

# Buckland Abbey

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

After a year off, the National Trust Visit's group are restarting their trips out and about. Most of the group expressed a wish to restart but also to stay local. Hence our first outing will be to Buckland Abbey.



The National Trust says:

When you visit Buckland, you follow over 700 years of footsteps, from the Cistercians who built the Abbey and farmed the estate, to seafarers Grenville and Drake who changed the shape of the house and the fate of the country.

The Abbey is part museum, part house, and filled with treasures. There's no mistaking the magnificence of the Great Barn, which has remained virtually unchanged since it was built all those centuries ago.

You'll discover meadows, orchards and woodlands where you can enjoy far reaching views of the Tavy valley.

At the Cider House, herbaceous borders provide seasonal interest and a secret "wild garden" is a wonderful place for quiet contemplation.

Historic England says:

Buckland Abbey was one of the last Cistercian houses to be founded in England and it was also the most westerly. The Great Barn is one of the largest medieval barns remaining in the country. The presence of quarries from which stone was derived for the construction of the abbey is also an unusual feature. The abbey was converted into an Elizabethan mansion by Sir Richard Grenville and subsequently became the home of Sir Francis Drake, two important figures in the history of Elizabethan England who have acquired an heroic and legendary national identity. Drake also has international historical connections. Grenville's adaptation of the abbey church into a dwelling, rather than the more usual adaptation of part of a claustral range, is of interest. In particular, the conversion of the presbytery, the most sacred part of the abbey, into a serving area between the hall and kitchens, demonstrates an aggressive invasion of the secular into a sacred space which gives an insight into the emergence and growth of rationalism and sectarianism following the Reformation, and Grenville's understanding and interpretation of these trends in thought

## Getting there:

The original concept of the National Trust Visits Group was to use public transport. The journey was part of the day out, not just the destination.

However, the current situation with the pandemic has changed many things, including travel.

You do therefore have a choice:

### Option 1

Stagecoach bus 1 from Tavistock bus station at 10.45 to Yelverton roundabout.

Then Oakley's bus 55 from Yelverton roundabout to Abbey Cross at 11.20. It is a short walk to the Abbey entrance.

Return bus from Abbey Cross 14.40 or 17.10

### Option 2

Drive to Buckland Abbey following the brown signs. (The National Trust specifically advise against using Sat Nav!).

## Meet

Whichever way you decide to travel, meet in the courtyard by the Restaurant, ie beyond the reception area, at **11.30 am**.

## Entry

The NT say that there is no need to book for entry to the Abbey on weekdays although they may limit numbers some other way. The Abbey is open from 11.00am.

The grounds are open as normal.

Don't forget your NT card if you haven't used it for a while.

