Welcome to the Blue Room

The Blue Room is decorated with panelling that is said to have been recycled from Stanage Park in Radnorshire. Stanage belonged to Elizabeth Knight who married Thomas Johnes I in 1746. Elizabeth’s father had made a fortune in the iron industry and bought Croft Castle from the Croft family to give to the newlyweds as a wedding present.

The panels were painted with a 3D effect by the architect Thomas Farnolls-Pritchard who designed the iron bridge at Ironbridge Gorge. They were restored in the 1960s to remove damage caused by the school desks belonging to the children of St Elizabeth’s school that were evacuated to the Castle during the Second World War.

A recent addition to this room is a portrait of Elizabeth Croft by John Constable. She married Herbert Croft, 5th Baronet, in 1795 but the marriage was not destined to be a happy one. Becoming bankrupt, Croft was arrested for debt the day after his wedding to Elizabeth. He eventually fled to France where he remained in exile, separated from his wife, until his death in 1816. The couple never lived at Croft Castle.

Over the chimney piece hangs a portrait of Elizabeth Cowper, Lady Croft (1737-1805), painted by Thomas Gainsborough in Bath in 1761.

The name ‘Rococo’ is said to come from the French ‘Rocaille’ because of the rock or broken shell motifs that often formed part of the designs.

This chimney piece was removed from the Oak Room and is the most ornate in the castle.

The Worcester blue and white porcelain was made in 1751-76.

One of the mid 18th-century high back chairs is upholstered with rare early 18th century embroidery of Delft flower holders, popularised in England by Queen Mary in the 17th century.