

Dear conference delegate,

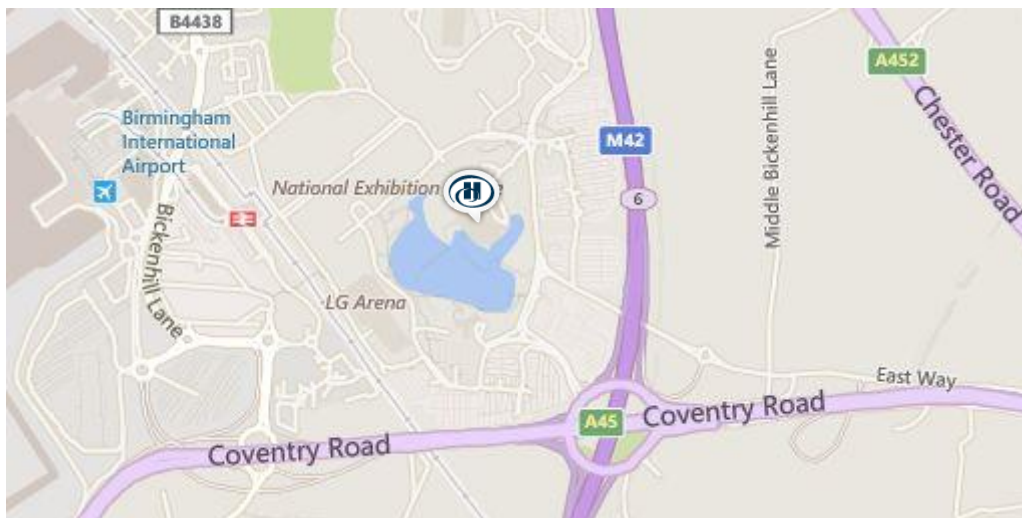
I hope that you are looking forward to the Guild's AGM and conference this coming weekend at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole:

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-birmingham-metropole-BHXMETW/index.html>

We are certainly looking forward to seeing you there and hope that you all have a great time. Below are some additional details in advance of the conference that will help you get to the venue and enjoy your stay at the hotel.

Map and directions

Details of how to get to the Hilton Metropole Hotel Birmingham are included below for easy reference. The Hilton Birmingham Metropole is situated next to the NEC, Genting Arena, Birmingham International Train Station and Birmingham Airport.



Travelling from Birmingham Airport

By car:

From Birmingham International Airport, bear right onto Concorde Road, turn right onto Vanguard Road and then bear left onto Airport Way. At the roundabout take the 3rd exit then merge onto Coventry Road A45 (sign posted M42, M6, M1, M40, M5, Coventry). Branch left (sign posted M42, M6, M1, M40, M5, NEC), then at the roundabout take the first exit onto Pendigo Way (sign posted NEC). At the roundabout take the first exit into the car park of the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

By Courtesy Bus:

Due to security measures in force at Birmingham Airport, the Hilton Hotel is no longer permitted to use their courtesy bus service direct to or from the airport. All hotel guests travelling from Birmingham Airport should use the free telephone at the airport meeting point (signposted with the Hilton logo) then take the monorail to Birmingham International rail station where the shuttle bus will be able to collect passengers.

Travelling from Birmingham New Street train station

By Train:

From Birmingham New Street Station, take the train to Birmingham International Station. The journey normally takes around 10-15 minutes depending on the time of day. At Birmingham International Station, use the courtesy telephone to ask for the hotel bus to pick you up.

Travelling from Birmingham International Train Station

By Courtesy Bus:

From Birmingham International railway station, guests may use the free telephone to arrange a collection to the hotel, by courtesy bus. The bus stop is Bus Stop C and located next to the taxi rank in the bus depot. The journey takes approximately five minutes and our courtesy bus runs every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day.

Travelling by road to the Birmingham Hilton Metropole at the NEC

The Birmingham Hilton Metropole is at the NEC, which is accessed from junction 6 of the M42 on the east side of Birmingham:

- a. from the south, ignore the first exit (A45 west/Airport) and follow signs for NEC, then follow brown hotel signs (basically right at next roundabout then left at next for Hilton).
- b. from the north, go all round the roundabout and after the A45 west/Airport slip road take the exit for the NEC, then follow brown hotel signs (basically right at next roundabout then left at next for Hilton).

From the North or North West

From the M1 southbound leave at junction 23A onto the A42, which will become the M42; continue southbound, following NEC and Airport, and leave at junction 6.

From the M6 southbound exit junction 4 onto the M42 southbound, following NEC and Airport, and continue on the M42 to junction 6.

From the South, South East, South West

From the M5 northbound leave at junction 4A onto the M42 then northbound on the M42 at junction 3A, following NEC and Airport, and leave at junction 6.

From the M40 northbound leave at junction 3A onto the M42, following NEC and Airport, and continue on the M42 to junction 6.

From the West

From the M1 northbound leave at junction 19 onto the M6 (North West, Coventry, Birmingham) until junction 3A where M6 and M6 (toll) split - follow signs for the M42 southbound, following NEC and Airport, and continue on the M42 to junction 6.

From the A14 westbound where it meets the M1 (junction 19) continue onto the M6 (North West, Coventry, Birmingham) until junction 3A where M6 and M6 (toll) split - follow signs for the M42 southbound, following NEC and Airport, and continue on the M42 to junction 6.

Car Parking

There are plenty of parking spaces at the Hilton Metropole Hotel and free car parking has been negotiated for both residential and day delegates at the Guild conference. You should take your parking ticket on entering the hotel car park and obtain an exit ticket prior to leaving the hotel. In the event that the hotel car park is full, there are ample car parking facilities nearby (which unfortunately need to be paid for).

Nearest train station

Birmingham International (NEC) train station - the hotel offers its own shuttle service from the train station. Details are here: <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-birmingham-metropole-BHXMETW/maps-directions/index.html>.

Arrivals

We will have a registration desk in the **Pavilion Suite Pre-Function Area** (hotel signs will show you how to get there from the main hotel entrance) which will be staffed from 3.00pm on Friday afternoon and before the AGM and conference on Saturday and Sunday mornings and where you will receive a welcome pack including a programme and conference brochure. After completing your registration please go to the hotel reception to check-in to your room. If you want to charge any additional purchases to your room you will need to provide the hotel reception with a debit/credit card. Please remember to settle your bill when you check out. Volunteers will be on hand to meet and greet “first timers” at a Guild Conference.

Programme

The AGM will commence at 9.00am on Saturday morning, followed by the conference at 11.00am, and the conference at 9.30am on Sunday morning. The full programme is available on the Guild website

<http://one-name.org/the-37th-guild-conference-agm-2016/>

DNA meeting

A DNA meeting is being held at the Guild conference on the afternoon of Friday 1st April 2016 between 4.00pm and 6.00pm. Details of the room being used for this meeting will be provided when you check into the Conference. You can buy your own drinks in the nearby **Birmingham Bar in The Lounge**. The meeting will be fairly informal to allow all those running a DNA projects to get to network with each other and share ideas. If you would like to come along to this meeting could you please let Debbie Kennett know, unless you have already done so.

Dinner on Friday 1st April

Dinner on Friday evening will be in the **Boulevard Restaurant**. This is not a group dinner and delegates can go to the restaurant any time from 6.00pm onwards.

Quiz

At 8.00pm in the **Pavilion Suite** Alan Moorhouse will be hosting a quiz. Please come along and demonstrate your expertise and knowledge. Quiz teams will be for up to six people so plan to make up a team of six or come along and join 5 others to create one. Prizes will be awarded to the best teams.

The Banquet dinner on Saturday evening

The dinner on Saturday evening will be held in the **Westminster Suite**, where the AGM and Conference will take place. Delegates are invited to a drinks reception hosted by the President and Committee in the **Pavilion Suite Pre-Function Area** from 7.00pm and dinner will be served at 7.30pm. The bar will remain open through and after dinner until midnight. The **Birmingham Bar in The Lounge** is open 24 hours

Dress code for the Saturday evening dinner is smart casual – therefore suggest perhaps not jeans and a sweatshirt.

Please sign up to join a table for the dinner in the **Westminster Suite**: pro-formas will be available in the **Westminster Suite** after the AGM on Saturday. Please put your name on the plan beforehand. There will one bottle of white and one bottle of red wine placed on each table (tables of ten). If you wish to pre-order additional wine for your table, please

complete the Guild wine order form and return it to Cliff Kemball prior to 6.00pm on Saturday, quoting your table number. Cliff will have the following six wines available at the quoted discounted prices:

Whites:

- Pinot Grigio, Pontebella, Australia 2014 **£23.00**
Bright and refreshing with a touch of pear fruit. Enjoy without food or with leafy salads and light fish dishes
- Chenin Blanc, Cullinan View, Western Cape, South Africa 2013/14 **£22.50**
Refreshing melon and guava flavours with a juicy finish
- The Pick Chardonnay 2013, Australia **£24.00**
Exclusive to Hilton and from the multi award winning McGuigan family in South Australia. A flavoursome wine with ripe tropical fruit and peach flavours. Showing pineapple, citrus and melon aromas complemented by vanilla overtones

Reds:

- Merlo, Bonavita, South East Australia 2013/14 **£24.00**
Smooth, soft and dry with blackberry and plum flavours
- Casa Albali Tempranillo Shiraz 2014, Spain **£21.50**
Combines local grape variety Tempranillo and Shiraz to create a delicious, soft and juicy red wine with ripe plum and blackberry flavours, balanced with a lovely long finish
- The Pick Shiraz 2012, South Australia **£24.00**
Exclusive to Hilton and from the multi award winning McGuigan family in South Australia. Full bodied shiraz with a warm, spicy finish that is a great match for lamb and beef or tomato-based pasta dishes

There will, of course, be a more extensive range of wines you can purchase from the hotel but these will not be at discounted prices.

Ecumenical Service

There will be an ecumenical service, led by the Revd. David Gynes, at 8.45am - 9.15am (in the **Westminster Suite**) on Sunday morning.

Bookstalls & Poster Displays

To make the Conference weekend more interactive we encourage delegates to bring along details of their studies for display and sharing. Poster boards will be available for your use. The Guild also has its own bookstall at the conference alongside other displays of interest. These and the following tables can be found in the **Pavilion Suite Pre-Function Area**, which is next to the **Pavilion Suite**:

- Guild Bookstall - The latest version of Surname Atlas (version 2.20) will be available
- The Members Website project table
- BMD Vault table - Scan your own certificates for the Guild's BMD Vault project
- DNA Kits table

Scanning your own certificates for the BMD Vault

There will be an opportunity for you all to bring your own certificates to the Conference to be scanned for the BMD project so that the BMD Vault volunteers can transcribe the data for Guild members to subsequently search. You will alternatively be able to scan your certificates yourselves using the Guild scanner which will be located in the Pavilion Suite Pre-Function Area. Don't forget to bring a flash drive so that you can copy your scanned documents to take away with you.

DNA test kits

DNA test kits and Family Finder (Autosomal) kits from FamilyTreeDNA will be available to purchase at the special Guild member discounted price of £80.00 for 37 markers and £60 for Family Finder kits. The DNA Kits table will not be manned at all times. If you are interested in purchasing a DNA kit you will need to speak to either the Conference organisers or Cliff Kemball during the Conference.

Enquiries

If you have any queries during the Conference, phone the conference team on 07711791205 (Chris)

I hope everyone has a most enjoyable Conference weekend. For those of you planning to take advantage of the hotel's swimming pool and spa don't forget to bring along your swimming costume.

Outings

It is still possible to join with Guild members on the outings that are to take place on Tuesday 5th April to the Black Country Museum and Wednesday 6th April to Sarehole Mill. Full details are on the Guild website where you can pre-book

<http://one-name.org/4-6-april-outings-the-37th-guild-conference/>

or please enquire at the Guild registration desk if you are interested."

Kind regards

Alan Moorhouse

Conference-booking@one-name.org