



LONDON: THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE
Royal Albert Hall and Kensington High Street
Monday 21st May 2018

The Royal Albert Hall of Arts & Sciences – was first proposed by Prince Albert in 1851 as one of a number of facilities and museums to use the profits from The Great Exhibition and the Kensington Gore Estate was purchased to house the buildings. Various plans were drawn up and abandoned and it was not until 1863 that a design by Sir George Gilbert Scott was chosen. Money to finance the building was raised by selling the 999 year leasehold of seats. Over 1300 seats were sold at £100 each, entitling the owners to free attendance at every performance in the Hall - only partially modified today by an agreement of the seats’ owners on about 80 occasions each year. Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone in 1867 and unexpectedly announced that Royal Albert was to be added to the title of Hall of Arts & Sciences. Four years later the Prince of Wales officially opened the Hall as his mother Queen Victoria was too overcome with emotion.

The notorious echo (only rectified in 1968) was discovered when the Bishop of London prayed during the ceremony and the Amen reverberated round the building. Sir Thomas Beecham said the Hall could be used for a hundred things but music wasn’t one of them! Despite this the Sir Henry Wood’s Promenade Concerts moved to the Hall in 1941 having been bombed out of the Queens Hall and the Proms have been held annually there ever since.

Our tour lasts one hour and takes us through the stunning auditorium and the gallery with its breath taking views. We will hear the insider stories, learn about the Hall’s rich history, royal connections and legendary performances. Visit the Queen’s private box and her private suites and possibly hear about the plans for the 150 year celebrations in 2021. We anticipate our tour ending at 1pm.

Kensington Palace can be reached on either the 70 or 452 bus. The 360 bus travels Prince Consort Road to reach Exhibition Road which contains the Royal Geographical Society one way or the Museum of Musical Instruments plus the V & A, Science and Natural History museums the other, you decide!

9.00am: Asda carpark

9.10 am: Anne Knight bus stop opposite Chelmsford railway station, Duke St.

9.20 am: The Duck Pond, Writtle Green

4.30pm: Leaving London. Please try to be at the coach approx. 10 mins. beforehand

Cost £25 pp (includes tour of Royal Albert Hall, coach and drivers tip.)

Please note: We cannot offer a refund once you have paid. Any last-minute problems contact Joy 07913 994897/01245 269258 OR Berry 07811 091771/ 01277 355823

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Ch. U3A Mem. No/s _____ No. places required _____ Tel No. _____

Name(s).....Email address.....

Cheque + slip enclosed for £.... (made payable to Chelmsford U3A) and sent to:

Joy Channing, 2 Boswells Drive, Chelmsford CM2 6LD **For confirmation please make sure you enclose tel no. or email address**