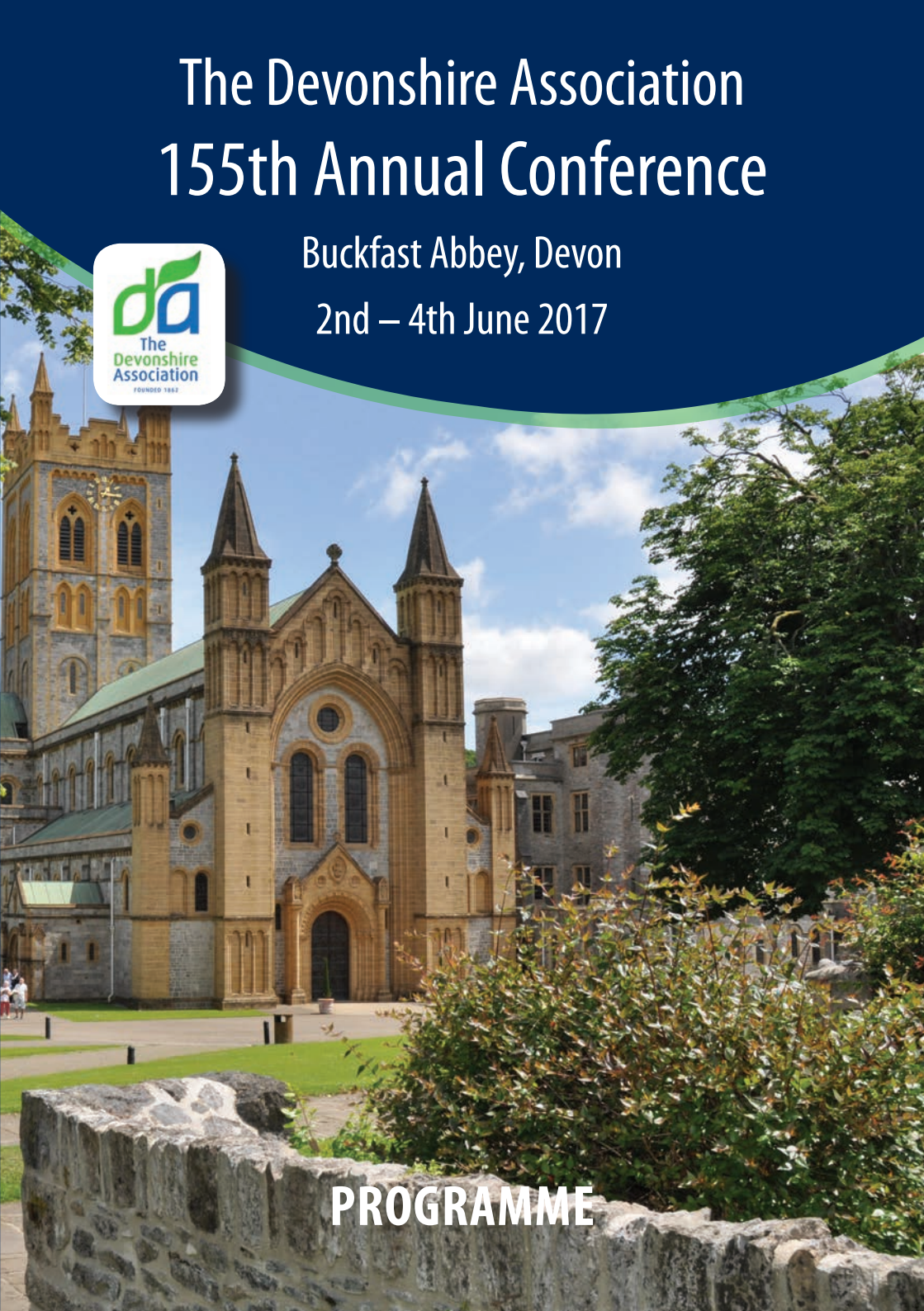
The Devonshire Association
155th Annual Conference

Buckfast Abbey, Devon

2nd – 4th June 2017



PROGRAMME

The Devonshire Association

Registered Charity No. 252468
Founded 1862

www.devonassoc.org.uk

Patron
The Dowager Countess of Devon

President
David Fursdon LL

Immediate Past President
Dr Todd Gray MBE

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Rev. Peter Beacham OBE

Vice-Chairman
Professor John Mather

Honorary Secretary
Nicholas Wells

Honorary Treasurer
Colin Turner

Honorary Editor
Professor Malcolm Hart

Registrar
Dr Bridget Gillard

The President

David Fursdon MA FRICS FRAgS LL

David Fursdon came to Devon with Catriona in 1979 after an early career in the civil service, a short commission in the Gurkhas and a degree from St John's College, Oxford, to improve the fortunes of his 750 year-old family estate at Cadbury, in Mid-Devon. After a spell teaching geography, debating and cricket at Blundell's School, he went to the Royal Agricultural University and qualified as a rural surveyor. He worked in Devon as an equity partner of Stags and then became President of the CLA in 2005.

Since then he has been a board member of the Crown Estates, English Heritage, the SW Regional Development Agency, The National Trust, the Historic Houses Association, the Duchy of Cornwall Rural Committee and the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. He chaired the SW Board for London 2012, and the Government's Future of Farming Review, and is currently Chairman of Beeswax Dyson Farming Ltd, and the SW Rural and Farming Network.

He was High Sheriff of Devon and is now Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County.

155th Annual Conference 2017

Local Advisor – Mr Geoff Pring

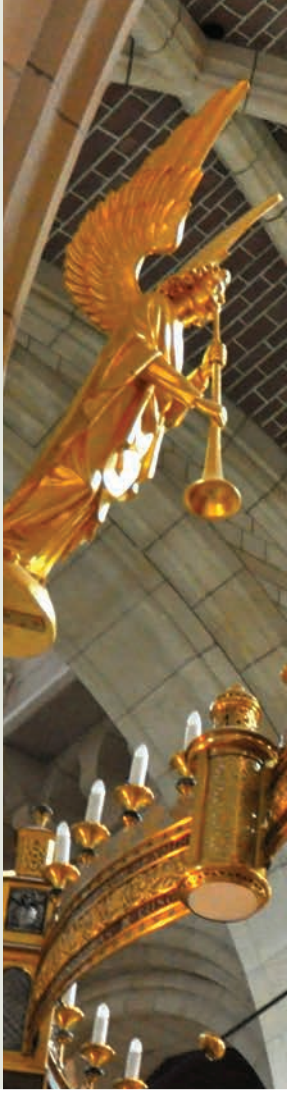
The Association is greatly indebted to Mr Geoff Pring for his invaluable help and advice in connection with the arrangements for this year's Annual Conference.

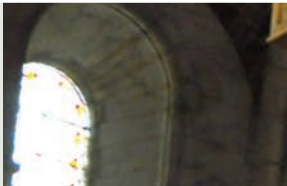
BUCKFAST 2017 – Rev. Peter Beacham OBE, Executive Committee Chairman

Even for the peripatetic Devonshire Association, Buckfast Abbey offers a venue of quite exceptional interest for our 2017 conference. A monastery was first founded at Buckfast in 1018 which developed into a major Cistercian abbey before the Dissolution: we now know much more about this medieval foundation thanks to major archaeological, historic and architectural research of recent decades. But what the vast number of visitors to the present day Buckfast come to see is not the ruins of a medieval abbey but the remarkable achievement of a group of Benedictine monks who re-founded the monastery and abbey church from the late nineteenth century, a monumental task carried out throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty first. It is a truly inspiring story, still centered on the monks' life of worship and prayer in the beautiful abbey church with its exquisite furnishings and decoration. But there is much more to interest DA members, including the site's considerable industrial history, based on the use of abundant water power for the textile industry.

Nor will you be coming to bare monastic cells! The conference centre and residential accommodation offer some of the best modern facilities in Devon for our comfort and as a base for exploration of the abbey, its precinct and the surrounding area.

I very much hope you will be able to join us for all or part of our exciting programme.





Annual Conference 2017

Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre parking: do not use the main car park. Go past the main entrance to Buckfast Abbey and take the first turning on the right into Higher Mill Lane, which merges into Grange Road, then turn right into Buckfast Road, then left into North Wood Lane and follow signs to the Conference Centre.

The Devonshire Association

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Presentations

A provisional list of topics, which we hope will be covered by papers presented or summarised at the Annual Conference and included in Volume 149 (2017) of the *Report and Transactions*.

Fursdon, D.	President's address Heads below the parapet – still the best way to preserve a country estate?
Brown, S.	Public lecture 35 years of archaeological investigation at Buckfast Abbey
Andrew, S.	The master carver and the monks: Harry Hems and the rebuilding of Buckfast Abbey
Ashford, R.	Dartmoor Powdermills – an update
Ashford, R.	Thomas Gill and the industrial development of Plymouth in the nineteenth century
Bhanji, S.	Caleb Hedgeland's 1811 model of Exeter Cathedral: a description and comparison with other contemporary depictions
Billinge, F.	Customs of the historic manor and borough of Bovey Tracey from the seventeenth century
Christie, P. S.	The Skeleton Army comes to North Devon
Whitten, E. H. T.	Widecombe-in-the-Moor – topography and drainage: a story from early maps

The Conference

1. All events on Friday 2nd June and Saturday 3rd June (including the Public Lecture) will take place in the **Conference Centre of Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0EE, Tel: 01364 645530.**
2. Should you wish to stay there, the **Northgate Hotel (Tel: 01364 645639)** is offering members of the Association a conference rate for bed and breakfast. When booking you should mention the Association's Conference. Adequate parking is available adjacent to the Hotel.
3. Members **requiring vegetarian meals** must please notify the Secretary in advance of the Conference so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Vegetarian alternatives will be available only if previously requested.
4. Members seeking transport from the **Northgate Hotel** to any of the Sunday events should contact the Secretary, **nicholaswells5@btinternet.com**
5. The Registration Fee of £10-00 per day for the 2nd and 3rd June (or £16-00 if you register for both days) is added as a contribution towards the cost of administration, the hire of conference facilities, guest hospitality, etc. Please note that a registration fee will not be charged for those **only** attending events on Sunday 4th June.
6. The Devonshire Association reserves the right to limit numbers at some events if necessary.
7. Please have your registration form available at all events.
8. Non-members of The Devonshire Association will be welcome to attend all events (subject to pre-booking and to paying the appropriate charges), but will not be entitled to speak or vote at the AGM.
9. Full travel instructions for the Sunday visits will be available at the AGM on Saturday: these instructions can also be obtained from **Colin Turner** (Telephone: 01626 832266; Email: cwt@leat.myzen.co.uk) before the conference, should anyone who is not attending the AGM be planning to go on an excursion.

DINNER MENU

STARTER

(A) Home-smoked chicken breast – sliced onto an orange and candied walnut salad

or

(B) Home-cured gravadlax – with Buckfast honey and dill

or

(C) Soup – roasted yellow pepper and squash

MAIN COURSE

(D) Medallions of local pork tenderloin – pan-fried with wild mushrooms served with Buckfast tonic and Dijon mustard sauce

or

(E) Fillet of sea bass – with Brixham crab pancakes and an orange and saffron butter sauce

or

(F) Leek and Sharpham Brie risotto balls – with tomato fondue

DESSERT

(G) Dark chocolate and Buckfast tonic tart

or

(H) Raspberry crème brûlée – with vanilla shortbread

or

(I) St Cuthbert's fresh fruit salad

or

(J) Vanilla and strawberry ice cream

Travel instructions and further information, where applicable, will be available at the conference or from **Colin Turner (Tel: 01626 832266)** if you are not attending on Friday or Saturday.

Friday 2nd June

12:00 Assemble at the Northgate Hotel for an informal finger buffet with a cash bar. ***Pre-booking essential***

14:00 Presentations on ***The Distinctiveness of Buckfastleigh*** by the DA Sections

15:30 Tour of the Abbey and precinct led by **Fr Christopher Delaney OSB** and **Mr Stewart Brown**

18:15 President's Reception hosted by **Dr Todd Gray MBE**

19:15 Public Lecture by **Mr Stewart Brown:** 35 years of archaeological investigation at Buckfast Abbey

20:15 Hot buffet supper with a cash bar. ***Pre-booking essential***

Saturday 3rd June

09:00 Registration

09:15 Presentation of papers chaired by **Professor Malcolm Hart**

10:45 Coffee and biscuits

11:15 Presentation of papers (continued)

12:30 Lunch break – finger buffet with a cash bar. ***Pre-booking essential***

13:30 Registration

13:45 AGM

15:00 Tea and biscuits

15:30 Installation of the new President, **David Fursdon, LL. President's address:** Heads below the parapet – still the best way to preserve a country estate?

19:00 Informal gathering in the cash bar

19:30 Dinner hosted by the Chairman, with a cash bar ***Pre-booking and advance menu choices essential (see enclosed registration form)***

Sunday 4th June *(Choice of visits)*

Morning

10:30 A warm welcome to attend **Conventual Mass**, sung by the **Abbey Choir**.

or

10:30 **A tour of the Abbey gardens**, public and private, led by head gardener **Mr Aaron Southgate**

or

10:30 A visit to the **William Pengelly Caves Study Centre and Museum**, led by **Mrs Sheila Phillips**

Afternoon

14:30 A visit to **Spitchwick Manor**, an historic Dartmoor Estate, led by the owner, **Mr Patrick Simpson**. The visit does not include a tour of the house but there will be a cream tea at the end. ***(Limited to 30 participants.)***

or

14:30 A visit to **Old Parsonage Farm** at Dartington Hall where we will be shown a recent adaptation and development of the model farm buildings to meet the changing needs of the farm business. A short clip of the Dartington Estate in the 1920s will be shown. Our guide will be **Mr Jon Perkin**, the current tenant.

The Annual General Meeting
of The Devonshire Association will be held in The Schiller Hall, Conference Centre, Buckfast Abbey on Saturday 3rd June 2017, at 13:45.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Members and Associates:
   a) elected; b) resigned; or c) deceased since the last AGM
4. Report of the Executive Committee
5. Annual Financial Report
6. To elect the Officers for 2017/2018 (Rules 20 & 31)
7. To elect three members to serve on the Executive Committee for three years (Rule 25)
8. To appoint an 'independent examiner' for 2017 (Rule 20)
9. List of papers accepted by the Executive Committee for publication in the Transactions
10. Vote of thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the conference
11. Vote of thanks to the Officers of the Association, including those of the Branches and Sections, the local Advisers and the Registrar

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E-mail:nicholaswells5@btinternet.com

Organisers: **Colin Turner & Jonathan Aylett**
Editor: **Antony T Buller**
Graphic Designer: **Delphine Jones**
Publisher: **The Devonshire Association**
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All photographs are courtesy of Antony T Buller, with the exception of President David Fursdon (own photograph).

Registered Charity No. 252468

Notes regarding

The Annual General Meeting

1. Nominations are invited from Members for the positions of Officers, i.e. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Editor, to serve for one year (Rules 20 & 21) and for three Members to serve for three years on the Executive Committee (Rule 25). **John Mather** is standing down as Vice-Chairman and **Brendan Hurley** as a committee member; neither is seeking re-election. **Sue Andrew**, an elected member of the Executive Committee, offers herself for election as Vice-Chairman. **Jenny Pery** resigned on 8 August 2016 and **Jenny Bennett** was co-opted on 11 December 2016 and offers herself for election to the Executive Committee.

2. A Nomination Form is **not** included; those wishing to make nominations for the posts of Officers and the Committee should apply **in writing** to the Honorary Secretary for the appropriate Nomination Form. Completed forms must be received by the Honorary Secretary no later than **Saturday, 13th May, 2017**. It should be noted that those nominated are asked to provide a few words about themselves that could accompany any ballot papers.

3. Under Rule 23 Members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting may request a ballot paper if a ballot becomes necessary for any position. Please inform the Honorary Secretary **in writing** if you require this and a ballot paper will then be sent to you once all nominations have been received.

4. Conference attendees who wish to receive an electronic version of the Annual Accounts in advance of the AGM should complete the relevant section in the Application Form.

The Devonshire Association
155th Annual Conference
Application Form
2nd – 4th June 2017

To be returned by **12th May 2017** to:

The Registrar, The Devonshire Association,
Unit 10, Chitterley Business Centre,
Silverton, EXETER, EX5 4DB

Telephone: 01392 860456
Email: devonshireassoc@btconnect.com

I/we wish to attend the following events:

	Numbers attending	£
Friday 2nd June		
Finger buffet lunch @ £14-00	_____	_____
Tour of Abbey @ £3-00	_____	_____
President's reception/public lecture	_____	no charge
Hot buffet supper @ £18-00	_____	_____
Saturday 3rd June		
Coffee & biscuits @ £3-00	_____	_____
Finger buffet lunch @ £16-00	_____	_____
AGM & Presidential Address	_____	no charge
Tea & biscuits @ £3-00	_____	_____
Dinner @ £28-00	_____	_____

Please highlight your dinner menu choices

Name: _____

A B C / D E F / G H I J

Name: _____

A B C / D E F / G H I J

	Numbers attending	£
Sunday 4th June, visits:		
Conventual Mass	_____	no charge
Abbey gardens @ £5-00	_____	_____
Caves and museum @ £5-00	_____	_____
Spitchwick Manor @ £5-00	_____	_____
Old Parsonage Farm @ £5-00	_____	_____

Please add **Registration Fee @ £10-00 per head per day for 2nd/3rd June**, or **£16-00 per head if registering for both days** *(See Conf. Note 5)*

TOTAL ENCLOSED **£**

I/we enclose a cheque for the full cost payable to:
The Devonshire Association

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Vegetarian meals required *(see Conf. Note 3)*

_____

_____

I / we require an electronic version of the Annual Accounts *(see AGM Note 4)* – Yes / No