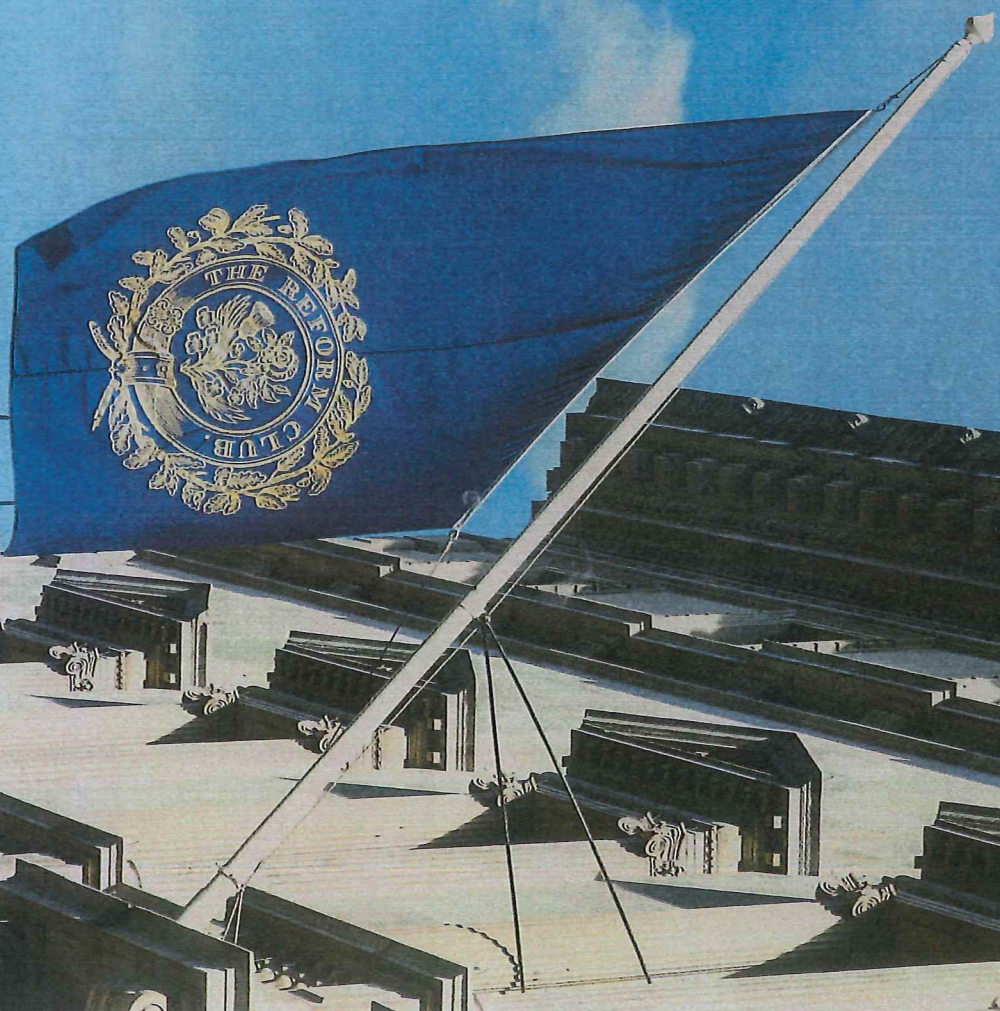


Reform Club
An Introduction



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Welcome

The Reform Club is one of the most prestigious private members' clubs in London with a long and fascinating history. As well as being a lively social community and a place of outstanding architectural importance, the Reform is a reminder of the country's advance towards democracy in the 19th century. It was founded in 1836 for the benefit of those who pledged support for the Great Reform Act of 1832 and the many MPs and Whig peers who developed the Club as the political headquarters of the Liberal Party.

Today the Club is politically neutral, yet remains true to its founding principles. In this spirit, it continues to be a place for progressive thinking, social change and the championing of reform. We salute reformist actions and innovations which have advanced the world. The Reform is a place to facilitate debate about the "betterment" of society and to celebrate past and present acts of reform in a non-partisan way.

Our membership includes academics, members of parliament, lawyers, economists, civil servants, authors, artists, journalists and a wide range of professional and business people.

I look forward to welcoming you.



Chris Roife
Chief Executive



Previous page:
The Reform Bill
Receiving the King's
Assent by Royal
Commission, 7 June
1832 by William
Walker, after Samuel
William Reynolds
(detail)

Architecture

“Phileas Fogg, having shut the door of his house at half-past eleven, and having put his right foot before his left five hundred and seventy-five times, and his left foot before his right five hundred and seventy-six times, reached the Reform Club, an imposing edifice in Pall Mall, which could not have cost less than three millions.”

Jules Verne *Around the World in Eighty Days*, 1872

Right:
The glass ceiling of
the Saloon

Designed by architect Sir Charles Barry, the Reform Club's Grade I listed Clubhouse combines rich heritage, privacy and the convenience of a central, Pall Mall location.

Sir Charles's design was inspired by the Italian Renaissance architecture that he was exposed to as a young student in Rome. The front façade of the Clubhouse borrows from the Palazzo Farnese, a building studied closely by Barry which was completed in 1589 by Michelangelo. The building was completed in 1841 and was immediately celebrated as a masterpiece of classical architecture.



Dining



The Reform Club has always paid attention to the quality of its cuisine in the tradition of the celebrated Victorian chef Alexis Soyer. Soyer's spirit of innovation and excellence continues in today's kitchen with classic and contemporary dishes that showcase the culinary expertise of our Head Chef and his team. All our food is prepared on site and we strive to use local businesses for the finest, freshest British ingredients.

Whether you are looking for a fine-dining experience, a light lunch, a traditional afternoon tea, or a glass or two of champagne, the Reform Club offers you the perfect setting and service.

The Coffee Room is the Club's principal dining room and is ideal for a leisurely lunch or dinner. Our menus feature a contemporary combination of classic dishes and lighter options.

Food service is also available in the Hansard Bar, Gallery and Saloon.

Hansard Bar & Cellars



Left:
The Hansard Bar

The Club's wine collection is housed in our cellars, located beneath Pall Mall, allowing Members direct access to wines at a competitive price. We offer several wines by the glass for the opportunity to try something new and selected wines are served by Coravin allowing you to drink our rarer wines by the glass without opening the bottle.

The Hansard Bar, located on the ground floor is open throughout the day. Choose from our drinks menu which features a selection of wines from the Club's cellar and cocktails created at the bar. You can also enjoy a delicious range of bar food, sandwiches, light bites and our afternoon tea.



The Library

“I am writing this in the big tranquil Library, looking out upon the green gardens of Carlton House Terrace, and furnished with a store of English literature sufficiently large and delightful to last me a lifetime.”

Henry James



Previous page:
The Library

Above: Henry James, 1878 from a letter to his father (soon after his election to the Club)

Left: Shakespeare's first folio, from the Club's collection

The Club's gold leafed Library runs the entire length of the building and faces south, overlooking Carlton Gardens. This room contains many of the Club's finest books. At almost 120 feet long, it is considered to be one of the finest interiors in London.

The Library was established in 1841 and now comprises more than 85,000 volumes. The collection has been built up through regular purchases and through donations from Members, particularly of their own published works. The Library is particularly strong in 19th century English literature, topography, political biography, British history of the last 200 years, travel, architecture and art.

You will find the Library an ideal resource for private study and scholarly research. The Study Room provides a pleasant haven for uninterrupted work. Material not immediately available from the Library's considerable resources can usually be obtained free of charge from the London Library.

Events

Right:
Julian Marc Stingle
playing for the Club's
Jazz Society

Our Members thrive on intellectual stimulation and the exchange of ideas and good conversation. These qualities are demonstrated by our wide-ranging events programme, much of which is curated and delivered by Reform Club Members.

High profile guests are invited to speak at black tie dinners, and more informal talks and debates. Topics range from economics and current affairs, to media, military history, literature, science and technology.

We hold regular live jazz, opera and classical music concerts complemented by many more drinks receptions and parties. Activity groups such as drawings classes, chess, bridge and golf cater for all levels and there is room for both social interaction and serious competition, whether internally or against other clubs.



Private Hire



As a Member, you benefit from the opportunity to use the Club's magnificent rooms for a wide range of occasions, private and corporate. Members are entitled to use any one of the private rooms once a year with no room hire charge (with the exception of the Library). From celebratory lunches, dinners and receptions, to talks and conferences, our team have the expertise to help you design your next important event.

The Reform Club is the perfect setting for a wedding celebration and is available for exclusive weekend hire. Several iconic chapels and churches are within walking distance and the Club's central location means it is very accessible from across the UK and overseas. Every aspect is expertly coordinated and managed by our small and knowledgeable banqueting team. We are here to make sure your wedding is an event to remember.

Club Rooms

Barry Room

Named after Sir Charles Barry, this room is ideal for small meetings and drinks parties. It is also available for the service of reception drinks associated with reservations in rooms elsewhere in the Club.

Cabiner Room

This ground floor room is accessed through a secret door at the east end of the Coffee Room. It is furnished with 19th century political cartoons and comfortably seats 18 for lunch, dinner or business meetings.

Committee Room

The book lined Committee Room is where decisions affecting the Reform Club's affairs have been made since 1841. This beautifully lit room is ideal for lunch, dinner, meetings or small drinks parties. The curved ceiling is a feature of the room echoing the shape of the glass dome in the Saloon.

Garden Room

This room is particularly popular in the summer when the French windows can be opened and drinks taken on the terrace or in the Garden. Fine portraits of William Gladstone and Lord Harrington hang in this room. It is ideal for lunch, dinner, business meetings or a small drinks party.

Strangers' Room (*right*)

The Strangers' Room is a replica of the dining room in the House of Commons and is so named because, originally, it was the only room where members could entertain guests. This room is perfect for dinners and drinks receptions.

Smoking Room (*previous page*)

This room was the original parliamentary library of the Club, becoming the Smoking Room in the 1850s, although smoking is no longer permitted! It is always available to Members as a sitting room and is the hub of the Club's Library collection, with a hundred or so monthly journals and the most recent additions to the Library.





Accommodation

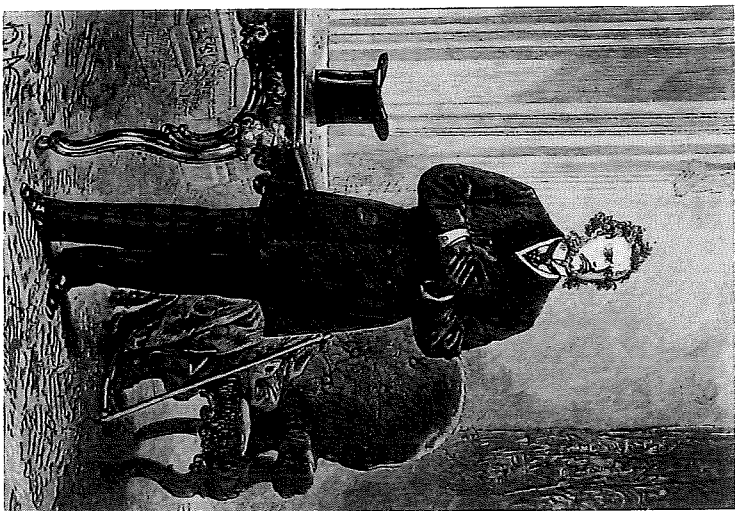


Whether you are in London for business or a weekend away, visiting from one of our reciprocal clubs or simply want to stay overnight after an event at the Club, we are always here to welcome you. We have many unique bedrooms in the heart of St James's for our Members and guests, from comfortable single rooms to spacious doubles.

Many prominent figures have stayed at the Reform Club. The novelist Henry James took a room at the Club on a permanent basis and it is likely that he wrote several of his novels and short stories there.

Reciprocal Clubs

Right:
An illustration by
Alphonse de Neuville,
from Jules Verne's novel
"Around the World in
Eighty Days" 1873



Reform Club Members have access to a global network of over 65 private reciprocal club facilities and services across the world. Whether travelling for business or pleasure, you are free to visit exclusive members clubs located in five continents and across 22 countries. Reciprocal club locations include USA, Canada, China, India, Japan, Singapore, Australia, South Africa and across Europe.



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