

# PLACES TO LOOK FOR

## **The Medieval Bridge** 1



stands at the site of the original crossing. The river was first bridged by the Normans. The bridge was rebuilt in the 13th-14th centuries and has been repaired and kept in use ever since. It has been the scene of many notable and emotional occasions, including the arrival of the Black Prince and his retinue to hold Court at Restormel Castle in 1354, and the dispatch of the defeated Parliamentary army by the angry citizens in 1644. The foundations of four western arches are buried under North Street. The eastern arches were added as the river changed course.

## **The Duchy Palace** 2



reached along the quay as far as the archway. All Cornish affairs and the tin industry were controlled from here, including the Courts, Treasury, Maritime offices, the Stannary Parliament, smelting, coinage and assaying of tin and the stannary prison. The complex was badly damaged by Parliamentary soldiers during the Siege of Lostwithiel, 1644. The Convocation Hall at the corner of Quay Street is best preserved and carries the emblem of the Black Prince (the first Duke of Cornwall) at the apex of the northern gable.

## **The Church** 3

dedicated in honour of Saint Bartholomew, the patron saint of tanners, was built in the 12th century. The square tower was added to the church, in the 13th century. The church was

largely rebuilt in 14th century. The east window and the octagonal lantern and spire atop the tower, date from then. The spire has been replaced more than once. The Church was desecrated during the Civil War, when it was used to stable horses. It is said that one was christened 'Charles' by Parliamentary soldiers.



## **Restormel Castle** 4

is on a spur overlooking the river Fowey. The Norman 'ringwork and bailey' castle was rebuilt in the late 13th century as a prestigious residence for Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. After Edmund, it was only lived in occasionally. It was visited by the Black Prince and later fell into disrepair. The splendid deer park was 'disparked' by Henry VIII. The castle was held briefly by the Parliamentarians in 1644, until it was captured by Grenville for the Royalists. The views from the ramparts are magnificent.



**Taprell House** 5 was possibly a medieval guildhall developed into a dwelling at the end of the 16th century. It was the home of the Mayor during the Siege of Lostwithiel. The building is now shared by the Library and the Methodist Church.

## **Edgcumbe House** 6

A Georgian extension to Taprell House was built by Lord Edgcumbe in the 1740s as his town house. It now houses the Mayor's Parlour and the Town Clerk's office. A dower house was built next door for the Dowager Lady Edgcumbe.

**The Grammar School** 7 built in 1781, also served as a Market Hall and Assembly Rooms. Only the facade

remains, in 1981 flats for the elderly were built in its place.



## **The Museum** 8

is housed in the Georgian Corn Exchange and the adjoining, older Town Gaol. It has an interesting collection of exhibits, given by local people. The reference section contains parish records, directories and information relating to the town's history. Photographs depict the social history of the town since the early days of photography. The Museum publishes a local history journal three times a year, and sells various booklets of local interest.

**The Guildhall** 8 above the museum, is now the Town Council Chamber, it can be opened by arrangement.

**The Lime Kilns** 9 provided fertilizer for local farmers until the early 20th century.

## **The Cornwall Railway Carriage Works** 10

Designed by I. K. Brunel, these buildings have been converted into housing and office accommodation.

**Coulson Park** 11 The riverside park and Nature Reserve to the south of the town, provides tranquil surroundings for walking, fishing and observing wild life.

## **The Community Centre** 12

is run by and for the people of the town. The Tourist Information Centre is housed here.



Each week, throughout the summer season, there are guided tours of the town, starting from the Community Centre. Details from here 01208 872 207