton, painted in the early 1750s. In it he is wearing the sash of the Order of the Thistle, but this had nothing to do with the Jacobite Uprising as it was awarded in 1739. It remains a mystery as to why he was awarded this knighthood but it may have been connected to his previous military service. If there is no evidence of Berkeley's regiment moving north, this is also true of him personally. He is recorded as paying for a crossing of the Severn with several of his officers on 1 April 1746, but it is not known in which direction and there is no further information.

Also in the Great Hall, there is a standard believed to have been used by Berkeley's Regiment, but it does not

fit the size or shape of any military design. It is definitely associated with the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl as it has his coat of arms together with the badge of the Order of the Thistle, but it is mounted in netting for preservation rather than being attached to a silk backing. It is possible that what now remains was the central device cut from the green material of the regimental colour which, at six feet by six feet, would have been very difficult to maintain. It is known that heraldic arms and crests did appear on some regiments' standards and grenadier caps, despite being forbidden by clothing regulations of 1743. No infantry colours and very few other artefacts from the noblemen's regiments remain today, so the Berkeley standard would indeed be significant if it were the cut down version suggested above.

Finally, in the grounds of the castle is the 'Culloden Pine', believed to have been grown from a seed brought back from the battlefield. This belief led the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl to leave the tree undisturbed when raising the lawn around it, hence it now stands in a dip. In 1746, however, the battlefield was a moor with almost no trees and it was only later that the area was planted with pines, although it has now been deforested again. It is true that the pine here is of exactly the same type as later grew at Culloden, so it is possible that it did come from there but was probably collected in the early C19, when the Highlands were viewed more romantically.

*Right:  
The Culloden  
Banner, which hangs  
above the fireplace  
in the Great Hall.*

*(Photo: Phil Legg.)*



## **George, 8th Baron Berkeley: An early Grand Tourist**

*by Castle Curator, Josh Nash*

Held in the Muniment Room at Berkeley Castle is a licence for George, 8th Baron Berkeley (1601-1658) to travel 'beyond the seas with six servants and forty pounds in money'. This, he proposed, would be for one year, 'on condition that he travel not in any country that is not in league or enmity with England nor use the company of anie Jesuit, Seminarie or otherwise evill affected persons'. Granted and signed by King Charles I on 31st July 1626, this is a rare and early example of a proto-passport.

George embarked on his journey straight away and the first letter to his mother describes him staying in an 'eighteen pence ordinary' with 'good meate and drinke' on Rue St. Martin in Paris. In the letter he informs her of the recent beheading of Henri Talleyrand, Comte de Challais, which took place on 19th August. Whilst George didn't give any further detail regarding the execution it is worth noting that the executioner had been bribed by the friends of Comte de Challais not to attend, but the authorities instructed a condemned man to perform the execution instead. The novice axeman took 34 swings with a carpenter's adze and had to turn the body round to sever the neck, the Comte de Challais being conscious and audibly praying until the 20th blow.

George left Paris in mid-October and travelled south through France, spending time at Lyon, Avignon, and Marseilles; however, he then fled over the border to Florence as he became aware of increasing tensions between England and France. Writing from Florence he tells his mother 'the buildings are so fayre, the ayre so pure and the people so civill that there is nothing wanting to make it an exquisite place'. He also asked his mother to acquire him a licence from the King to stay another two years as a shorter stay would result in him 'scarse speake any thing in Italian'. In the same letter he requested that his mother send him a bill of exchange for £300 (£58000 today) but promised it will 'not be altogether lost since I will bestow a great part of it in buying your Ladyship

pictures and rarities that England affords not'. The first letter from Florence is dated 4th December and he sent another letter nine days later on the 13th, in case the first was lost in transit. Both letters stipulate the transfer of £300 and the acquisition of paintings, but these requests for £300 were not granted. When George replied to his mother's letter (dated the 25th January 1627) he thanked her for the £100 she has sent him, but informed her it took too long to arrive so he had already borrowed £300 from the English Merchants of Livorno.

Whilst in Florence, George struck up a friendship with the exiled Sir Robert Dudley, who left England in 1605, fleeing an unhappy marriage. Newly converted to Roman Catholicism, Dudley married his lover, Elizabeth Southwell, as his previous marriage was not recognized in Catholic Europe. The couple set up home in Florence where Dudley undertook prolific engineering works for the Grand Dukes of Tuscany (of the Medici family) such as designing and building ships, draining marshes around Pisa and fortifying and modernising the port of Livorno, and thus convincing the Grand Duke to make Livorno a free port and attract foreign merchants. In recognition of his works, the Grand Duke allowed Dudley to use his grandfather's title, Duke of Northumberland, even though Dudley was illegitimate. George mentions in his letters to his mother that he had become friendly with the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. This friendship is evident in a letter kept in the Muniment Room at Berkeley Castle, from Maria Dudleo Principessa di Northumbria (Dudley's daughter-in-law) to George thanking him for the privilege of experiencing his 'genteel gallantries on so many an occasion'. The Duke and Duchess both ask George to



*George, 8th Baron Berkeley  
as a young man,  
by John Hoskins.*

*(Photo: Josh Nash.)*

remind them to his mother in his letters and George, hearing that his mother wishes to acquire a 'dress of a nunn', arranged for the Duchess to purchase the unusual request for George to send back to London for her. George also informed his mother he has sent her 10 bottles of white wine made from the Verdea grape along with a 'payre of white turtle doves', although he does admit that the 'sea is so uncertaine a passage that I know not when, if at all, your Ladyship will receive' them.

In the spring of 1627 George told his mother that he will be spending time travelling around Italy but his correspondence gives no further detail of his Italian travels other than a letter from May 1627 sent from Villiane, a town near Turin. The last letter from George to his mother that has survived is dated February 3rd 1628 and sent from Liege in the Low Countries (modern day Belgium). It informed his mother that he left Italy as 'soone as the heates would permit'. From checking in the Berkeley Estate Stewards' Accounts of John Smyth, we know that George was still in the Low Countries in 1633 as there is an entry for £100 which was given to 'Monsieur le Quesne on Good Friday (19 April) 1633 for him to carry to my lord in Brussels'. Le Quesne is mentioned in the letter from Liege in 1628 so he had a long association with George as a trusted messenger. In order to sidestep his mother in London, George had devised a method of sending a message directly to the Castle. This presumably travelled by boat from the continent and then up the Severn to the Castle, enabling him to acquire funds without his mother's knowing.

Le Quesne appears in Smyth's accounts four times in total:-

1- In January 1632 £50 is 'delivered to Abr' le Quesne at his coming over suddenly to suit my lord by an instant return to him, whom he said wanted it, having no money at all' (this entry has been crossed out).

2- The Good Friday 1633 entry above.

3- In June 1634 Smyth has to borrow £30 as he 'had not money of my lady to do it per Abr le Quesne his acquittance' (this entry has been crossed out).

4- Finally £50 is 'delivered to Abraham le Quesne 15 Oct. 1634 upon my lord's letter then brought to me' (again, this



entry has been crossed out). The crossing out of the entries in a series of accounts suggests that the money was refunded later, presumably by George's mother. George's tactic of sidestepping his mother in London, and the fact he has stayed away from his home and family for eight years, suggests that relations between him and his mother were more than strained.

Hanging at Berkeley there is an oil painting of George, attributed to Daniel Mytens, which has recently undergone conservation treatment, partly funded by the Friends. Whilst visiting the Castle some years ago, an art historian remarked that the texture created by the paint's interaction with the canvas was caused by a particular technique used in Italy during the C17th. The attribution to Daniel Mytens (who was based in England) was possibly incorrect and the portrait was probably painted in Italy whilst George was there; this theory was also corroborated by the conservators.

Whilst it is interesting in itself to look back at these letters from George to his mother the main purpose was to find a mention of him sitting for a portrait, unfortunately there was no such luck.

Hopefully, with further research, we will learn more of George's time abroad.



*Top: George, 8th Baron Berkeley.*

*Bottom: Costume detail, showing similarities with the fabric on the Grand Staircase.*



## **Editor's Notes**

Enclosed in the same envelope as The Berkeley Buttress are your Membership Card (if you have already paid by Standing Order), a booking form for FoBC events up to September and, by kind permission of the two venues, complimentary tickets for Dr Jenner's House & Garden and for Spetchley Park Gardens. Please check their websites for opening times when planning your visit.

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### **Benefits of FoBC Membership**

In addition to free admission to the Castle and gardens on normal open days, members have a 10% discount on most items purchased in the Castle Gift Shop (except books).  
You must show your membership card.

### **FoBC Website & Social Media**

Please do look at the Friends' section of the Castle website. You will find past copies of the Berkeley Buttress and photos and a précis of previous events.

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

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group.  
**[www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/)**

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#### **Current FoBC Officers**

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