

Excursion No 5 : Thursday 25th August 2022 (afternoon)

The Bath Abbey Footprint Project

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Summary

The Footprint Project which began in 2005 grew out of the need to re-level the Abbey floor which had become uneven due to collapsing voids underneath where up to 8000 burials had taken place in previous centuries. After an initial investigation in 2013 it was decided to lift and relay the stone floor slabs, excavate and fill the voids and take the opportunity to install a new revolutionary underfloor heating system and upgrade the lighting to low-energy LED to further reduce the Abbey's energy footprint!

The £19.4million project also included linking the Abbey underground to the nearby Abbey Chambers and Kingston Buildings to create a new Song School, Learning space and other facilities.

The Abbey contains over 1500 memorials including 891 ledger stones on the floor and 617 wall mounted tablets – only Westminster Abbey has more! Most of the ledger stones have been recorded, repaired and re-laid with the inscribed family names' history researched.

The tour will be lead by Jeremy Key-Pugh, a former teacher at Kingswood School, a keen historian with a particular interest in the history of the Abbey and is also a Lay Dean at the Abbey.

If time permits there might be a Powerpoint presentation of the archaeology of the Abbey!

Meeting time and place.

Meet outside the Abbey Great West Door at 2.30pm on Thursday 25th August.

No special clothing or footwear required!

The tour will take 1.5 – 2 hours and the nearest parking is Manvers Street CP (small, longstay) or Southgate Centre CP (large, longstay) or Avon Street CP (large longstay), Bath Sports Centre (4hr max.) all of which incur charges. Long-stay street parking is non existent!

Consider using public transport - i.e. Bath Spa Railway Station, P&R buses, or normal service buses.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and by joining this BACAS walk you do so at your own risk

Maximum participants: 15 Cost: members £7 - Non-members £10