

THE FRIENDS OF CROOME



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 Issue 45

The White Bridges © Katherine Alker



Croome Garden and Park Update

by **Katherine Alker**

Work is planned on the White Bridges in the summer. We will replace the wooden planks completely and the metal work will be rubbed down and re-painted. As the bridges are over the lake, we will be asking the contractors to work out a way of protecting this so that none of the debris from the work ends up in the water. The team have also been installing more benches in the garden. We have a new design, and you will be pleased to know that these new benches have backs! Thanks to the maintenance team volunteers who have been working on these new benches for us.

The team will be changing over the next month or so. Our Area Ranger Hugh has been on secondment as Countryside Manager in Herefordshire since January 2025. He was due to return to Croome in March, however, he has a great new role as a Catchment Advisor and Project Manager for the Wye and Usk Foundation, working across Herefordshire. Hugh worked at Croome for 17 years making a huge difference to the restoration of the park. The new job is a wonderful opportunity for him, and we all wish him the best of luck.

Hopefully, the weather will brighten up soon and people will be able to come for a more pleasant stroll in the grounds – we look forward to seeing you!

friendsofcroome.org.uk

Our Family at Croome Court: *The Later Years (1961 -1999)* by Leonard Edwards

Throughout my time living at Croome there was always something happening. The buildings, fields, shrubbery, and parkland were all part of the adventure. Some of my memorable activities were go-carting and sledging on the driveway, building dens, camping, and canoeing on the lake.



One of my first jobs was when I was fourteen. Before setting off for school I would fill all the paraffin heaters which was all the heating the main building had. These heaters stood in the fireplaces and every morning before school I had to fill, light and if necessary, trim the wicks. It was only later that central heating was installed in the building.



Helping around the Court after school and during the school holidays provided me with additional pocket money and later, casual paid work. This was far preferable than an evening spent completing homework. One of my favourite jobs was to cut all the grass areas using a ride-on mower. In the summer this would take five evenings before I started all over again. After I was able to drive, there were trips to the wholesalers to pick up fittings or building materials and the occasional journey with the nursing sister to take boys to hospital appointments.

Each summer, Worcestershire Fire Brigade would hold one evening when they used the court for a large-scale exercise. The chief fire officer would arrive and then my brother and I would stand on the field listening for the fire engines. Engines would come from Worcester and four surrounding towns. It was very entertaining to watch as they tested their hoses by pumping water over the roof of the court and rescued their colleagues from the second and third floor. One year one of the nuns had not been informed about the exercise and she opened the window on an upper floor to find out what was going on. This resulted in her getting a drenching. It was highly amusing for us.

One of the biggest problems facing my father was the antiquated sewage plant. The machinery room was below the basement level of the Court. Waste entered one of the two tanks alternatively.



Once one tank was full, compressed air would drive the contents three-quarters of a mile across to the filter beds near the weir. Under normal conditions, there were no problems, but unfortunately, during heavy rain, the machinery room would fill with water. As a teenager, during storms, I could be woken during the night to assist. We had to take turns operating a hand pump which was permanently fixed at the top of the steps to the machine room. Later we had a petrol pump. When we were on holiday, Mr. Passey from the walled garden or Mr. Ashthorpe from Severn Stoke would help in an emergency.

In my late teens I was able to take on more responsibility. If my parents were not at home, I would be able to fix simple problems about the buildings. One winter's evening the electricity went off. Shortly afterwards one of the nuns came over to report there were no lights in the Court. I went over and checked to see if I could see if any of the trip switches were off. Next, I had to check the two boilers. Satisfied nothing was amiss I contacted the electricity company. They informed me that half of South Worcestershire was currently without power and that engineers were out checking.

The interior of the building without lighting, especially the basement, can be a little intimidating when you only have a torch. After several hours, there was still no electricity. When I went back to the basement a white apparition appeared in my torchlight. I was rooted to the spot in horror before I realised that it was one of the nuns walking towards me. She was dressed in a full-length white linen nightgown and a white hair cover. In conversation she informed me she had seen a large flash earlier in the evening down by the lake. On investigation, I found that both the electrical cables were severed where they cross the field to the building. Quite an adventure for one night.



The Long Gallery was the place where we held important family celebrations: my twenty-first birthday party, my parents' important anniversaries and large family gatherings. Some parties numbering over a hundred guests.

Over the years new owners came and went. For quite a few years, the Court was empty and during this period the Red Wing fell into disrepair despite my father trying to get something done about it. A sheet was temporarily placed over the hole in the roof, but no permanent repair was ever made. Floors and ceiling succumbed to the wet and collapsed.



It was an opportunity during this period for my own children to wander through the empty rooms and grounds allowing me to share the magic of Croome. My father still worked every day doing what little jobs he could to maintain the building. It was a place forgotten in time, rarely visited by its owner. Finally, the last owner made plans to convert the stable block and other buildings into accommodation. My father never did complete his 50 years at Croome as our family home was required for development and notice given that the tenancy of the house was to be terminated.



One evening, I drove through the London Arch and stopped to close the gates; it was to be my last time at Croome. The following morning my parents left the house which had been our family home. Each of the family took with them decades of memories of the part we had played in the history of Croome.



Lord Deerhurst's Poultry

by Nicola Hewitt



Feeding Time

Most stories that are told about George William Coventry eldest son of the 9th Earl of Coventry, revolve around gambling, bankruptcy, and the effect these had on his family, particularly his parents. Newspaper and magazine articles, in particular a feature in *Country Life* from 1902 reveal a different side to him. He was a prize-winning chicken fancier.

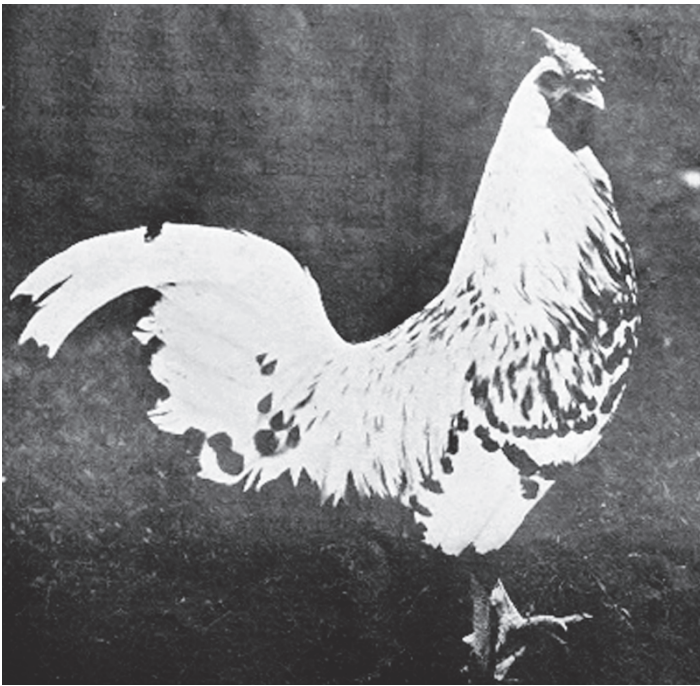


Deerhurst's Prize Winning Dark Dorking Hen

The *Country Life* article reveals that Deerhurst (as heir to the Earl he was given the courtesy title Viscount Deerhurst) had pens filled with birds of "exceptional promise." The various articles show that he was not just a fancier but had made a study of poultry rearing and was passionate about improving poultry keeping standards and was trying to promote a British poultry and egg industry instead of the reliance on foreign imports.

In the summer of 1901, according to the *Country Life* article, Deerhurst had moved from Birlingham House in Worcestershire to Dynes Hall in Essex taking with him his prize-winning flock. It describes the Hall as a "pleasant old house in the Colne Valley," slightly neglected but of huge potential with wooded areas and lakes. Perfect for Deerhurst who was also a keen angler and had just broken the record on the River Thurso in Scotland and was planning to introduce rainbow trout to his lakes.

His chickens of choice were Dorkings, he believed the breed to be not only graceful but that they were commercially viable, of good size and excellent layers. One of his old dark Dorkings (aged 6) was the winner of over 200 prizes and he had high hopes for one of his Silver-spangled Hamburg cockerels. He was regularly winning prizes at shows across the country with individual birds or groups of birds. In the week before the *Country Life* article Deerhurst had won the Crichton Challenge Cup at the Alexandra Palace show with a dark coloured Dorking. This was the show where all fanciers wanted to win, the Crufts of the Chicken world.



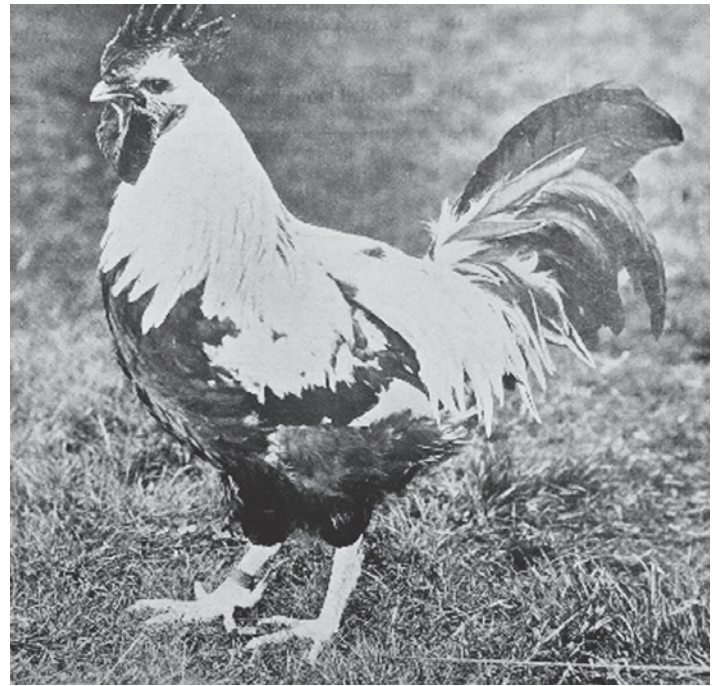
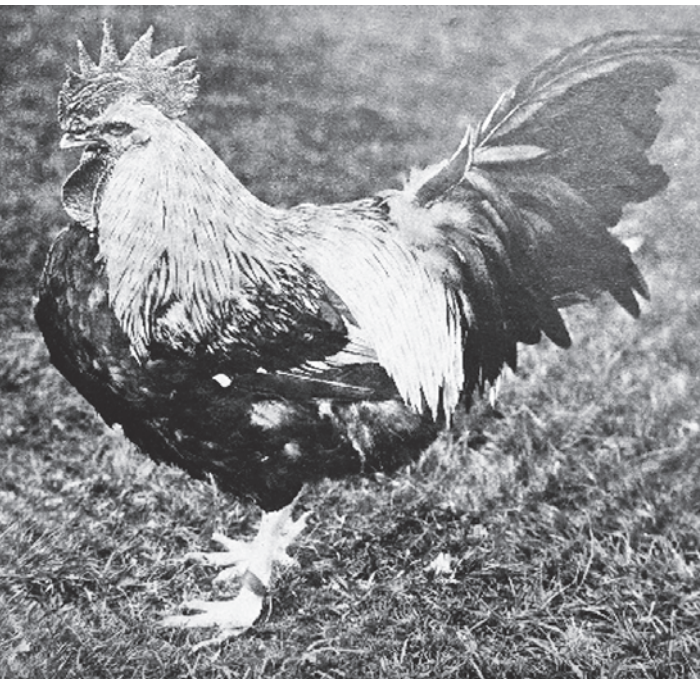
Silver Grey Dorking Cockerel

The previous year he had been the President of the Poultry Club. As President he presided over the 1901 event at Alexandra Palace where there had been more than 4,000 entries. The event had been the most successful to date with more entries and spectators than previously.

All the articles describe Deerhurst's passion about having clean, airy, modern housing for the chickens, and that his study into chicken breeding, feeding, rearing made him a respected authority on the subject, and he was invited to speak around the country. On one occasion he was invited to speak at Colchester but enroute his carriage was involved in a collision with a car. A telegram was sent to inform the waiting audience of a slight delay. When he arrived, 30 minutes late, he was warmly received.

He was an advocate of obeying a set of rules that were aimed to get the best results from the chickens. They should be housed in small portable houses which should be clean and well ventilated,

Dark Dorking Cockerel



Silver-Spangled Hamburg Cockerel

they should be provided with clean water that should be changed daily, most people changed the water monthly, and regular feeding. He also suggested that local egg producers should form co-operatives to sell their eggs. If you ignored or scrimped on these, you would fail.

By June 1909, Deerhurst had won thousands of titles with his chickens including winning the Championship of Scotland three times in a row. He also managed the unique achievement at the Crystal Palace Show of entering 5 birds in a class and taking, first, second, third, fourth and fifth places. However, in September 1909 an advert appeared in the local paper advertising a sale by auction of not only Dynes Hall, but also his livestock including his prize-winning flock. The family duly left Essex and returned to Worcestershire setting up home at Pirton Court.

SALE THIS DAY.

DYNES HALL.

MAPLESTEAD, Near HALSTEAD.

STANLEY MOGER

Has received instructions from Viscount and Viscountess Deerhurst to **SELL BY AUCTION,**

THIS DAY (FRIDAY), 24th September, 1909.

ALL the Superior **LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK,** Carriage Horses, and Carriages.

—

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), 25th September, 1909,

All the Well-grown **HORTICULTURAL STOCK** and Garden Requisites.

—

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), 25th September, 1909,

The **ENTIRE STOCK** of about 400 **PRIZE POULTRY.**

—

Auction Offices: Halstead and Colchester.

Lady Anne Savile

Royalist Heroine and Mistress of Intrigue

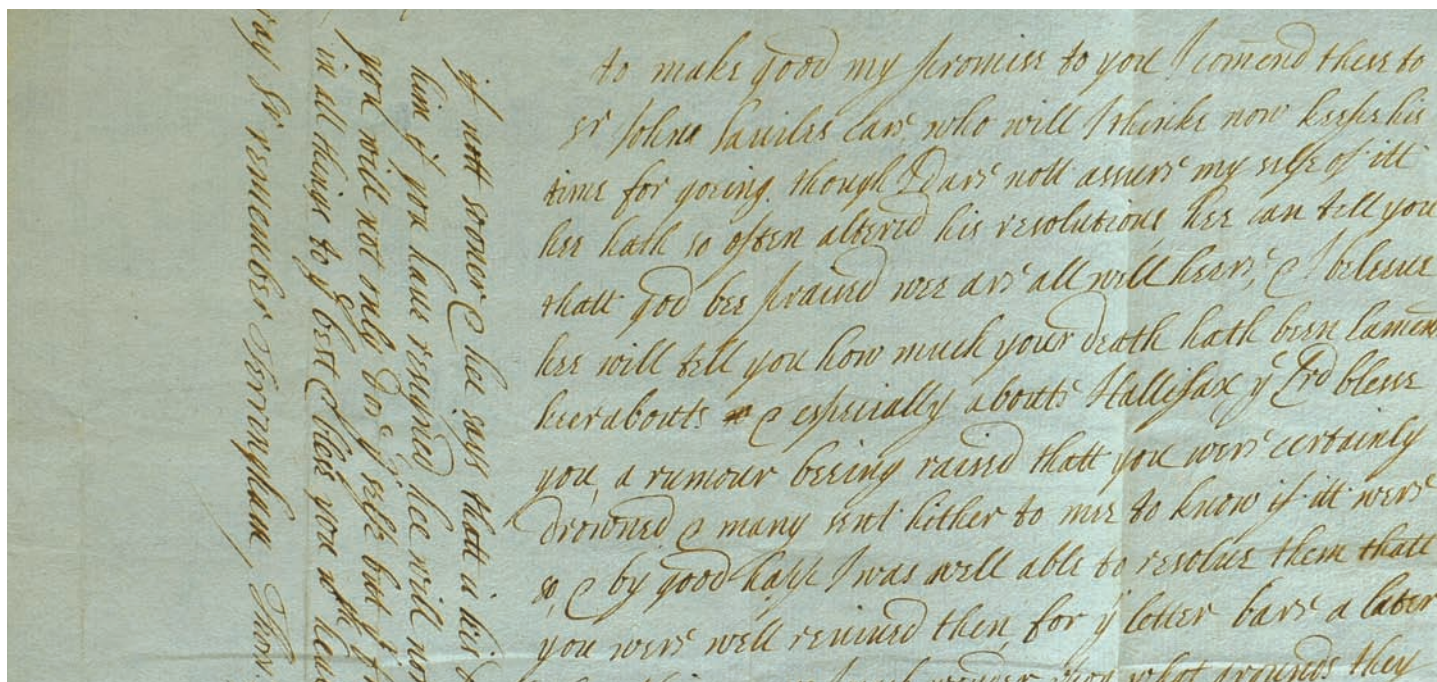
by Kathryn Nye



The Hon. Anne Coventry, Lady William Savile, later Lady Thomas Chicheley by John Hayls

Some years ago, whilst looking for suitable subjects for the 'Women of Croome' exhibit, I came across Anne, the elder of the four daughters of Thomas, 1st Baron Coventry (Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England) and his second wife, Elizabeth Pitchford. Although virtually unknown to posterity, when her privileged and happy family life was cruelly disrupted by the English Civil War, she showed herself to be a woman of great fortitude, courage and intellect.

Anne was born around 1613, and it is likely that she spent most of her early years (1610s-1636) in London where her father's busy legal career was developing rapidly. However, in the early 1620s, her family would have spent more time in Worcestershire – most likely based at the manor of Croome D'Abitôt, – where Sir Thomas had been appointed MP and principal Justice of the Peace (Custos Rotulorum).



One of Anne's letters to her husband, typically writing in the margins, as paper was so expensive, and signed in her usual style "Yr faithful loving wife, A Savile".

We know little of her early life, but we do know that she and her sisters were well-educated, and this, as well as her innate intelligence, would stand her in good stead for what the future held. On the 29 December 1629, when just sixteen years old, she married Sir William Savile, 3rd Baronet of Thornhill (near Dewsbury, Yorkshire) who owned extensive estates in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, including Thornhill Hall and Rufford Abbey. It appears to have been a love match – their letters to each other being full of concern, mentions of little gifts and terms of endearment. It was also a marriage of 'equals', in so far as the 17th-century allowed. The couple discussed national and local politics in detail, and William was confident of Anne's ability to take charge of his estates, business, and even his military requirements, during his enforced absences.

Sir William was an Oxford-educated barrister like Anne's father and seems to have been a noble and courageous man. While a staunch supporter of the King, as MP for Yorkshire, he was bold enough to vote against bills that he considered unjust, and stood by his friends and family, even to his own detriment. In one instance, he gave evidence in favour of his cousin Thomas Wentworth (1st Earl Strafford) and supported him throughout his trial.

Strafford was a divisive character, who, despite being highly favoured by the King and Duke of Buckingham, voted with Parliament to curb the power of the monarch. He was, nevertheless, disliked intensely by Parliament, which sought his downfall. He was, eventually, executed on the King's orders, to appease Parliament. William Savile, himself, was sent, briefly, to the Tower in June 1641 for some unspecified offence, but released with a reprimand 17 days later. Despite this, the bond between the Straffords and Saviles remained strong, and it was to their estates at Wentworth Woodhouse, that Anne would flee in, perhaps, her darkest hour.

By the outbreak of the Civil War in August 1642, Anne had given birth to six children, at least four of whom survived. William, meanwhile, had become a key Royalist commander and was posted first to Leeds, (where he narrowly escaped capture and death by swimming the River Aire) then to Sheffield as governor, and, finally, to York, where he was killed in battle on 24 January 1644. With her husband away, Anne was left to manage the family estates and a household of almost 60 staff at Thornhill Hall near Dewsbury. Thornhill, a large and ancient, moated, manor house, had been the principal seat of the Savile family since 1370, but Sir William had turned it into a royalist garrison, where huge quantities of gunpowder were stored. It even had a secret tunnel leading from the hall to Thornhill Parish church.

In August 1643, troops of Lady Anne, under the command of Captain Thomas Paulden, defended the Hall against the Parliamentary forces of Sir Thomas Fairfax. They fought bravely but were forced to surrender and the family fled to another of their estates, Rufford Abbey in Sherwood Forest. However, shortly after they left, Thornhill Hall was destroyed in an enormous explosion, as the stored gunpowder ignited. It has never been satisfactorily established whether this was deliberate destruction by the parliamentarians, an accident, or, perhaps, more likely, a remarkable parting shot from Ann Savile. The ruins of the hall are still visible today on a moated island in Rectory Park, Thornhill.



Sir William Savile

A few months earlier, in May 1643, William had been appointed governor of Sheffield and its castle, and it appears that the whole family decided to leave Rufford to join William at Sheffield Castle soon afterwards. They would remain there after his death in January 1644.

In his will, William left his 'most deare and loving wife £500 and the best bed I have, and such a suit of hangings as she shall choose, and all the plate and jewels she commonly keepeth in her chamber or closet', but, sadly, Anne would have little time to grieve.

In August 1644, while Anne was heavily pregnant with her seventh child, parliamentary forces laid siege to Sheffield Castle. Despite a spirited defence, heavy artillery was brought in, and the ancient walls began to crack. Dr Peter Barwick, a contemporary writer, who knew Anne, tells us that, 'this illustrious heroine ... resolved to perish rather than surrender' but her soldiers 'began to mutiny, not so much concerned for their own danger, as for the lamentable condition of this noble lady'.



Artist's impression of Sheffield Castle at the time of the Civil War

The garrison eventually surrendered on the 11 August, the terms of surrender being generous and merciful to the whole garrison. Specifically, '... the Lady Savile, and her children and family, with her own proper goods, shall and may pass with coaches, horses, and waggons to Thornhill, or elsewhere, with a sufficient guard, befitting her quality; and without injury to any of their persons, or plundering any of their goods or otherwise. She, they, or any of them, to go or stay at their own pleasure, until she or they be in a condition to remove themselves'.

Anne left for Wentworth Woodhouse, the home of the Strafford family, about 28 miles north of Sheffield. She was refused access to a midwife but gave birth to her son Talbot, that same night. From there, it is likely that she would have returned to the Savile estates at Rufford Abbey.

Undaunted, and always fiercely supportive of the Royalist cause, Anne then chose to join the war effort more directly using her extensive social connections as well as her money. Dr Barwick tells us that, after the surrender of Sheffield, 'the Lady Savile and Sir Marmaduke Langdale (former High Sheriff of Yorkshire and an experienced military commander) ... thought fit to concert Measures with Mr Barwick (Rev Dr John Barwick, Dean of St Paul's) whose endeavours to serve the same cause they knew were both acceptable and useful to the King'.

Anne donated the huge sum of £1,000 (over £200,000 today) to 'His Majesty's subsistence' and passed on intelligence to the King via Dr Barwick and his brothers. She is mentioned as 'a Person of incomparable Affection to his Majesty, of singular Prudence in designing great Things for his service and of great Interest and Power to render them effectual...' In November 1648, Sir Marmaduke Langdale was captured and imprisoned in Nottingham Castle. He was condemned to death, but Anne contrived a scheme whereby his men would disguise themselves as Parliamentary troops with a message from Lord Cromwell. On that pretext, they would go to Doncaster at night and capture the garrison commander, General Rainsborough. The General would then be bartered in exchange for Sir Marmaduke. The scheme backfired dramatically when the General refused to go quietly and was killed in his private rooms.

The raiding party managed to escape before the alarm was sounded, but realised their actions might speed up their own commander's execution. This caused 'the excellent Lady Savile to employ all her Thoughts (and no-one had a better Head) to contrive the means of his escape'. She bribed the guards then, disguised as one of them, Sir Marmaduke escaped, hiding in a haystack before reaching his cousin's house at Haughton. Despite being surrounded by enemy troops, he escaped, dressed as a milkmaid with a large bonnet and riding on a cow. From there, he swam the River Humber – no mean feat – and, disguised as a clergyman, made his way to Mr Barwick in London, and, from there, to join the King in France.



Sir Marmaduke Langdale - an unlikely milkmaid

Lady Anne was also instrumental in turning an important Parliamentary commander, Colonel Robert Venables, to the Royalist cause, having discovered, privately, that he was not in favour of the execution of Charles I. Dr Barwick tells us, 'That illustrious Heroine... was always suspected by Cromwell's Party, not only to be privy to these noble achievements but to be the Author and Director of them all, yet they could never come to a certain knowledge of this, though they laid their snares on all sides to entrap her'.

Thankfully, Anne survived the remainder of the Civil War unscathed, and, in 1655, married Thomas Chicheley of Wimpole in Cambridgeshire. Together, they went on to have two children of their own. Thomas was said to be 'a gentleman that deserves to be mentioned with honour as a great sufferer for the Royal Cause' and had been High Sheriff and MP for Cambridgeshire. Being higher in status than her husband, Anne kept the title of Lady Savile on her marriage, and Wimpole Hall became known as 'the Lady Savile's house'. Thomas, himself, was only knighted after Anne's death, but later became Master General of the Ordnance and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under both King Charles II and King James II.

Sadly, only 18 months after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Anne became gravely ill and retreated to Wimpole to be cared for by her family and her loyal friend Dr Peter Barwick, who was, by then, 'Physician in Ordinary' to King Charles II. He attributed her illness to 'weariness' brought on by all she had been through. He reports that she 'gave up her great and innocent Soul to God' in July 1662 aged 49 and was buried in St Andrew's church, Wimpole, in the 'new' Chicheley vault. Her burial is recorded in the parish register, on 31 July 1662 – 'The Lady Savell (sic), wife of Thomas Chicheley Esq. was buried in the new vault'.

Of Anne's children by Sir William Savile, three are believed to have died in childhood. William died, unmarried in early adulthood. Anne, married Thomas Hickman-Windsor, Baron Windsor and 1st Earl of Plymouth in 1656, and had three surviving children. Henry, on the recommendation of his uncle, William Coventry, served as a courtier and Groom of the Bedchamber to the Duke of York (the future King James II) and held a diplomatic role as 'envoy extraordinary' to France. Latterly, he became MP for Newark, and Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household. He was, in addition, a member of a group of high-born libertines, known as 'The Merry Gang', who were notorious for their scandalous behaviour. He never married and left his estate to his elder brother George. George, the eldest son, succeeded his father as the 4th Baronet of Thornhill. He had a fascinating and illustrious career, being created Marquess of Halifax in 1667, and serving as Lord Privy Seal. He married Lady Dorothy Spencer, daughter of the 1st Earl of Sunderland, in 1656: their two elder children, were named Anne and William, after his beloved parents;

Refuges

by Tim Hickson



In 1750, George William Coventry, who the following year would become the 6th Earl, stood above Broadway near the place where, many years later, would be built Broadway Tower. He was with his friend, Sanderson Miller, and he said that Croome Court had always been an 'Inn' and, when he inherited, it would continue to be so, welcoming visitors. And that, he concluded, would mean he would never have any privacy. Still in his 20s, that would probably not have bothered him.

However, in 1763, so impressed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's work at Croome, the Earl commissioned him to build what became Springhill House, above Broadway, 'so he could pursue his sporting and horticultural interests in more secluded surroundings'. Curiously the work was paid for by his younger brother, John Bulkeley Coventry. Then when, to the Earl's clear satisfaction, the house was finished, his brother actually took up residence. Whether this was meant to be temporary we do not know.

Nearly 20 years later, the Earl, now almost 60, clearly started to feel the need for somewhere to escape to when he could not cope with the visitors in the Court. Springhill was not, he felt, available as John was there so he asked Robert Adam to design a secret private apartment in the Service Wing at Croome. This would be accessed from a jib door at the top of the first flight of stairs at Croome (I nearly added a picture of the door but I thought it would be more fun if you went to Croome Court to find it!). A jib door is one which, from the front, looks like a piece of a wall.



An example of a jib door

This private apartment contained a bedroom, a WC, a dressing room and a large sitting room with re-cycled seventeenth-century oak panelling and a Derbyshire marble fireplace surround. A door at the far end allowed access from the kitchen and the wine cellar. 'Some 'shed'!

In the 1780s and 1790s the Earl spent money refurbishing Springhill and commissioning new lodges and gates. He also bought more land so the property went up to and beyond what is now the A44 from Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh. That was because he intended that his favourite son, another John, by his second wife, Barbara, could live there.

I was interested to learn that in the Second World War, in that land there was a German Prisoner of War Camp. This was for prisoners who were not avid fans of Hitler and many would have been content no longer to have to fight. For them this place would have been a form of refuge. Quite a number would have worked on neighbouring farms, doing something useful, being valued and, often, better fed. Once the War was over, the camp buildings were then used as a hostel for the unfortunate 'displaced' Polish civilians who were in this country. Whilst they might rather have been back in Poland, the Russians were there and return was either difficult or undesirable. The hostel was called Springhill Lodges Camp and it was run by the National Assistance Board. Again, it was a refuge. As a boy I remember seeing several such camps in various parts of the Cotswolds for different nationalities of displaced people.



Springhill Lodges Camp, Gloucestershire

Conserving Croome's Longcase Clock

by Olivia Barnwell

The Friends of Croome has recently made a generous donation so that the longcase clock at Croome can be serviced and made to work again, after many years standing idle. A report from specialist conservators has highlighted some interesting findings.

The movement features moon work in the break arch and a calendar mechanism and both drive systems are complete, which is often not the case. The clock is well made and likely to be early Victorian given the particular tooth form of the wheels. There is a construction 'mistake' in the mechanism which suggests the clock was either a one-off or the first one of a small batch. One of the dial feet fouls part of the mechanism, which while not affecting the operation of the movement, would have been corrected in later examples. There is no maker signature on the dial.

There is a paper on the reverse of the seat board with 'July 19th July 1896' marked in pencil. The front of the seat board is marked 'Henderson', also in pencil. On the inside of the front plate there are some repairer scratch marks, '26 AWT. W Taylor & Son Pershore' and a further 'Sept 15 1919', and 'Sept 1914'. Inside the front plate there is 'JP 1909' and 'sold July 1912'. In the break arch moon work dial, there is the shape of a ship with a distinctive tricolour flag.



The movement shows evidence of previous good quality repairs, to the bushings in particular, suggesting that this was a valued clock. The clock is however worn and the main bushes front and rear need remedial action. The weights at 13lbs are quite heavy but normal for the period. The clock is a particularly good example of work of the period. There are, however, several poorer quality repairs. The movement is heavily scarred with 'punching up' marks, made by previous repairers who either did not wish to go to the trouble of replacing or making new bushes, or were constrained by clients unwilling to pay the cost of such work.

Punching up was common in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century when long case clocks did not have the value to cover the cost of proper intervention. Punching up is a method of moving the brass towards a worn hole, either using a shaped punch (often 'C' shaped) or a dot punch, or in this case both, as well as a ball-peen hammer. For today's clockmaker previous punching up presents a real problem as the parent metal around a worn bush has been denuded. Thus, to make a proper job a much larger, often top-hat bush has to be used, to provide a decent area of running or load bearing material. There is an interesting casting mark on the winding great wheel, 'L and F', quite a rare find.

These findings are quite detailed and technical but provide a fascinating insight into the clock's history and details of earlier repairs. The clock, once again in full working order, will be part of the growing number of pieces from the Coventry family collection on public view at Croome.



The Walled Gardens at Croome Court

by Chris and Karen Cronin



A scene from the Natural Theatre Company's production in the Walled Gardens

We hope you've had a wonderful start to 2026, and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Walled Gardens from Easter. Since last summer, the gardens have been full of activity and memorable moments. We've welcomed group visits, enjoyed a fruitful autumn harvest and celebrated a season of colourful blooms. We were delighted to host The Natural Theatre Company as part of their *Austen: Lost and Found* walkabout performance at Croome, bringing a touch of Regency magic into the gardens.

Our distinctive black pears also found their way onto a special tasting menu at Feli's Restaurant in Stoulton, created as part of Visit Worcestershire's Taste Worcestershire campaign; a wonderful example of local collaboration between garden and kitchen. We were thrilled to reach an important milestone this year, with The Walled Gardens at Croome Court named Best Privately Owned Garden Attraction 2025 – UK in the Corporate Vision Small Business Awards. This recognition is a testament to the ongoing restoration work and the support of everyone who has helped shape the gardens over the years.

In December, we were proud sponsors of Croome's spectacular Rapturous Delight event, contributing to the illuminated walkway and the stunning exterior lighting of the Church, Rotunda and Court. It was a joy to help bring an extra sparkle to Croome at Christmas. We were also featured in Visit Worcestershire's Regency-inspired days out blog, shining a spotlight on the gardens and the wider Croome estate.

Looking Ahead To Spring

As we move closer to the new season, we are seeking volunteer support to help with the ongoing care of the gardens. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in volunteering as a garden steward during opening hours, or as a gardener mid-week, please email croomevolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

We're excited for another year of visits, tours, events and continued developments, and we look forward to sharing more with you over the coming months.



Visiting The Walled Gardens

The Walled Gardens are open every Saturday and Sunday from April to September, including Bank Holidays.
Opening hours: 11 am – 5 pm (last entry 4 pm)
Admission: £7 per adult; children under-14 visit free of charge (usual National Trust Croome admission applies).

All proceeds support the ongoing restoration and care of the gardens.

Croome Gallery & Pottery

Croome Gallery & Pottery is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and on Bank Holidays from April to September.
Opening hours may vary from October to December.

Access is via the National Trust visitor centre, with no additional charge when The Walled Gardens are closed.
Follow the signs to the garden gate, down the hill behind the gazebo.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more with you in the summer.

Left: Pineapples growing in the recently completed Pineapple House

