

West Midlands MENSA

Shrewsbury Weekend 2009

September 11th – 13th 2009

This year we have chosen Shrewsbury as the venue for our weekend and we have selected the Prince Rupert Hotel as our base. The Prince Rupert Hotel is situated in the heart of medieval Shrewsbury and is firmly established as one of the town's finest hotels. The former home of Prince Rupert, the grandson of King James I, it combines old-world charm with modern comforts and hosts an array of historic period features. Surrounded by cobblestone streets and Tudor buildings, the Prince Rupert is perfectly located to explore all of the town's main attractions which are just a few minutes walk away.

Privately owned since 1996 by the Matthews family the hotel has benefited from a significant investment programme and now features 70 ensuite bedrooms including 12th century Mansion House Suites (some with a 4-poster canopy bed) and 15th century Tudor Suites, three fabulous restaurants, Camellias Tearooms, garden courtyard, a fully equipped health suite (including a Nautilus weights room, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam shower) and a beauty salon. There is even a complimentary snooker table for guests to use. Valet parking is provided to a private car park.

This year is of course the 200th Anniversary of Darwin's birth and as part of the celebrations, on Sunday, there



will be an illustrated talk by Dorothy Nicole on Darwin's life in Shrewsbury. This will be one of an extensive list of events that will keep you spoilt for choice and will feature unusual events such as a morning kayak trip along the River Severn with a local archaeologist, stopping along the way to hear about the local features, visits to the site of the old Roman City of Viroconium, once the fourth largest conurbation in Britain and of course, the feature Saturday evening meal when we will be regaled with the stories from the Shrewsbury Town Crier, Martin Wood. At 7 feet 2 inches tall, he's the tallest Town Crier in the country! (and he's got the tales to match!).

Programme of events

NB. All times are for leaving and returning to the hotel

Friday 11th September

The registration desk will be open from 14:00

14:30 - 17:00 Visit to local attractions - PAYG

Arriving early in Shrewsbury? Join us for free admission to St. Mary's – a medieval church with spectacular stained glass spanning the 14th to 19th centuries. We will then proceed to Shrewsbury Castle and Shropshire Regimental Museum with free admission to grounds and a small admission charge to Museum.

18:30 - late Weekend Icebreaker - FREE!

The Ice-Breaker starts off this historical themed weekend. Join us at the Prince Rupert Hotel, try to answer some of the historical quiz questions and get to know your fellow guests. Are you a history buff, will you win the quiz prize? Private PAYG bar in the Darwin Suite available until midnight.

20:00 - 21:00 Icebreaker Buffet - £10

Tasty finger buffet served in the Darwin Suite. Vegetarian options available.

Saturday 12th September

10:00 - 12:00 Severn Walk - £3

This walk is about 2 miles long and can be done in about 1½ hours but can easily take much longer and follows the river downstream taking in many points of interest along the way. If we have had much rain – don't forget your walking boots!

9:30 - 17:00 Wroxeter Ruins and Vineyard (full day) - £25

A guided tour of Wroxeter Roman ruins, a two-course buffet lunch and a guided tour of Wroxeter vineyard including wine tasting. Price includes transport. (See details below)

9:30 - 14:00 Wroxeter Roman Ruins - £15

A Guided walk round Wroxeter Roman Ruins, followed by lunch. Wroxeter (or 'Viroconium') was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. It began as a legionary fortress and later developed into a thriving civilian city, populated by retired soldiers and traders.

Price includes transport, a guided tour with an English Heritage Guide and a two-course buffet lunch.

12:00 - 17:00 Wroxeter Roman Vineyard - £20

A two-course buffet lunch will be served followed by a guided tour of the vineyard and wine tasting. Wroxeter Vineyard

comprises 6 acres set amongst the ruins of the Roman town. Wroxeter is one of two commercial vineyards in the county of Shropshire and since 2004 holds the record for growing the most northerly red wine grapes in the world. Our guide will explain the cultivation, trellising, varieties and the growing aspect of the Vineyards and Olive Groves. We then go back to the winery where vinification from grape pressing to wrapping the wine in glass takes place. Wine tasting and an explanation of English wine takes place in the winery annex. The site is also home to a flock of rare Balwen sheep.

Price includes transport, a two-course buffet lunch, the tour of the vineyard and wine tasting.

14:00 - 16:00 Shrewsbury Shuts - £3

The Shuts of Shrewsbury are a notable feature of the town and always arouse the interest of visitors. Many of them have associations which are bound up in the history of the town and all of them are survivors of the old order. Why not join this walking tour and check out some of the historic features of the town?

17:00 - 18:30 Ghost Walk - £5

Standing at 7ft 2ins tall, Martin Wood, a gentle giant, has been the town crier of Shrewsbury and Atcham for 20 years. In that time he has led thousands of people on walking tours of his beloved town showing them the historical buildings and bringing characters from the past to life. Martin has a range of tours to offer including Pubs, River and Bridges as well as the ghost tour for which he is booked today so come along and soak up some of his knowledge. Not for the faint hearted!

19:30 - late "Have Bell Will Yell" Dinner - £25

Spend the evening dining in style and listening to our after dinner speaker Martin Wood (Shrewsbury and Atcham's Town Crier). As well as listening to his 'Have Bell Will Yell' talk perhaps he will tell us about some of his other exploits? Private bar available 'til late. Please select your menu choices on arrival at weekend.



19:30 - late Ten Pin Bowling - £10.90 followed by PAYG meal

For the younger members or ten pin bowling enthusiasts, we are off to the AMF Bowling Alley in Harlescott. £10.90 per person for two games, including shoe hire. PAYG meal afterwards. Great evening entertainment for members who do not wish to join us for Dinner.

Sunday 13th September

10:30 - 12:00 Do The Loop – A Paddle into the Past - £20

This is a journey around Shrewsbury's river loop in Canoes and Bellboats exploring the cultural history and connection between river and town. The paddle-



See the Severn as you've never seen it before!

powered journey explores the remnants of the past and gives an insight into river life through the ages. No previous paddling experience is required and participants should be dressed in suitable outdoor clothing and soft soled shoes. High river levels may cause this event to be cancelled.

10:30 - 12:00 Darwin's Shrewsbury - £5

A talk by Dorothy Nicole on Darwin's life in Shrewsbury This should be a very informative talk as Dorothy writes: "Can there be any better way to earn a living than by doing something that you enjoy and sharing the enjoyment with others? I have always been fascinated by Britain and its history and studied the subject at Leicester University where I gained an Honours Degree in British Archaeology and History. Today I share my interests with visitors and local people alike by giving talks to groups of all sizes and showing people around this beautiful part of the world as a professional Blue Badge tourist guide. If you have one of Dorothy's books perhaps she will autograph it for you.

12:00 - 13:30 Three course lunch in hotel - £13.95

Three-course roast dinner, including coffee and mints, at the restaurant in the Prince Rupert Hotel. Vegetarian options available.

13:30 - 17:30 Haughmond Abbey and Shrewsbury's Battlefield - £10

After a short coach journey we will be joining the English Heritage guide for a tour of the Haughmond Abbey site which has the extensive remains of an Augustinian abbey including its Abbots' quarters, refectory and cloisters. The substantially surviving Chapter House has a frontage richly bedecked with 12th and 14th century carving and statuary, and a fine timber roof C1500.

Moving on from here we will go to the Shrewsbury Battlefield site which is roughly where thousands of soldiers died in the 1403 battle. The battle of Shrewsbury was fought between King Henry IV and a rebellious faction headed by the Percy family and marks one of the bloodiest conflicts to take place on British soil. The significance of the battle lies not only in its political ramifications as a precursor to the Wars of the Roses but also in the fact that it was the first time that the English longbow was used on both sides.

After the battle field we visit St Mary Magdalene Church known locally as Battlefield Church. Our guide is Les Hall who is one of the friends of Battlefield Church and has an incredible amount of knowledge about the Church including its 600 year old carvings. Price includes guide and transport.

14:00 - 17:00 Treasure Hunt - £5

If you are not yet tired of all the town has to offer, why not try this walking treasure hunt. Who knows, you may find an area you have not yet explored. Of course there will be a prize for the winner.

18:30 - end Chinese Meal - PAYG

We will be finishing the weekend at the Dragon King Chinese restaurant where they serve an "eat as much as you like" buffet for only £9.99 The last time our local group went (February) we really enjoyed ourselves. This is right next door to the cinema so are you going to catch a flick after, or retire to the hotel for a farewell drink?

Time	EVENT	Cost	£ (ö)
Friday 11th Sept			
	NB. All timings are to/from Hotel		
All weekend	Parking (Free if booked in advance) Car registration? _____	FREE	
14:30 - 17:00	Walk round Shrewsbury Church, Castle and Museum	PAYG	
18:30 - late	Icebreaker	FREE	
20:00 - 21:00	Icebreaker Buffet (Tick here for Vegetarian Option _____)	£10.00	
Saturday 12th Sept			
09:30 - 17:00	Wroxeter Full Day (including transport, guides, wine tasting & lunch) (Tick here for Vegetarian lunch _____)	£25.00	
09:30 - 14:00	Wroxeter Roman Ruins (including transport, guide & lunch) (Tick here for Vegetarian lunch _____)	£15.00	
10:00 - 12:00	Severn Walk	£3.00	
12:00 - 17:00	Wroxeter Roman Vineyard (including transport, guide, wine tasting & lunch) (Tick here for Vegetarian lunch _____)	£20.00	
14:00 - 16:00	Shrewsbury Shuts	£3.00	
17:00 - 18:30	Ghost Walk	£5.00	
19:30 - late	"Have Bell Will Yell" Dinner (Tick here for Vegetarian Option _____)	£25.00	
19:30 - 22:30	Ten Pin Bowling and PAYG meal	£10.90	
Sunday 13th Sept			
10:30 - 12:00	Do The Loop - Canoe the Severn with an Archaeologist	£20.00	
10:30 - 12:00	Darwin's Shrewsbury	£5.00	
12:00 - 13:30	Three course Roast Lunch in Hotel	£13.95	
13:30 - 17:30	Haughmond Abbey, Shrewsbury's Battlefield and St Mary Magdeleine Church (including transport and guide)	£10.00	
14:00 - 16:00	Shrewsbury Treasure Hunt	£5.00	
18:30 - end	Chinese Buffet	PAYG	
	Total events cost		£

Please list details of any special requirements:

Personal details (One form per person please)		
Name:		Membership № (or "Guest") :
E-mail address:		
Full address: <i>Underline</i> location for Badge		
Name for badge :		
Daytime telephone number:		Evening telephone number:
Age (if under 18):		Name of accompanying adult:
Single Room – per person, per night incl. breakfast.	@ £52.00 pp pn	£
Single Occupancy of Small Double - per person, per night incl. breakfast.	@ £55.00 pp pn	£
Double/Twin Room – per person per night incl. breakfast for 2 sharing	@ £47.50 pp pn	£
Family – per Adult per night incl. breakfast for 2 sharing (children free)	@ £55.00 pA pn	£
Special Double – per person per night incl. breakfast for 2 sharing	@ £60.00 pp pn	£
Please circle nights required: FRI : SAT : SUN		
Name of the person with whom you will be sharing your room:		
Event Total from Previous page		£
Grand Total to Pay		£

Terms and Conditions:

1. While all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the safety of those attending these weekend events, British Mensa Ltd accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused except that imposed by law.
 2. The programme is subject to alteration without notice. The organisers will endeavour to ensure that all advertised events are run but reserve the right to cancel an event and refund monies paid, or to alter any event from the details advertised. The organisers may be unable to make refunds without sufficient notice, and reserve the right to make refunds only after the event.
 3. Parents are reminded of their responsibility for attendees under the age of 18. Parental consent and adult supervision during the weekend must be provided at all times. British Mensa Ltd accepts no additional liability for members under the age of 18 who wish to attend any part of this weekend's activities.
 4. In the event of unruly, disruptive or inappropriate behaviour, the organisers reserve the right to exclude any individual from all or part of the remainder of the programme. In the event of an individual being excluded, no refund will be made.
 5. Every attempt has been made to ensure that disabled access is available to as many of the events as possible. Due to circumstances beyond our control, there are a small number of events not suitable for wheelchair access.
 6. Single rooms are limited in number and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. You may be asked to share a twin room (same sex, same smoking choice).
 7. The room rate detailed is available only when booked through Mensa.
 8. Your accommodation is subject to the hotel's terms and conditions. Other than the items booked on this form, you are solely responsible for any costs you incur at the hotel.
 9. Prices have been negotiated for group rates and discounts (child, OAP, student etc.) do not apply unless stated otherwise.
 10. Neither the organisers or Mensa are responsible for the content of any of the Internet sites shown.
 11. Numbers are limited for most events taking place outside the hotel and are offered on a first - come, first-served basis. Please do not book PAYG/FREE events unless you are sure you will attend.
 12. Where costs are given for PAYG events, these are for guidance only.
 13. All events outside the hotel should leave at the time stated. It is your responsibility to ensure you are at the designated meeting point before this time. Coaches and walking parties will not necessarily wait and refunds will not be made if you are late. Finish time is approximate return time to the hotel.
 14. All advance bookings must be sent to the Mensa Office to arrive by Friday 28th August 2009, thereafter we may accept bookings but cannot guarantee availability.
 15. Neither the organisers or British Mensa Ltd. Accept responsibility for errors arising from the booking form being filled in illegibly.
 16. Food and alcoholic beverages may not be taken on to the hotel premises. The hotel may impose charges and these will be the responsibility of the individual(s) concerned.
- © British Mensa Ltd
I have read and accept the terms and conditions as described above

(Signature).....

PAYMENT

Total payment	£
Please accept the enclosed cheque as follows:	
Made payable to 'British Mensa' :	£
Please debit my Credit/Debit card as follows:	
Card type (AMEX not accepted):	
Card number :	
Name on card:	
Valid from:	
Expiry date:	
ISSUE NO. (debit cards only):	
CSC (3 digit code on signature strip)	
Signature:	

Please return this form to:

Diane Salter

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Or fax to: 01902 392500

Or Book Online at www.mensa.org.uk