



# The Worshipful Company of Fletchers

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From: Bob Hall Master-Elect

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Dear Member of the Fletchers' Company

## Weekend in Rome, Thursday 23 September to Sunday 26 September 2010

Amazingly, it is already time to think about the Fletchers annual trip in 2010. This year's visit to Norfolk was great fun, and many thanks are due to Anne and Tony Poulter for hosting it and Michael Johnson for chaperoning us around the County.

Next year we plan to be in **Rome**. My wife, Felicity, and I hope that as many of the Livery and Members of the Company as wish to will join us on what I am sure will be a very enjoyable visit.

As you will know, Rome is a busy place for most of the year, and that will certainly be so in September. We will be staying at a 4 star hotel in the old centre of the City, and will, inter alia, be having guided tours of the hub of Imperial Rome (eg: the Forum, the Palatine, Circus Maximus and the Coliseum), the Vatican and St Peter's Basilica, and, outside Rome, the Villa d'Este and the Tivoli Gardens. The last will involve the use of a coach, but the rest will all be walking – which is better anyway because traffic in Rome is best left to the Italians.

Group booking for travel by air to and from Rome is already getting very booked up. In fact, it may be more economical and enable greater flexibility if we do not travel as a group as such but make our own individual travel arrangements. Although Michael Johnson has been able to obtain an option on preliminary group booking, securing space for a largish group is already difficult and not inexpensive. Booking individually is therefore a sensible alternative approach.

As a guideline only at this stage, the cost of the visit per person is anticipated to be in the region of Euro 680 without travel included, but if group travel is included then add £211 return per person. The group flight at present reserved gives no time to do anything on Thursday except arrive and have dinner (ie: you would miss the programme proposed and a visit to the Keats and Shelley Museum by the Spanish Steps), but has a departure time on Sunday of 17.15 which allows more time that day.

It is therefore necessary to assess two things now:

- 1 How many anticipate joining the visit.
- 2 How many would prefer to make their own travel arrangements or travel as part of a group.

If you plan on coming to Rome, it would be very helpful if you would kindly return the enclosed **reply slip** to Michael Johnson by not later than **8 November 2009**. Once we have an idea of numbers and the majority view of preferred travel, we can decide on travel arrangements and move forward with detailed planning. It is likely that it will be necessary to go firm on arrangements by the end of November this year, at which time commitment from you will be requested.

Kind regards

Bob Hall