

WSA visit to the Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London, and luncheon - Thursday 13 February 2020



The Reform Club was founded in 1836, in Pall Mall, in the centre of what is often called London's Clubland. Membership was restricted to those who pledged support for the Great Reform Act of 1832, and the many MPs and Whig peers among the early members developed the Club as the political headquarters of the Liberal Party. The Reform Club is no longer associated with any particular political party, and now serves a purely social function.

The Club's founders commissioned the leading architect of the day, Charles Barry, to build an imposing and palatial clubhouse. It is one of the finest Victorian buildings in the country, an architectural masterpiece that has remained largely unchanged since it was completed in 1841.

The Reform Club externally bears a distinct resemblance to the Palazzo Farnese, which Michelangelo completed in 1589, and which Barry had studied closely. Barry brought his genius to bear in adapting and improving on the Italian model.

While the Club presents a chaste and stately appearance on the outside, inside it is richly flamboyant. Large portraits of Whig and Radical leaders of the nineteenth century are set in panels in the saloon. The walls and columns are faced with marble and scagliola in deep red and green, white, sienna, black and gold. The principal Club rooms have richly ornamented and gilded ceilings, and the grandeur is magnified by the use of huge mirrors.

Programme:

11.00 am – we meet in the Saloon for conducted tour of the Clubhouse, led by former members of the General Committee of the Club

12.30 pm – we enjoy a light luncheon in the Strangers’ room

2.00 pm – we depart from the Clubhouse

Cost (inclusive of a light luncheon with wine) - £50 per person

Please note that there are nine stone steps from the pavement into the Clubhouse and a further eight steps into the main Saloon, so access is awkward for people who are physically disabled or unable to walk. The Club does, however, have a wheelchair stair climber and many willing hands for those that may require assistance.

Dress Code for Members and their guests

Members and their guests are required to conform to standards of dress and conduct which are normal in the Club. In exercising their judgement in this respect, members and their guests shall give full consideration to the feelings of others.

Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and shirt with full collar. Ties are encouraged but not required. Ladies are required to dress with similar formality. Jeans, sportswear, trainers and similar sports footwear are not permitted. Porters at the door are authorised to deny admission to anyone considered to be in breach of the dress code.

CLOSING DATE 16th January 2020

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I wish to attend the visit and luncheon at the Reform Club on Thursday 13 February 2020

Name.....

Guest’s name

Telephone.....

Email address.....

Either I shall pay by bank transfer:

WSA Livery Committee Sort Code. 40-46-08. Account no. 92018829

Please reference with your surname and date of event

Or I enclose my cheque for £ Please make payable to WSA Livery Committee. Send to Prof John Schofield, 2, Heathfield House, Eliot Place, London, SE3 0QW

All applications and receipts of money will be acknowledged

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you