

**SHROPSHIRE ART SOCIETY  
LONDON GALLERY WEEKEND 2020**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

***Explore the galleries and other rich delights of our capital city!***

We shall travel down on the morning of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, leaving at 8.00am and arriving for about 12.00 noon at The Mercure Bloomsbury Hotel. This is conveniently situated on Southampton Row close to the British Museum. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March we shall depart from our hotel at 4.00pm arriving back in Shrewsbury for around 8.00pm.

This will be our third visit to the Mercure Bloomsbury, and we are very pleased to be returning. Obviously, hotel prices in London are higher than in provincial centres, but we have again secured a good deal for our group. The Mercure Bloomsbury is a comfortable 'four star' hotel. Its restaurant is Marco Pierre White's *New York Italian* featuring a Manhattan style bar area perfect for a quick bite to eat, coffee or pre-dinner drink.

The area adjacent to the hotel is itself rich in interest: the British Museum close by with its unique collection; the Wellcome Collection on Euston Road with its changing exhibitions; the iconic new St Pancras Station (a great sketching location); the British Library, again with regular exhibitions; University College London with its often film-featured classical facade; and London University's Senate House, which provided George Orwell with the model for the Ministry of Truth in his novel '1984'.

On our lunchtime arrival at the hotel we shall be able to leave our luggage with the concierge until our check-in which will be from 5.00pm. On Monday afternoon at 4.00pm we shall be picked up by our coach at the hotel where we will have previously reclaimed our luggage from the concierge. This arrangement means that we can make the most of our arrival afternoon and the day of our departure.

Within walking distance of the hotel are Covent Garden, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, Soho and the West End 'Theatreland'. You may wish to book your own theatre or concert tickets.

A reminder for those with Concessionary Travel passes – these are valid on the London buses but not on London Underground.

**Please note that for this trip we will take comfort stops on our journeys to and from London, but no extended sightseeing stops, to maximise our time in London. Our coach will not be staying with us in London, to minimise costs.**

**PRACTICALITIES AND BOOKING FORM, LONDON March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup> 2020**

We will leave Abbey Foregate car park at 8am, with boarding from 7.45am.  
We plan to be back in Shrewsbury for around 8pm on the Monday evening.

**COST** which includes **accommodation with Full English Breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and return Longmynd coach travel** is:

**Sharing in a twin or double room: £285 per person** (partners are of course welcome)

**Singles: £435 per person** (I may be able to give help with this, depending on the numbers booking, but this cannot be promised and so, at this stage, you must be prepared to pay the full amount.) Single occupancy at this hotel is in a double or twin room.

**Insurance is NOT included and it is advisable to arrange your own cancellation cover, in case illness, or other eventuality, prevents you from travelling.**

**The hotel has offered the option of a '3 course' evening meal on a group basis at a cost of £30.** Sample menus will be available in due course. This offer is only available if a minimum of 10 of us sign up for the offer on any particular evening. Payment would be required in advance. As an alternative, there are a number of restaurants and eating places within easy walking distance of the hotel. Please indicate below if you would be interested in this offer on at least one evening. Nearer the date of travel, I will ask for a more detailed response.

If you haven't been on a residential trip with us before and want more information, don't hesitate to ring me, Alan, on 01743 236302.

**I ask you to respond as soon as possible and at the latest by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019, enclosing a £25 deposit per person, with the balance payable by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Normally our trips are oversubscribed with a waiting list. *Places are allocated strictly in order of deposits received.***

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**Please return this slip with deposit ASAP and at the latest by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to Alan Townsend, 12 Oakley Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 7JU:**

I / We would like to book \_\_\_ place (s) on the London Gallery weekend 2020 and enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ as deposit. (Payable to **Shropshire Art Society**)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**If booking for two people**, please indicate whether you would like: **DOUBLE** or **TWIN**

**If booking for yourself on this form, but sharing a TWIN room with a friend booking separately**, please state with whom you will share:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I/ We am/are interested in dining in the hotel with the group on at least one night and would like more information about the Group Evening Meal option: **YES / NO**