

BRISTOL

AG2009



BRITISH MENSA ANNUAL GATHERING 2009

FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER
TO MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2009

at

THE BRISTOL HOTEL (FORMERLY JURYS)
PRINCE STREET, BRISTOL



*Come and join us in
Bristol for a
West Country Annual Gathering*

Anyone spending any length of time in Bristol is likely to come across

The Bristol Hotel (formerly Jurys Bristol Hotel).



Sitting pretty on the quayside of the Floating Harbour, this luxury Bristol Hotel is surrounded by the best of Bristol's Old City and maritime history; Bristol Old Vic and the beautifully restored Queen Square, Bristol Cathedral and Explore@Bristol across Pero's Bridge and of course The Arnolfini, Bristol's celebrated contemporary arts centre, right next door.



For all these reasons, The Bristol Hotel is hard to avoid, even by visitors who are staying elsewhere. Those who do stay at the hotel get to experience a great location, the fresh, modern luxury of our bedrooms, and the chic cuisine and quayside ambience of The River Grille and Shore Café Bar.



Make sure you are among them and choose The Bristol Hotel.

**Standard Room
inc. breakfast for
single occupancy
£80.00
per room per night**

**Standard Room
inc. breakfast for
double occupancy
£85.00
per room per night**

**Standard
ROOM ONLY
£79.00
per room per night**

Green and blue options are per room and include breakfast. The red option is for room only and breakfast is an additional £16.50 if you purchase separately. There is a large multi storey car park connected to the hotel and a weekend pass can be purchased on arrival for £8.00. You can use this pass over the weekend to come and go as many times as you want!

To make your hotel reservation telephone

+44 (0) 117 923 0333 and then press option 1.

Please make sure you mention you are booking for the Mensa AG weekend.

Lots to do in Bristol! A selection of leaflets will be on display at the Mensa reception desk with a chance to 'do your own thing'. There will also be a notice board so that guests can arrange outings and taxi shares. You can take part in a Treasure Hunt during the weekend and also the annual Barker Trophy Quiz, both to do at your leisure during the weekend. The following website gives details of alternative accommodation <http://www.bedandbreakfast-directory.co.uk/uploads/estate/html/co-Bristol.htm> and there is also a Premier Inn, an Ibis and a Travelodge within a few minutes walk of the main hotel.



= External Event



= Hotel Based Event

Friday 2nd October

-  **Registration**
14.00 Registration desk opens, closing at 22.00.
-  **Talk on Cider including Tasting.** 16.30 - 17.30 **£5.00**
Tutored cider tasting with Julian Temperley of Somerset Cider Brandy www.ciderbrandy.co.uk
-  **Friday Dinner Deal** - 18.00 - 21.30 **£15.00**
Dine when you like in the main hotel restaurant, with a special 3-course, fixed price, table d' hôte menu. (See Menu on Page 6)
-  **Newbies** - 19.30 - 20.00 **Free**
Mensa weekend virgin? No problem! Meet and chat to more experienced members, find out how it all works, what's cool (or not), meet others in the same boat and slide in gently.
-  **Icebreaker** - 20.00 onwards **Free**
Meet friends old and new, at our icebreaker event. Ewe will have a baarmy time! Place your bets then watch and laugh as cute battery operated sheep race to the finish line. Money raised will go to charity.
-  **Poker - Mensa Championship** - 22.00 onwards **£5.00**
Friendly late-night, prize knockout tournament. Prizes for last three.

Saturday 3rd October

-  **AGM Registration** - 09.30 - 10.00 **Free**
Register to vote and have proxies validated. Members Only. ID required.
-  **Redcliffe Caves** - 09.30 - 12.30 **£5.00**
An interesting tour of the caves, bring a torch and stout footwear. No under 8yr olds.
-  **Beasts of Bristol** - 10.00 - 10.50 **£5.00**
Lecture by local historian Frank Barnwell.
-  **Annual General Meeting** - 10.00 - 13.00 **Free**
Help manage Mensa at our Annual General Meeting. Discuss formal business, what has happened and what will happen. Elect various officers. Members Only. ID required, Membership Card required.
-  **Pirate Pete** - 11.00 - 13.00 **£5.00**
Guided historical walk around the harbour side area, stopping off at a pub or two.
-  **Ley Lines** - 11.10 - 12.00 **£5.00**
Lecture by local historian Frank Barnwell.
-  **Art Gallery Tour** - 14.00 - 17.00 **PAYG**
Walk around city visiting various venues hosted by Steve Heighway
-  **Talk by TV Personality Johnny Ball** - 14.30 - 16.00 **FREE**
Following a career in comedy and in communicating maths and science to all ages, Johnny will question our educational methods and apparent lack of understanding of the need for pace and progress to keep the student both enthralled and excited. He will explain methods that he has found successful in TV, theatre and lectures and which worked to a large part irrespective of the perceived ability of the audience. He will try to bravely unravel why so much bad science and technology is supported by politicians and academics alike and question how long we can go on teaching the wrong things badly and ignoring the call to educate for the sake of all our futures. He'll try not to get maudlin and depressed about it. He usually succeeds.
-  **SS Great Britain in the company of Mr Brunel** - 14.30 - 17.30
Adults £15 Students and Seniors £12.75 Children £10.45
A visit to Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship the SS Great Britain with a tour guided by Mr Brunel. Prices include a one hour tour and visit to the museum. www.ssgreatbritain.org
-  **'Happiness' - Talk by Carole Bell** - 16.00 - 17.00 **£5.00**
-  **Mensa Awards Ceremony** - 18.00 - 19.00 **Free**
Join the officers of the society as they give recognition to a wide range of members for their efforts on behalf of the society.



Gala Dinner and Disco - 19.00 - 21.00 **£35.00**
3 course formal dinner, dress up and party (drinks not included). After dinner speech by TV personality Johnny Ball. (See Menu on Page 6)



Disco Only - 21.00 onwards **£5.00**



Pub Crawl - 21.00 onwards **PAYG**
An accompanied tour of some of the local pubs

Sunday 4th October



Concorde - 09.15 - 13.00 **£20.00**
A trip out to Filton, to visit the last Concorde to fly. Visit the museum and board Concorde. Please note that this trip may not be suitable for disabled people. See their website for details.
www.concordeatfilton.org.uk/visit



Bath Day Trip - 09.30 - 17.00 **£8.00**
A day out in Bath. A coach will take you to Bath and on a brief tour. Much of Bath is pedestrianised so this will give a flavour of the area, followed by an optional free guided walking tour of the town which will last 2 hours. There will then be time to look around and visit the attraction/s of your choice before rejoining the coach at about 4.30 to return to the hotel for 5pm.
See www.visitbath.co.uk/site/things-to-do



Connections - 10.00 - 12.00 **£5.00**
Play this increasingly popular game in a friendly, individual knockout tournament. Play till defeated. Prizes for last three in.



Open Forum - 10.15 - 11.15 **FREE**
A chance to meet the new Board and ask questions.



World Memory Champion - 11.45 - 12.45 **FREE**
Current World Memory Champion, Ben Pridmore will share with us some of his amazing memory skills and knowledge. Ben also holds the official world record for memorizing the order of a randomly shuffled 52-card deck, and has memorised a pack in a time of 24.68 seconds on television!



Brain of Mensa - 14.00 - 16.00 **FREE**
See the four 'Egghead'-standard finalists fight it out over 'Mastermind'-calibre questions to be this year's 'Brain of Mensa'. Answer the questions they can't, if you can, or just watch the show.



Circomedia - 14.00 - 17.00 **£25.00**
Learn circus skills such as trapeze, juggling and stilt walking. For more information see www.circomedia.com/index.cfm/section/workshops



Boat trip and Cream Tea - 14.15 - 16.45
Boat only £8.50, Boat and Cream Tea £14.00
A boat trip around the harbour with an optional cream tea on board.
www.avonrivercruises.co.uk



Spanish Meal - 19.30 onwards **PAYG**
A Spanish meal with live Flamenco music
www.el-puerto.co.uk



Pub Crawl - 21.00 onwards **PAYG**
Another guided pub crawl by a local Mensan.

Monday 5th October



Bristol Blue Glass - 09.30 - 12.30 **£5.00**
A tour of a glass factory to see how the famous Bristol blue glass is made and maybe have a go yourself.
www.bristol-glass.co.uk



Farewell Meal - 12.00 - 14.00 **PAYG**

Games / SIGs / Regional Newsletters Room

will be open all day Saturday and Sunday with comprehensive displays of information on BM SIGs, a wide range of board games to play or for you to meet / hang out with fellow members.

To make a hotel reservation telephone

+44 (0) 117 923 0333 and then press option 1.

Please make sure you mention you are booking for the Mensa AG weekend.

**All of the events listed here can be purchased online at www.mensa.org.uk
Go to the Members' Area, then click events and then national events.**

***** All times for events outside the hotel are from and back to the hotel lobby *****

Friday 2nd October

		Cost	Quantity
14.00 onwards	Registration desk opens. Close at 22.00	n/a	n/a
16.30 – 17.30	Talk on Cider	£5.00	_____
18.00 – 21.30	Friday Dinner Deal. Pre Pay for a hotel meal in restaurant (See Menu on Page 6)	£15.00	_____
19.30 – 20.00	Newbies	Free	_____
20.00 onwards	Meet friends old and new, at our icebreaker	Free	_____
22.00 onwards	Poker – Championship	£5.00	_____

Saturday 3rd October

09.30 – 12.30	Redcliffe Caves	£5.00	_____
10.00 – 10.50	Beasts of Bristol	£5.00	_____
10am onwards	Annual General Meeting (Members Only)	Free	_____
11.00 – 13.00	Pirate Pete	£5.00	_____
11.10 – 12.00	Ley Lines	£5.00	_____
14.00 – 17.00	Art Gallery Tour	PAYG	_____
14.30 – 16.00	Talk by TV personality Johnny Ball	Free	_____
14.30 – 17.30	A visit to the SS Great Britain in the company of Mr Brunel	Adults £15.00 Students+OAPs £12.75 Children £10.45	_____
16.00 – 17.00	'Happiness' Talk by Carole Bell	£5.00	_____
18.00 – 19.00	Mensa Awards Ceremony	Free	_____

19.00 – 21.00	Gala Dinner and Disco. After Dinner speech by Television Personality Johnny Ball (See Menu on Page 6) then tick one box per section	£35.00	_____
		<div> Starter <input type="checkbox"/> 1 or <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or <input type="checkbox"/> 3 </div> <div> Main <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or <input type="checkbox"/> 6 </div> <div> Sweet <input type="checkbox"/> 7 or <input type="checkbox"/> 8 or <input type="checkbox"/> 9 </div>	

21.00 – late	Disco Only	£5.00	_____
21.00 – late	Pub Crawl	PAYG	_____

Sunday 4th October

09.15 – 13.00	Concorde	£20.00	_____
09.30 – 17.00	Bath Day Trip	£8.00	_____
10.00 – 12.00	Connections	£5.00	_____
10.15 – 11.15	Open Forum	Free	_____
11.45 – 12.45	World Memory Champion – Ben Pridmore	Free	_____
14.00 – 16.00	Brain of Mensa Grand Final	Free	_____
14.00 – 17.00	Circomedia	£25.00	_____
14.15 – 16.45	Boat trip	£8.50	_____
14.15 – 16.45	Boat trip with Cream Tea	£14.00	_____
19.30 – onwards	Spanish Meal	PAYG	_____
21.00 – onwards	Pub Crawl	PAYG	_____

Monday 5th October

09.30 – 12.30	Bristol Blue Glass	£5.00	_____
12.00 – 14.00	Farewell Meal. See Notice Board	PAYG	_____

Bristol AG 2009 Commemorative T-Shirt. Please circle your FIT and SIZE (See design on page 8)

Men's Fit: M38/40 L41/43 XL44/46 XXL47/49

Ladies Fit M12 L14 XL16 XXL18

£8.00

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NB - Separate booking forms required for each person attending any part of this weekend. BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name:		Membership No:
Address:		Post Code:
Phone (day):	Phone (evening) :	
E-mail:		
Name and Town (for your name badge)		/
Name of Parent / Guardian (for under 18s)		
GUEST OF (non-member guests only):		

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to 'British Mensa Ltd' or please debit my card (please circle your choice of card)



Card Number:		
Name on Card:		
Start Date :	Expiry Date :	Issue No (debit cards only) :
Three Digit Security Number on the signature strip on the back of your card :		
Please debit the sum of £ from my card in payment for my meals and events booked for Bristol AG.		
SPECIAL NEEDS (e.g. mobility / diet):		

I have read the terms and conditions (page 6) and agree to be bound by them.

Signed: Date:

FRIDAY EVENING MEAL MENU

Starters

- Sirloin of Beef Carpaccio with rocket and parmesan reggiano
- River Grille Salad with crayfish, anchovies, crispy pancetta and soft herbs
- Freshly made soup of the day with foccacia croutons

Main Course

- Free Range Corn Fed Chicken Breast with a honey & thyme glaze, buttered mash potato and roasted red onion & wild mushroom gravy
- Fish & Chips, fillets of lemon sole in west country ale batter hand cut triple cooked fat chips and corrdiander and lime tartar
- Caramelised pumpkin & feta cheese tart with warm new potatoes and beetroot salad

Desserts

- Traditional vanilla creme brulee
- Valrhona chocolate mousse with an orange cream and shortbread biscuits
- Citrus and passion fruit salad, plain yogurt and mango sorbet

SATURDAY EVENING MENU

- 1 LEEK POTATO AND WATERCRESS SOUP, snipped chives and watercress.
- Or
- 2 PARFAIT OF CHICKEN LIVER, chicken liver blended with port wine and brandy served with a herb salad, red onion chutney and toasted brioche
- Or
- 3 GOATS CHEESE AND CHERRY TOMATO TART, warm tartlet of goats cheese with cherry tomatoes, basil and rocket leave salad
-
- 4 ROAST SIRLOIN OF SOMERSET BEEF, Yorkshire puddings, roast potatoes and red wine jus
- Or
- 5 ROASTED SALMON FILLET, on saffron mash with Chablis and creamed leeks
- Or
- 6 POTATO GNOCCHI, wild mushrooms, chestnuts, and parmesan cream sauce
-
- 7 FRENCH BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING, brandied cream sultanas and a custard sauce
- Or
- 8 WHITE AND DARK CHOCOLATE BAVAROIS WITH MANGO AND RASPBERRY SAUCE
- Or
- 9 SELECTION OF WEST COUNTRY CHEESES

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATION: While British Mensa Ltd. has negotiated the rates advertised to the members for the main hotel, it is not involved in or responsible for booking any accommodation for this event. All accommodation is subject to the providers' terms and conditions and any queries or problems regarding accommodation should be raised direct with them. The accommodation rates quoted are only available for the main hotel.

EVENT BOOKINGS: All event bookings to be made via the office in Wolverhampton and paid in full before close of business on **Friday 18th September 2009**. Any booking received after that date may not be accepted. Any booking may be amended or cancelled at any time, subject to availability and practicality, provided the office are advised and any additional payment due is made in full before the closing date. Events may be added to any booking after the closing date, subject to availability, at the weekend registration desk only, with full payment at the time.

REFUNDS: Refunds will only be paid **after** the weekend has finished and only for events that are cancelled by the organisers, cancelled by the booker prior to the closing date (provided we have reached and can maintain minimum numbers) or we have been able to re-sell (not guaranteed).

EXCLUSIONS: The organisers reserve the right to exclude any individual, for unruly, disruptive or inappropriate behaviour, from the immediate event, any part or all of the remainder of the programme and may, in extreme cases, request the individuals exclusion from the venue. Any excluded individual will forfeit the unused part of his / her booking, including, where relevant, accommodation, and no refund will be made.

ACCESSIBILITY: Venue accessibility is the responsibility of the operators. While we have tried to indicate any accessibility problems wherever possible, any queries or problems should be raised with the venue operators.

EVENTS AND REGISTRATION DESK: Numbers are limited for some events and all are offered on a first come, first served basis. Please do not book PAYG / FREE events unless you are sure you will attend. The programme is subject to alteration without notice. The organisers will try to run all advertised events as scheduled but reserve the right to alter any event from the details advertised. Start times stated are AT THE VENUE and it is the individuals responsibility to be there on time. Those who wish to travel as a group from the hotel to external events should meet AT THE REGISTRATION DESK at the times advertised. **SOME EVENTS DO OVERLAP. Please check times carefully.** It is your responsibility to ensure that you are where you should be, when you should be. Refunds will not be made if you are late or absent. Indicated finish times are estimates only and are not guaranteed. It is the individual's responsibility to leave one event in time to travel to the next. Prices have been negotiated for group rates and no other discounts (OAP, child, and student) apply unless stated.

LIABILITY: While all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the safety of those attending this weekend and associated events, British Mensa Ltd. accepts no liability for any loss or damage except that imposed by law. Parents remain responsible for anyone under the age of 18 attending any part of this weekend and parental consent and adult supervision must be provided at all times. British Mensa Ltd. accepts no additional liability for anyone under the age of 18 attending any part of this weekend's activities.

SMOKING: ALL INDOOR VENUES ARE NON-SMOKING BY LAW. All venue managers are expected to police and exclude visitors who do not comply with the law. British Mensa Ltd. will not make any refunds where the person they relate to has been excluded from an event or has chosen not to attend because of this law.

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED BOOKING FORM (PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTABLE) WITH FULL PAYMENT TO:

**Diane Salter, Events Administrator, British Mensa Ltd.,
St. John's House, St. John's Square, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AH**

OR You Can Fax Your Completed Booking Form To: 01902 392500

**OR Book Online at www.mensa.org.uk, click through to Members' Area,
click event at the top of the page and then national events tab on the left of the page**

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

HOTEL BASED EVENTS

EXTERNAL EVENTS

	FRIDAY				SATURDAY				SUNDAY				MONDAY	
09:00							AGM Reg.							
10:00						Redcliffe Caves		Beasts of Bristol						
11:00							AGM	Ley Lines		Con-corde		Connections	Open Forum	
12:00									Pirate Pete				World Memory Champ	
13:00											Bath Day Trip			
14:00														
15:00														
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02:00														

BRISTOL

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Why you should visit Bristol

Did you know.....

that the Theatre Royal Bristol is the oldest continuously working theatre in Britain and has been staging productions since 1766.

It is England's sixth, and the United Kingdom's eighth most populous city, one of England's core cities and the most populous city in South West England

It received a Royal Charter in 1155 and was granted County status in 1373.

The commercial Port of Bristol was originally in the city centre before being moved to the Severn Estuary at Avonmouth.

There are 34 other populated places on Earth named Bristol, mostly in the United States, but also in Peru, Canada, Jamaica and Costa Rica.



Front

White T-Shirt
with
Blue Print



Back