



## **Morgan Centenary Celebrations 2009**

### **March Update**

Dear Friends

In our last bulletin we outlined the plans for the Prescott weekend on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009. In order to keep you entertained from then until the start of the Morgan Centenary Festival at Cheltenham the following weekend there will be a varied mix of events and activities for you to choose from.

#### **Berkeley Castle Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Berkeley Castle is an ancient fortress home in Gloucestershire where the Berkeley family have lived since their ancestor, Robert Fitzharding, completed the Keep in 1153.



Berkeley Castle is one of the most remarkable buildings in Britain and possibly the most outstanding example of mediaeval domestic architecture in the country. Where other Castles were romanticised or "modernised" by the Georgians or the Victorians, Berkeley quietly survived as what it is: a Norman fortress with an enclosing curtain

wall, built and enlarged through the mediaeval period and beyond into a secure, comfortable, substantial home.

The castle unlike most of the others in the UK is still completely owned by the Berkeley family and Mr Charles Berkeley has kindly agreed to take us on a personal tour of this, his family home.

The Castle is not open to the general public on a Monday so we are delighted that Mr Berkeley agreed to host a private visit.

There will be 2 tours available during the day and with numbers restricted to a MAXIMUM of 25 people on each tour we have structured the day as follows.

All 50 of us will meet for morning coffee in the Castle. The first group of 25 will then go on the tour with Mr Charles Berkeley and the other group will walk to the Jenner Museum, which is just 5 minutes away.

We all come together again at 12.30pm in the Great Hall where the walls are hung with a fine series of Oudenarde tapestries illustrating the History of Queen Ester and the stained glass in the windows depicts the various alliances of the family. Our buffet lunch will be served in these magnificent surrounding. Afterwards we will change over and those who went on the morning tour will walk to the nearby Jenner Museum and the rest will join Mr Berkeley for the afternoon tour of the Castle.

### **Jenner Museum**

So what is the Jenner Museum all about I hear you ask?

Edward Jenner is remembered today as the pioneer of the smallpox vaccination and the father of immunology. Smallpox was the most feared and greatest killer of Jenner's time. In today's terms it was as deadly as cancer or heart disease. It killed 10% of the population, rising to 20% in towns and cities where infection spread easily. Among children, it accounted for one-in-three of all deaths. Jenner called it the Speckled Monster.

From the early days of his career Edward Jenner had been intrigued by country-lore, which said that people who caught cowpox from their cows could not catch smallpox. His investigations and experiments lead to the development of immunisation.

The museum is located in his home in Berkeley Village.



## **General Visits**

The Jenner Museum is open every day of the week but Berkeley Castle is closed on Mondays. If you do not join us for our private day you are free to visit during their normal opening periods.

## **Scenic Tours**

For all those who pre-book this tour we will be providing a book of scenic routes based around the Malvern and Cheltenham area to help you explore further.

## **Other Key Dates...**

Friday 24th July 2009 - Welcome drinks at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th July 2009 - Garden Party at Prescott Hill Climb.

Monday 27th July 2009 - Private visit & guided tour of Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire.

Tuesday 28th July 2009 - Scenic drive to Beaulieu Motor Museum, Hampshire.

Wednesday 29th July 2009 - Steam Train Ride, Worcestershire.

Thursday 30th July 2009 - Track Day at Castle Combe Race Circuit, Wiltshire.

Friday 31st July 2009 - Welcome Reception at the Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham.

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August 2009 - Morgan Centenary Festival at Cheltenham Race Course.

More information on these events will follow in later bulletins.

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Websites for more information on the places mentioned in this bulletin

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