

The Gibbs Church of 1722

The church dedicated to St Giles is a remarkably neat fabric and was rebuilt by Christopher Lord Barnard several of whose family are buried here as well as some branches of the Westmoreland and Darlington families of whom there are several memorials in the church besides helmets swords and various pieces of armour belonging to those noble families.

James Phippen: *New Guide for Tunbridge Wells*, 2nd Edn., 1844



View to the west, from Stumble Hill, with the old inn – The Bull on the left and the smithy on the right – both demolished when the present church was built in 1881

No part of this church, designed by James Gibbs and built in 1723, survives above ground. It seems to have suffered from structural problems and was replaced by the present church in 1881.

Archives record that the nave was filled with box pews; the altar and pulpit were dressed with red velvet hangings in the 18th century manner; there was a marble font, a brass candelabrum and an alms box. The chancel was dominated by the great monument to Lord Barnard.

Vestry minutes record that in 1869 Sir Edward Vane of Hutton in the Forest, Penrith asked if he might have the Shipbourne armour in order to preserve it. Some of this funerary armour still hangs today in the great hall at Hutton.



Vane family armour
now at Hutton in the
Forest

Images: Lord Inglewood

175 Years at Fairlawne

Sir Henry Vane
the Elder

1589 - 1655

Image: Bonhams



Image: Raby Estates

Christopher Vane, 1st Lord Barnard

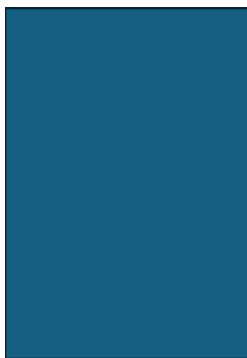
1653 - 1723

Image: Raby Estates



William Vane
1st Viscount Vane

1682 - 1734



William Vane
2nd Viscount Vane

1714 - 1789

Image:
Hon. Christopher Vane



1600

1614: Henry Vane the Elder purchases Fairlawne

1628: Purchase of Raby Castle

1662: Henry Vane the Younger executed

1698: Christopher Vane created 1st Lord Barnard

1723: New church, designed by Gibbs, consecrated



1751: Publication of Frances Vane's *Memoirs of a Lady of Quality*



1789: Fairlawne inherited by remote cousin David Papillion on death of 2nd Viscount Vane

1800

James Gibbs 1682 - 1754



James Gibbs, c. 1726
By John Michael Rysbrack
Victoria & Albert Museum



St Martin in the Fields
Gibbs: *A Book of Architecture*
Published 1728



John Michael Rysbrack
Self-Portrait Bust
King Baudouin Foundation

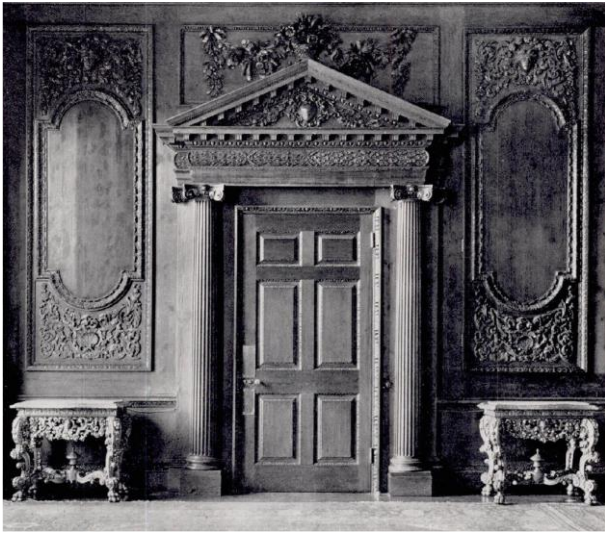
In the early 1720s, James Gibbs was the in vogue architect in England. Work began on designs he had prepared for St Martins in the Field, and for buildings in Cambridge, including the Senate House and at King's College. During this period of intense activity, he was also retained by Lord Barnard to remodel and extend Fairlawne, design a replacement church for St Giles' Shipbourne and make changes at Raby Castle.

Barnard's account ledger at Hoare's Bank shows that between 11 April 1722 and 18 May 1723, he paid Gibbs £2,628.10.0 for work carried out on these commissions.

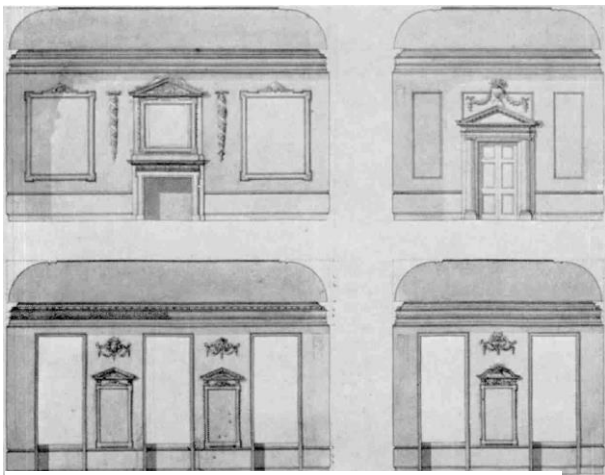
The portrait bust of Gibbs, made in 1726, was by his friend and associate John Michael Rysbrack (1694 – 1770). They collaborated together on a number of projects, notably monuments in Westminster Abbey (designed by Gibbs, and executed by Rysbrack), as well as garden ornaments and sculpture for the grounds at Stowe House, Buckinghamshire.

It is probable that Rysbrack was responsible for the sculpture of the Barnard monument in St Giles.

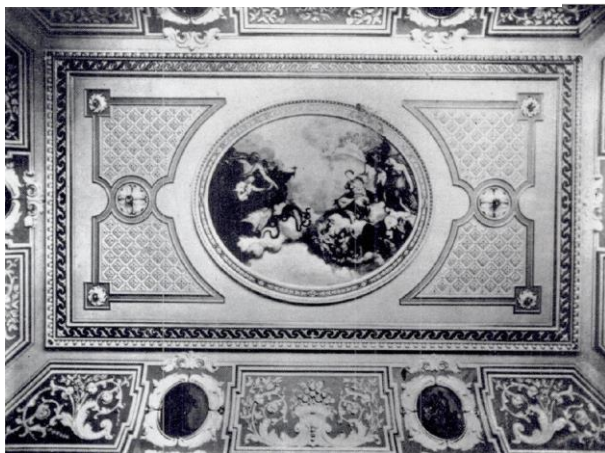
James Gibbs and Fairlawne



The "Great Room"
Fairlawne 1918
Country Life



Gibbs's Drawings for Fairlawne
*Gibbs Collection, Bodleian,
University of Oxford*



The ornate ceiling to the "Great Room", now destroyed.
Photograph c. 1880

In 1721-22, Gibbs built 'a very handsome Room with a fine fretwork Ceiling' as an addition to Fairlawne. Lord Barnard died just as the work was being completed and his younger son, William Vane, the first Viscount was the beneficiary. The second Viscount was often absent and let out the house. Between 1739 and 1742-one wing of the house burnt down, was rebuilt, then burnt down again and rebuilt for a second time!

However the "Great Room" as it was sometimes called survived. It is shown in this photograph which appear in *Country Life* in 1918. Although sometimes attributed to Grinling Gibbons, it seems more likely that the intricate stucco was the work of the Italian Swiss duo, Artari and Bagutti, described by Gibbs as the best ornamentists ever to arrive in England. In 1723, the pair worked at nearby Mereworth Castle.

Gibbs's original designs for the walls and ceiling are held in the Bodleian in Oxford. The ornate ceiling was probably destroyed during building work in the 1890s – but is recorded in a photograph from the 1880s. The "Great Room" at Fairlawne has been described as one of the most important rooms by Gibbs to survive.

Mary Beale 1633 - 1699



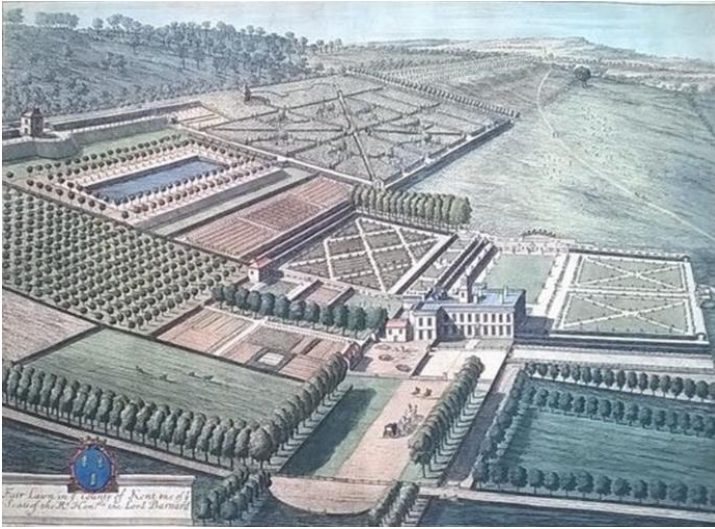
Mary Beale: Self Portrait,
Holding an Artist's Palette,
c 1675



Sir Peter Lely: Self Portrait,
c 1660

The originals of the portraits of Christopher, Lord Barnard and his wife, Elizabeth used in this exhibition hang in Raby Castle. They are attributed to the English portrait painter, **Mary Beale** (1633–1699). She was part of a small band of female professional artists working in London. Beale became the main financial provider for her family through her professional work– a career she maintained from 1670/71 to the 1690s. Beale was also a writer, whose prose *Discourse on Friendship* of 1666 presents a scholarly, uniquely female take on the subject. Her 1663 manuscript *Observations*, on the materials and techniques employed "in her painting of Apricots", though not printed, is the earliest known instructional text in English written by a female painter. Praised first as a "virtuous" practitioner in "Oyl Colours" by Sir William Sanderson in his 1658 book *Graphice: Or The use of the Pen and Pensil; In the Excellent Art of PAINTING*, Beale's work was later commended by court painter Sir Peter Lely, whose work includes portraits of Sir Henry Vane the Younger, including one from Raby Castle which is included in this exhibition.

Fairlawne Park Then and Now



Johannes Kip: Fairlawne
Hand coloured, c. 1707



Aerial photograph, June 2024
Courtesy Fairlawne Estates



Yew Trees in the Wilderness
Photograph: Country Life, 1918

In the early 1700s, the Dutch draughtsman and engraver Johannes Kip (1653 – 1722) etched a series of birds-eye views of “the Principal Seats of the Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain” and included this view of Fairlawne.

The garden shown in Kip’s engraving was probably laid out for Lord Barnard; the framework of the gardens shown in the recent aerial view still follow the main lines of its earthworks.

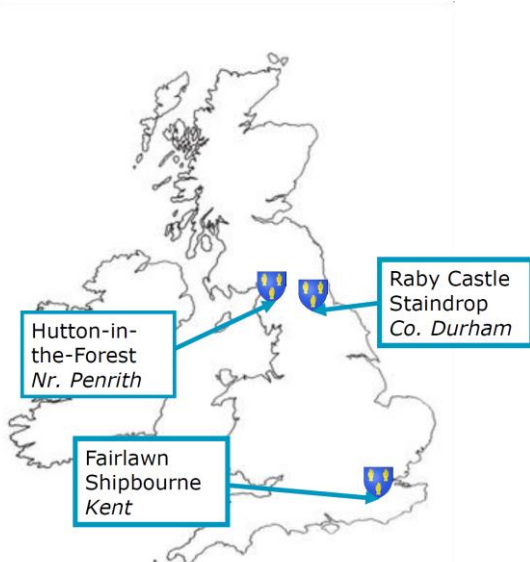
Until late into the 20th century, the least altered part was the “Wilderness”, shown in the distance by Kip, top left, as clumps of trees intersected by alleys. After 300 years the clumps had grown into tall yew trees, straight stemmed and about 50 feet high.

During the night of 15 October 1987, Fairlawne lost a quarter of a million trees including many of the yew trees. This provided an opportunity to introduce a number of new features into the gardens, many of which are reminiscent of those depicted by Kip.

The Vanes Now



Raby Castle
12th Baron Barnard,
Rt. Hon Henry Vane
Image courtesy Raby Estates



Hutton-in-the Forest
2nd Baron Inglewood,
Rt Hon. Richard Fletcher-Vane
Image: Courtesy Lord Inglewood

The Vane family still own Raby Castle. The present owner, the Right Honourable Henry Vane, the 12th Lord Barnard, inherited the castle and succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 2016. Raby Castle is famous for its works of art, mostly collected by the Vane Family, including old masters and family portraits. Noted artists whose work is in the castle's collection include Kneller, Van Dyck and Sir Joshua Reynolds. The Deer Park and Gardens are open daily and the castle itself is open a several days a week from March to October.

Hutton was inherited by Sir Henry Vane the younger's brother's grandson, who used the name Fletcher, sometime in the 1740s. By the mid 19th century, the family was using the Vane name. The last Sir Henry Vane died in 1909 without any children.

After some years the estate was inherited by a distant cousin, William Vane, nephew of the 9th Lord Barnard of Raby Castle.

In 1964 he was created 1st Lord Inglewood and today his son, Richard, has succeeded to the title and to Hutton. Hutton has many portraits and artefacts relating to the Vanes time at Fairlawne, some acquired when David Papillion inherited Fairlawne and some later.

The Vane Portraits



The Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Vane the Younger has the three quarter length image shown on the left, which is attributed to Sir Peter Lely. A copy is owned by Lord Inglewood.

Diana Dethloff, who is responsible for the Catalogue Raisonne of the works of Lely comments: *"If there ever was an original autograph Lely portrait of Henry Vane the Younger, it is no longer known or has come to light. The head in this later copy derives from Lely's autograph head and shoulders portrait of Vane the Younger .. at Raby"*. In this exhibition we have used the Raby portrait.



There are some doubts as to whether the portrait we – and Wikipedia – have used for Frances Vane is authentic. This version is owned by Lord Inglewood who believes that it might in fact be of the *first* Viscountess Vane, Lucy Joliffe, who married William, second son of the first Lord Barnard in 1703. Raymond Joliffe, 5th Baron Hylton, is reputed to have another version of the painting. A suggested artist is John Closterman, a Westphalian portrait painter active in London in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, who died in 1711.



The portrait of the second Viscount used in this exhibition was provided by Lord Inglewood's brother, Christopher, who bought the painting at Sotheby's some 30 years ago, where it was identified as the first Viscount and attributed to school of Kneller.

Christopher Vane comments: *It seemed to me based on the age of the sitter, his wig and his clothes that, if the sitter was one of the Viscount Vanes, he was much more likely to be the 2nd Viscount.!* We have gone with this!

The Vane Family Crypt

Throughout their time at Fairlawne, leading members of the Vane family were interred in the family vault which lies under the nave of the present church.



The most notable is Sir Henry Vane the younger who is interred in an anthropoid lead coffin. The coffin bears a simple gilded lead depositum plate: "Sir Henry Vane Junior 1662" in a flowing script.

According to Dr Julian Litten: *It is interesting that the remains of Sir Henry were released for burial at Shipbourne when almost all of those executed for treason at The Tower were hastily buried in St Peter-ad-Vincular.*

The coffin is fine for its date and typical London manufacture."

Although crude, the head has been given eyebrows, their arms across the chest and toes on the feet.

Close to Sir Henry lie the lead coffins of his son, Christopher, first Lord Barnard, as well as the second and third Lords Barnard, even though they resided at Raby Castle.

Lying side by side, closer in death than they ever were in life, lie the ornate wooden coffins of the 2nd Viscount Vane and his wife, Frances, decorated with viscount's coronets. The depositum plate for Frances has the motto: "For my own".

The crypt has been extended several times and also holds the remains of subsequent owners of Fairlawne, including the remains of Edward Cazalet, the builder of the present church, his wife Maude, and the ashes of their son, William.



