## Garden outings group visit to Fountains Abbey Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

The ruins at Fountains Abbey are the largest monastic ruins in the country. Step back into a rich and dramatic past and imagine what life would have been like for the monks who first came here, and learn how Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal became one.

During your visit you will be able to follow the gentle banks of the River Skell down from the abbey to the garden which has been developed into canals, cascades and ponds. As well as the abbey itself, you can explore Porter's Lodge, Fountains Hall, Fountains Mill and learn about heritage crafts at Swanley Grange.

A range of seasonal food is served at the Visitor Centre Restaurant, with hot meals, sandwiches and sweet treats among the items on the menu. Indoor and outdoor seating is available, or you can choose to take your purchases away with you.

The cost of the outing is £35 (£19 admission and £16 for transport.) National Trust members will have free entry on production of a membership card. Two minibuses are available (32 seats) and they will leave behind Costa Coffee in Seaham Harbour at 9.30 am. Names will be taken for this outing at the Monthly Meeting at the end of April/May as will as a £5 deposit.

Sheila O'Connor/Linda Solaimin Group Organisers