

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS

AFTERNOON TEA & VISIT TO SEVERN STREET MASONIC HALL,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1QG.

3.00 pm, Saturday 16th May 2020

£12.50

By special arrangement, we shall be visiting the Atholl Masonic Hall, which is Grade II listed. The original building was first constructed as a Synagogue, to serve the small Hebrew Community in Birmingham, as early as 1809. It had been part of the former Gooch Estates and was badly damaged in riots directed at non Anglicans in 1813.

It was rebuilt in 1827 by Richard Tutin and continued to be used as a Synagogue until 1857 when the Singers Hill Synagogue was built. It was then sold to the members of "Athol Lodge" and opened as a Masonic Hall in 1858, being the first and oldest established "Masonic Meeting Place" in Birmingham in the Masonic Province of Warwickshire.

The Dining Room and ante-rooms were added by Henry Naden in 1871-74 and built by a local Birmingham builder called Moffat. After the founding of the Jewish "Lodge of Israel" in 1874 the two Lodges shared the building. In 1891 the frontage to Severn Street was re-modelled, redesigned and added to by Essex and Nicol and has remained little altered today.

The Lodge Room has fluted Greek Doric columns with pilaster responds to either side of the Worshipful Masters chair which previously housed the Hebrew Ark religious scrolls, while in the Dining Room "Stars of David" adorn the ceiling cornices. Together with five-sided Masonic stars on the two ornate fireplaces and magnificent gilt overmantel mirrors, the whole interior resonates with the two original functions.

Now also known for its excellent catering, we shall be able to wonder at this little seen architectural gem in the city centre, which is not open to the public. We will start with a guided tour of the building and finish with a traditional Afternoon Tea in the Dining Room.

Please return the booking form below by **Thursday 30th April 2020** to:

Gill Sockett, 5 Birdlip Grove, Quinton, Birmingham, B32 1ER.

Email: gill.sockett@victorian-society-bham.org.uk

We do not issue tickets but can confirm if you send an sae or request an email confirmation.

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Saturday 16th May 2020 visit to Severn Street Masonic Hall

Please reserve _____ places on Saturday 16th May @ £12.50 per person

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone/e-mail: _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

I enclose a cheque for _____ payable to *The Victorian Society, Birmingham Group*

OR I am paying by bank transfer **Sort Code: 30-92-99, A/c 00167544**

Please mark your BACS payment **Atholl**