



BERKELEY BUTTRESS

SPRING 2021

FRIENDS OF BERKELEY CASTLE NEWSLETTER

From our President

As I write this welcome to you all we are in the middle of another Covid-19 lockdown and I hope you are all keeping well. Through these very sad and worrying times I am sure we have all had the chance to reflect on many aspects of what has happened in the last year and are determined to look positively to the future.

The Castle and the Estate have seen many changes and challenging times over 850 years and speaking to Historic Houses, who offer advice to Country House owners and those who manage those Houses, what has struck me is how resilient we are in



*Charles, Daisy & Mary Berkeley
in the Long Drawing Room.
The portrait of the 5th Earl of Berkeley
on the Grand Tour, by Pompeo Batoni
is reflected in the mirror.*

(Photo: Daily Telegraph.)

this country. Many Historic Houses offered online tours of their houses and gardens during this past year. It has been a chance to show previously unseen chattels for some house owners and tell the stories from the people who lived and worked in the houses and on their estates. It has been a chance to show the changing seasons in our Historic Gardens and tell the stories that have not been told before, or maybe from a different perspective.

I know Josh has been able to do some work on the terrace walls and around the Castle and make plans for changes in some of the public rooms. I know that we are all looking forward to being back at the Castle and sharing it once more as Friends of Berkeley Castle.

The works done this year, thanks to you all, have included the new gun carriages, which will go out before we open in the Spring. Two paintings have been cleaned; the Winter Scene by Frans de Momper, which is in the Housekeeper's Room, has been cleaned by Pippa Jeffries and the large picture of Dead Game, by Bogdani, in the Tapestry Larder, as well.

I know we are going to have to adapt to these changing times. We do not know when we will be allowed to have larger scale events in the Castle, but I am sure that when we are allowed to you will all have been inspired and full of ideas for house and garden visits and interesting speakers and events that will do justice to the Castle and its history.

I cannot wait to see you all again and for us to be able to open those Castle doors and be together again. In the meantime I hope you and your families stay healthy.

See you soon.

Charles Berkeley

Castle Opening in 2021

by Jenny Low, Visitor Business Manager

Hello! Despite the gloomy news, I hope that we will be able to open the Castle on Monday 17th May. We will be guided by local Covid-19 restrictions at the time, but I remain optimistic. If this is not the case, we will be ready and prepared to open as soon as possible.



We have improved our online ticketing system to make it clearer and easier to use. All FoBC members will need to book online and in advance.

We will begin our season with a limited number per day, as we did in 2020, and there will be four different arrival times (11am, 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm). This can be revised as we go through the season. Unfortunately, we will not offer Guided Tours to begin with, so that we can ensure safe social distancing; however, we are improving our room information boards so that they are larger and easier to read.

We plan to open The Walled Garden for our visitors and hope that the Yurt (Walled Garden Café) will be open every day. Visitors will enter the Castle through the big gates into the Walled Garden and be directed along the Rose Walk to the Ticket Office. The Ice Cream Parlour will open on Sundays and during the school holidays.

I remain hopeful that 2021 will be a busy and exciting year at the Castle. It may be a slow start, and even a delayed opening, but as the vaccine rollout continues, I believe our late spring/summer season will be a great success. The days will get longer, the weather will get warmer and Berkeley Castle will be waiting to welcome 2021 visitors with an unbeatable team of staff and an exciting event schedule to entice and entertain.

Insights from an Insider

by Ed Howe, Weekend Security Officer

Between the 18th January and 5th February, the Castle surrendered to friendly foes in the shape of the film crew for 'Becoming Elizabeth'. Starring the German actress Alicia Von Rittburg as the last of the Tudors, the film is, I imagine, a sort of prequel to Carry on Elizabeth. It is not generally known that the first recorded use of the phrase 'quelle surprise' was in fact uttered by Henry VIII when his second wife, Anne Boleyn presented him with a daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth I.

Behind the scenes during lockdown, a small but perfectly formed cohort have been keeping the Estate office, the Butterfly House, the Castle and its grounds in working order. The Head Gardener and his team have stoically maintained the gardens whilst adhering to the social distancing rules, chiefly by communicating with one another using signals and hand gestures.

In other news, the cabinets in the china room are to be refurbished both inside and out, and the Stratton Gallery is being reorganised to provide a more suitable space for the Tour Guides to have a cup of tea and share the scuttlebutt.

An old Bath chair has been unearthed in a cowshed in the Estate yard that is said to have belonged to the 8th Earl. Even without the restoration it badly needs, this amazing contraption sheds light on a forgotten aspect of social history and needs to be on display!

Currently, stonemasons are repairing a section of the parapet, known as a merlon, above the Picture Gallery in the Inner Bailey.

The last word must go to the Housekeepers and their ingenuity. They have come up with a newly modified tickling stick that reaches the parts that an ordinary extendible tickling stick can only dream about.

2021 Events and A.G.M.

by David Bowd-Exworth, FoBC Chairman

I hope this issue of the Buttress finds you in good health.

With the announcement in Parliament of a way out of the current Covid restrictions, your Committee held a Zoom meeting in February. It is our fervent hope and intention for all our members to be able to meet each other at our annual Summer Party in the Castle on Sunday 8th August, for which a booking form is enclosed. We hope to hold other events before Christmas, including an A.G.M. in October, an details will be in the next Buttress. Your Committee hope that, because of the exceptional circumstances, you will agree to the deferred date of the A.G.M.. In the meantime, your Committee will continue to make whatever plans we can for future events.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!



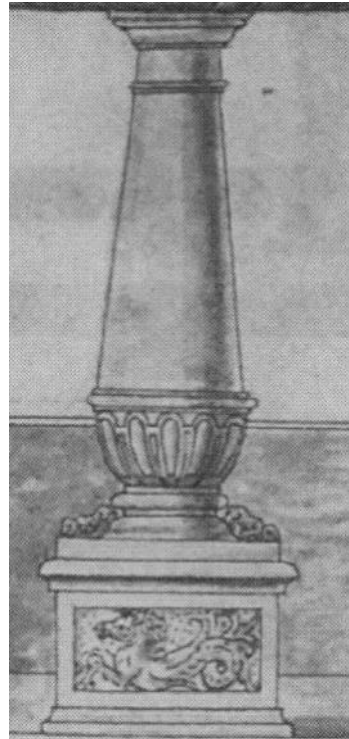
*A Bath Chair recently found at the Castle. (See article on page 4.)
(Photo: Ed Howe.)*

The Search for Diana

by Josh Nash, Castle Custodian

A sculptural fragment at Berkeley Castle (on which the Friends' sundial now sits) has recently been identified. Professor Martin Biddle, Hertford College, Oxford, has authenticated the plinth as part of the Diana Fountain, which once stood in the garden of Nonsuch Palace, Surrey.

"On the top of this tiny mound is set a shining column which carries a high-standing statue of a snow-white nymph, perhaps Venus, from whose tender breasts flow jets of water into the ivory-coloured marble, and from there the water falls down through narrow pipes



*The Diana Fountain at Nonsuch Palace and a close-up of the pedestal on which the bowl sits. Compare this pedestal with the pedestal at Berkeley Castle on the opposite page.
(Image: the Lumley Inventory, © The Earl of Scarborough.)*

into marble basins."

Anthony Watson, Rector of Cheam, describing the Diana Fountain (wrongly identified as Venus), circa 1582.

The construction of Nonsuch Palace was begun by Henry VIII in 1538. The works were not completed in Henry's lifetime and the unfinished palace was sold by his daughter, Mary I, to Henry Fitzalan, 12th Earl of Arundel, in 1556. Fitzalan continued the works to the buildings and garden aided by his son-in-law and one of the greatest collectors of art and books of his age, John, Lord Lumley.

The completed palace was bequeathed to Lumley on the death of Fitzalan in 1580 and it was during Lumley's period of ownership that the Diana Fountain was constructed. The image of the fountain on page 6 is taken from the Lumley Inventory of 1590, known as the Red Velvet Book, and in this document are drawings of seven monuments within the gardens of Nonsuch, one of which is the Diana Fountain.

Lumley sold Nonsuch Palace back to the Crown in 1592 and over the next 70 years the property changed hands several times but it was back in royal ownership by 1671, when Charles II granted it to one of his mistresses, Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine. Villiers, who never actually lived at the Palace, allowed the property to slide into a state of '*great decay and ruine*' and in 1682 the demolition rights and the subsequent building materials of the palace, outbuildings and gardens were sold to George, 1st Earl of Berkeley, for £1800 (approximately £390,000 in



The pedestal above the former Tennis Courts at the Castle.

today's money). George Berkeley, Keeper of Nonsuch Palace and Park since 1660, set about dismantling the property and either repurposing the salvaged building materials or selling them on. The majority of the property had been demolished by 1688, which is when Lord Berkeley received his last payment as Keeper of Nonsuch Palace and Park.



Nonsuch Palace in 1568, by Joris Hoefnagal.

© Victoria & Albert Museum, London: used with permission.

It is worth noting that Berkeley's employment at Nonsuch may help to explain the somewhat 'domestic' perspective of the painting of Nonsuch Palace, by Henrick Danckerts, which hangs in the Larders at Berkeley Castle. The Danckerts picture, painted from the north east, centres on the Kitchen Block of the Palace and its associated enclosed garden, rather than the grand stuccoed towers of the southern elevation depicted by Joris Hoefnagal in 1568.

Much of the salvaged building material was used to remodel the Berkeley home, The Durdans, approximately



Nonsuch Palace by Henrick Danckerts.

17 miles to the south of Nonsuch. This remodelling is highlighted by the two paintings of The Durdans which also hang in the Larders at Berkeley Castle. The earlier picture, painted by Jacob Knyff in 1673, depicts the house before the demolition of Nonsuch and the later picture,



The Durdans, Epsom, Surrey, in 1673, by Jacob Knyff.



The Durdans, Epsom, Surrey, in 1689, by Jacob Smits.

by Jacob Smits, shows The Durdans in 1689 when the demolition was complete. The difference in the building is striking although the avenue of trees and garden walling is still extant in the later picture. Neither painting shows the Diana Fountain at The Durdans.

The earliest documentary evidence of the fountain in the possession of the Berkeleys is a photograph of Cranford House, another Berkeley home, taken around 1900: the plinth, now at Berkeley, is standing on the lawn to the south of the house. It is believed that the salvaged Diana Fountain was taken to The Durdans as part of the remodelling and then, when the property was sold off and emptied in 1702, the fountain was removed, along with the rest of the contents, to Cranford Park.



*The pedestal at Cranford House, Middlesex.
(Photo: The Ellen Willmott Archive.)*

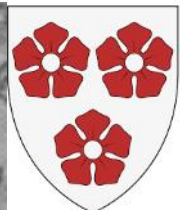
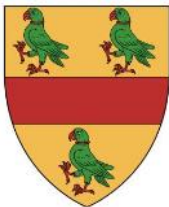


Randal, 8th Earl of Berkeley, inherited Berkeley Castle and Estates in 1916 and in 1917 he emptied Cranford Park and brought the contents and effects to Berkeley Castle. Much of this was sold in a phase of chattels consolidation but the plinth from the Diana Fountain was kept, first standing at the west end of the Gun Terrace, then moving to the Middle Terrace above the newly built Tennis Courts, where it remains to this day.

The 8th Earl of Berkeley sold Cranford Estate to Heston and Isleworth Council in 1932 and in 1936 a report was prepared for the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments of England and the inspector describes an abandoned rubbish pile/rockery

"which contains among other fragments four bays 2' 6" long by 1' 6" high, of a white marble parapet which may have served for an ornamental basin for a fountain or fishpond. One has a shield charged with a (fesse?) between three birds (popinjays?), and a terminal figure at one end. Another has a shield charged with three pierced cinquefoils".

Mr. Christopher Lutchford of the Cranford Park Friends must be thanked for highlighting this report. A shield charged with a fesse between three popinjays, is a description of the Lumley Arms, and surely describes the piece of stone from the front of the basin of the Diana Fountain illustrated in the Red Velvet Book.



*The Lumley shield (left and on the fountain) and Darcy shield.
(Images of the shields from wappenwiki.)*

As Lumley's second wife was Elizabeth Darcy, it is safe to assume the "shield charged with three pierced cinquefoils" describes the Darcy arms, and they would have been carved onto part of the basin not visible in the drawing in the Red Velvet Book. It is worth asking why these pieces of stone were not taken back to Berkeley with the plinth. Did the 8th Earl realise they were part of the fountain but felt they were not important enough to remain with the plinth? Or was it known that the plinth was part of the Diana Fountain at all? Had the stone lost its story?

Another piece of stonework was investigated at Whitcliff Deer Park on the Berkeley Estate to ascertain whether it could be a component of the original Diana Fountain. A large marble bowl with 'sockets' in the centre has been set into the ground adjacent to a well and used as a trough to water animals. Two holes are drilled in the marble from the inside of the bowl through to the underside; these have been filled with mortar to allow the bowl to be used as a trough. Preliminary excavations revealed the underside of the bowl to have beautifully preserved ornate carvings. The design does not correspond with that in the Red Velvet Book drawing of the Diana Fountain bowl, but they do bear a remarkable likeness to the carvings on the lower bowl of the Inner Court Fountain, also from Nonsuch Palace and found in the Red Velvet Book. The holes drilled through to allow the water to escape correspond to pipes which ran through the back of the lost griffins heads.

Perhaps one day the bowl will be lifted and a more thorough examination can take place.

The bowl may have followed a similar path to Berkeley as the Diana Fountain plinth, from Nonsuch via The Durdans and Cranford, but it may well have come by a slightly more direct route. From examining the Berkeley Castle Stewards Accounts we know the park at The Durdans was emptied of stock in 1702 and the deer were transported to Whitcliff Park. It is possible that the bowl was part of this transportation as well.

Further work is needed on this subject and there is much more to be learned. There may still be fragments of fountains or other lost works of art from Nonsuch Palace somewhere waiting to be found.



Bowl in the Deer Park, now used as a drinking trough.

Oct ^r 24	To Mr Petty of Duke of Bedfords Steward for 2 years Annuity for Chery Hospital due Michmas last past	00 15 00 00
	To Mr Howard by agreement for Removing Deer from Durdans to Whitcliffe Park	00 16 10 00
Nov 9	To Major Kingcoats of the Disburst on my Br Acct	00 11 15 00

Record of payment 'To Mr Howard by agreement for Removing Deer from Durdans to Whitcliffe Park: £16--10 shillings'.

All images used to illustrate this article are by Josh Nash, unless otherwise credited.

Bibliography-

'Nonsuch Palace - The Material Culture of a Noble Restoration Household',

Martin Biddle, Oxbow Books 2005

'The Gardens of Nonsuch: The Sources and Dating',

Martin Biddle, Garden History Vol. 27, Summer 1999



The Inner Court Fountain at Nonsuch Palace.
(Image: the Lumley Inventory, © The Earl of Scarborough.)

The Berkeleys of Wymondham

by Lord Cope of Berkeley

We went recently to see friends in Leicestershire (I was born in Leicester) to the village of Wymondham near Mowbray and I was surprised to see the pub was called the Berkeley Arms, with an almost familiar coat of arms hanging outside. I say almost familiar because they were "differenced" as heralds say, but clearly related, as the "crosses pate" were replaced by cinquefoils (see photo).

As it is very much foxhunting country (Melton being on the borders between the Quorn, the Belvoir and the Cottesmore and convenient for all) I thought maybe a member of the Berkeley family had a 'hunting box' there. However John Smyth's great Lives, together with some crude research on the internet, revealed an older



*The Berkeley Arms, Wymondham, Leicestershire.
(Photo: John Cope.)*

connection and the existence *inter alia* of the following:

- Sir Thomas Berkeley (b.1280-d. before 1346) second son of (Thomas) second Baron Berkeley and his wife Joane or Jane de Ferrers. He moved to Wymondham on his marriage to Isabel Hamelin the daughter of Sir John Hamelin of Wymondham, a crusader. Smyth says "*Wymondham in the county of Leicester where his male posterity flourisheth to this day. Anno 1628*". He fought with his father under King Edward I in Wales in 1295, when he was aged 14, and later in Scotland and the siege of Berwick, when he was knighted. He fought with his father in France and Flanders in 1297 and again in Scotland in 1300. In 1314 he was again fighting in Scotland (for Edward II) and was taken prisoner with his aged father at Bannockburn, Robert the Bruce's great victory over the English. They were duly ransomed at considerable expense. On his marriage he was granted the Manor of Wymondham together with Wike (probably Wick) and Morecote and one lamprey a year.
- His son Sir John Berkeley of Wymondham (b. Coston, Leics. lived c.1310-c.1356). He was an MP for Leicestershire and High Sheriff. He also fought in France with Edward III including at the battle of Crecy.
- His son, also Sir John, was an MP and High Sheriff and at one time Second Lieutenant of Guernsey.
- Sir Lawrence Berkeley of Wymondham (c.1387-1458 in France) son of Sir John Berkeley. Sheriff of Leicestershire. He was part of Henry V force in France in 1417 (but probably not at Agincourt in 1415).
- Sir Thomas Berkeley of Wymondham (b 1413) son of Sir Lawrence Berkeley. MP and Sheriff of Rutland, Warwickshire and Leicestershire. He was in due course succeeded by his son Maurice and grandson Thomas, whose sister married Sir William Hussey the Lord Chief Justice. They had another Maurice, whose son died without issue so his brother William carried on the line with his son, yet another Maurice, and his grandson, Sir Henry Berkeley, who was living in Smyth's time.

It seems from Smyth that the arms were 'differenced' for the first Sir Thomas Berkeley of Wymondham by the time

of the siege of Caerlaverock Castle (Scotland) in 1300. He describes the arms displayed there by Sir Thomas as "*Gules a Chevron between ten Cinque Foiles Argent*" which are the arms on the inn sign today in Wymondham. They are shown in the references I found on the web (Geni) as carrying the crosses pate, which would not be allowed by the heralds.

There was a book, published in 1980, called '*The Berkeleys of Wymondham*' by Ralph Penniston Taylor.

Munching Moths

by Linda Lewis

(adapted from The Times, 17th February, 2021)

Trials are taking place to address the problem of moths on cloth!

The National Trust is to open a new front in the battle against cloth-munching moths, which have thrived while properties are closed. They will use pheromones that meddle with the moths' sex lives, and use hordes of parasitic wasps, which eat their eggs. These wasps are tiny, barely visible at half a millimetre long, and do not harm humans or other animals. Trials are taking place at Blickling Hall, Norfolk (birthplace of Anne Boleyn) and at Charlecote Park, Warwickshire. They have tapestries at Blickling Hall that were given by Catherine the Great and they hope they can protect the tapestries by using these trials. Pheromone 'tabs' will also be used in conjunction to disrupt the moths' mating rituals. The lack of visitors and relative quiet has meant moths have been more active during 2020 and they have caused more damage.

At Berkeley Castle there is a large collection of wonderful tapestries, which also have to be monitored for insect damage. The Friends of Berkeley Castle have helped to restore and clean all the tapestries in the Castle, in the Morning Room, the Small Drawing Room, the Larders and, most recently, those in the Great Hall.

Berkeley & Spetchley Estates Director

As many of you may know, Roland Brown, the Director of the Berkeley & Spetchley Estates, is moving to the neighbouring Tortworth Estate. Roly has always been a staunch supporter of the Friends. We wholeheartedly thank Roly for all he has done to facilitate our aims of helping the Castle and we wish him well in his new post.

The new Estates Director is Michelle Boliver and she has written a message for the Friends, as follows:

"I am delighted to be joining Berkeley & Spetchley Estates, as Estate Director in April this year.

I have been involved in the management of Estates and historic property for nearly 20 years now, working across private estates such as Overbury Estate, on the Worcs/Glos border; institutional estates such as The Crown Estate on Exmoor; and for charities such as Bourneville Village Trust. I am joining Berkeley & Spetchley from the National Trust, where I am the National Asset Manager.



I grew up on a mixed farm in Shropshire and I am passionate about both our built heritage and the wonderful English countryside, where you will often find me walking my many dogs.

I am very much looking forward to meeting the Friends of Berkeley Castle and seeing the good work you do."

*Recent FoBC projects (opposite): the cleaned painting of Game by Bogdani (part) and the new wooden mounts for the cannon.
(Photo: Josh Nash.)*



Editor's Notes

Unfortunately, due to lack of space, there is no Crossword in this extended edition of The Buttress. The next one will appear in the Autumn edition.

Enclosed with the Buttress are your Membership Card(s), a booking form for the Summer Party and complimentary tickets for Dr Jenner's House & Garden and Spetchley Park Gardens. Please check their websites for opening times.

Benefits of FoBC Membership

In addition to free admission to the Castle and gardens on normal open days, members of FoBC have a 10% discount on 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.html

There is also a Friends of Berkeley Castle Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2273280299552857/>

Friends of Berkeley Castle

c/o Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BQ
T: 01453 - 810 332 E: friends@berkeley-castle.com
www.berkeley-castle.com/friends.html

Current FoBC Officers

Chairman: David Bowd-Exworth Deputy: Diana Merrett
Treasurer: Mary Frost Secretary: Jane Handoll

Editor of the Berkeley Buttress

David Bowd-Exworth: E: palladio55@hotmail.com