

May 5 & 6 2016

Jesus College Alumni Visit

## JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD

Alumni visit to Shrewsbury, 5 & 6 May 2016



# Shrewsbury

"The finest Tudor town in England"



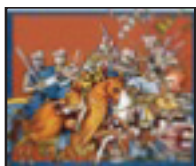
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Jesus College alumni will probably know something about the lovely medieval town of Shrewsbury, located in the West Midlands but close to the Welsh Border. Alumni from Wales will almost certainly have visited the town's handsome railway station, during the process of crossing the Principality from north to south or vice versa. Indeed, because of its strategic position within the rail network, Shrewsbury was sometimes referred to as the capital of Wales!

The town is known primarily for its handsome Tudor, Georgian and Victorian architecture, all visible manifestations of a place with religious and military significance. The many churches and the remarkable eleventh century Abbey attest to the former; the castle and the various fortified buildings attest to the latter.



The Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 consolidated the power of the King Henry IV and simultaneously destroyed the threat posed by the powerful Percy family from Northumberland and was to lay the foundations of the War of the Roses.



Nowadays, Town is a serene place, with the River Severn flowing quietly around the town centre, creating a "loop" (and almost an island) which itself gives a certain rural character and some splendid riverside parks-to a townscape which retains many ancient structures.



Shrewsbury is the old county town of Shropshire, and besides its architectural reputation is famous as the birthplace of Charles Darwin. There's a splendid statue of the famous scientist set in front of his old school, which you can see as you walk into town from the railway station.

**For this visit, the alumni of Jesus College Oxford are guests of the University Centre Shrewsbury and of Shrewsbury Civic Society.**

### **The University Centre**



The town had long been regarded as a prime candidate for hosting its own University. Recently, the University of Chester has taken the initiative, and has founded the Town's University Centre.

Currently, the University Centre Shrewsbury is housed at the medieval Rowley's House, and more recently at the nearby Guildhall.

### **Shrewsbury Civic Society**



Shrewsbury Civic Society was founded by Sir George Trevelyan back in 1964 and has acted since then to protect key buildings within the town and to manage a medieval Hall in which are housed art exhibitions of various styles.

### **Programme**

The programme begins at lunchtime on Thursday 5th May and ends on Friday 6th May at about 4 pm.

#### **Thursday 5 May 2016**

Today's lunch and tour of facilities is provided by the University Centre.

12 noon onwards : Meet for light lunch at Rowley's House, courtesy of the University Centre, followed by tour of the building and of the nearby Guildhall

3 until 5 pm Free time for shopping or maybe a visit to our award winning Museum in the Square.

5 p.m. assemble at Sabrina Boat, adjacent to the Welsh Bridge, for river trip of approx. 45 minutes\*

7pm **Prince Rupert Hotel, Butcher Row for evening meal\***

**\*Special bargain price for combined boat trip and meal, of £20.00 (this is an additional charge; see separate note regarding payment details)**

**Friday 6 May**

Today's programme is provided by Shrewsbury Civic Society



10.30 am Assemble at entrance to Shrewsbury Abbey for guided tour of this handsome building constructed in 1083

12.30 Light lunch at The Bear Steps, St Alkmonds Square.

2 pm Guided tour of Town Centre, including visit to Darwin's former school

4 pm End of Programme

### **Travel and Accommodation**

Shrewsbury is fortunate to have many hotels and B&Bs either close to or within the town Centre. Alumni Members are to make their own arrangements for accommodation. Please look at the links below for central hotels, there is accommodation listed in the tourist information link. Similarly for travel - Shrewsbury has good rail links to Birmingham and London, with Euston being the main station for the latter. Travel times vary from the direct Virgin service (just over 3 hours) to the slower service which necessitates changing at Birmingham New Street.



**Whilst en route...**

**If you're driving to Shrewsbury, and depending on your "home location" why not visit the beautiful town of Ludlow, with its historic castle, and/or Ironbridge, birth place of the industrial revolution located only a few miles from Shrewsbury, and now a designated World Heritage Site.**

**Queries: Chris Hicks,**

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**Tourist information: <http://www.shrewsburyguide.info>**

**Hotels, Shrewsbury's Town Centre:**

**<http://www.thelionhotelshrewsbury.com>**

**<http://www.princeruprthotel.co.uk>**

**<http://www.lionandpheasant.co.uk>**

**There is a Premier Inn in Shrewsbury town centre close by the Railway Station.**