



**PLUMBERS' COMPANY
– MASTER'S WEEKEND
IN YORK**

21-23 June 2019

York was an obvious choice for my Master's Weekend, not the least because I am a Trustee of the wonderful National Railway Museum. Another reason is that it has an older Mansion House than the one I lived in for a year as Lord Mayor of London! York is, of course, packed with historical sights, all within walking distance or a very short taxi ride from the Grand Hotel where we will stay - the former headquarters of North Eastern Railways, lavishly restored into a five-star hotel. I am not forgetting the breath-taking York Minster and so many other lovely things to do – there will be time for all that! You can take much of it at your own pace!

Day
One

FRIDAY
21ST JUNE

Starting at

3 pm

NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Home to iconic locomotives and an unrivalled collection of engineering brilliance, we will celebrate, if not worship, the past, present and future of innovation on the railways. In the Great Hall we will rub shoulders with railway legends from the past 200 years—from history-makers to record-breakers and see some of the most awe-inspiring engines. Something very special for Plumbers will be the fastest steam hauled toilet on the planet!

We will have an insider's access to the archive, rich with stories about people who made the railways – and some who didn't! We will learn what Dr Beeching's staff really thought about him! We will be infected by the enthusiasm of the curators and the Director will explain the transformational plans for this great museum that is set to become the heart of a new development in York.

We will see Royal Carriages - from Queen Victoria's lavish 'palace on wheels' to King Edward VII's well-furnished smoking saloon. We will have dinner on the platform beside them and hear more stories from one of the Directors of North Eastern Railways – living history! Comfortable clothes and shoes to be worn. Tea break about 4:30 PM. Dinner is 7 PM for 7:30 PM; no need to return to the hotel to change.



National Railway Museum

Day
Two

SATURDAY
22ND JUNE

10:30 am

York City

2.45 pm

York Minster

7 pm for 7:30 pm

Dinner at
Bedern Hall

YORK CITY

As York offers so much choice, I have organised two guided tours that we can do together with some free time in between for you to choose what else you would like to see. Everything is near at hand. In the morning, a city tour to provide orientation will not be on foot, but will conserve your strength on a relaxing (narrated) city cruise on the River Ouse. There will then be time to do your own thing before lunch which we can either take together at the Grand Hotel (nothing too large as there is dinner to come) or not as you like.

YORK MINSTER

Plumbers have a passion for cathedrals and the Minster is unmissable. I am sure there is historic leadwork to be seen, but I do know that the stained glass is spectacular. The guided tour will cover a lot of ground - we will hear not only about the history but also the famous restoration projects, including how some of the windows have been completely replaced. We will finish in time for some of us to attend Evensong (the music and atmosphere are wonderful) for worship of a more conventional kind than of the trains!

DINNER AT BEDERN HALL

We will dine together in a jewel of a little Guildhall. Built between 1370 and 1399, Bedern Hall was originally the refectory of the College of Vicars Choral (with a strong association with the Minster). It achieved Grade 2* listed status following careful archaeological research and restoration supported by some of the York Guilds including the Guild of Building. I have invited the Lord Mayor of York as our guest of honour. I suggest the dress code is jacket and Plumbers Company or other suitable tie for gentlemen (not black tie). The ladies will know what to wear. The idea is to minimise luggage.



Bedern Hall



York Mansion House



York Minster

Day
Three

SUNDAY
23RD JUNE

Starting at

10:30 am

YORK MANSION HOUSE

The Mansion House in York predates the Mansion House that I lived in by some 20 years. It has been home to the Lord Mayor of York since 1732 and is still in use today. The gold, silver and furniture collections are stunning and there are many stories that emerge from the interiors – there are civic secrets hidden within its walls! There is a grand state room and a restored Georgian kitchen – after all a Mansion House is a place for the Lord Mayor to entertain visitors and show off the wonderful civic collections.

We aim to finish by 12:15 PM, when you will be free to wander, lunch or return home.

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

We have a discounted rate at the **Grand Hotel** (formerly the grand offices of North Eastern Railways) of **£199 per night** (double room) and **£185 per night** (single room), including breakfast.

PLEASE BOOK DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL AND LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE MADE THE RESERVATION.

They are holding 30 double and 3 single rooms available until **April 26, 2019**. There is no guarantee of the same rate once we have exhausted the 33 rooms. And furthermore the maximum number for dinner at Bedern Hall is also 63!

Their telephone number for booking is **01904 380038**. 50% deposit required on booking. If you cancel with 28 or more days' notice then there is no charge, if within 14 days then 100% is charged. You should quote The Worshipful Company of Plumbers as the group and although I doubt you will need it the contract number is 11846433.

OTHER INFORMATION

Could you also tell me if you are Senior Citizens, so that we can obtain the Minster discounts for this superior status! **Please also let me know of any dietary issues for the dinners.**

My email address is

fiona.woolf@wyngates.co.uk.

My postal address is

Wyngates, Portsmouth Road,
Esher, Surrey KT10 9JA.

PRICING

Some costs you will incur directly yourselves, notably the hotel and travel costs. For lunch (Friday and /or Saturday), if we preorder with the hotel we can have a sandwich lunch at the very reasonable price of £12.50 per person. But they do need notice. We can deal with this closer to the time, although your advance thoughts would be helpful.

The major events and dinners will be paid for centrally and for that the cost is £250 per person. When you have made your hotel booking, please both advise me of that and either send me a **cheque** to cover the events and dinners, or preferably make a **bank transfer** to:

Dame Fiona Woolf City Account;

Sort code 18-00-02;

Account number 09561439.

Please use your surname as the reference (and tell me that you are doing this in your email to me).

TRAVEL

I recommend you travel by train because parking is expensive and scarce in York and everything is within very easy walking distance indeed. There are very frequent trains from King's Cross to York.