

UFBA-FBUA 96<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
WARWICKSHIRE  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026



## DETAILS

The 2026 Congress will be based in Royal Leamington Spa.

### TRAVEL

**Train:** Royal Leamington Spa is a 90-minute journey from London Marylebone Station (a short bus or taxi ride from St Pancras International and Eurostar), the hotel is a 15-minute walk or a 5-minute taxi-ride from the station in Royal Leamington Spa.

**Flights:** Birmingham airport is served by easyJet (CDG), Air France (CDG), & Ryanair (Beauvais). To travel to the hotel from Birmingham Airport, there is shuttle train to Birmingham International Station then two stops on a local train to Royal Leamington Spa Station.

**Car:** There is some limited parking at the hotel (£12 per day), a public long-stay car park at St Peters, 31A Augusta Place, CV32 5EL at £12 per day. There are also various Just Park locations nearby.

**Hotel:** We have rooms reserved at the **Angel Hotel, 143 Regent St, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4NZ** see booking form for room information, prices and contact details. All coach journeys will leave from the hotel.

## Programme (Provisional)

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

- 12.30 Balcony Bar, Royal Spa Centre, Newbold Terrace, CV32 4HN.  
Welcome drink, introductions and a buffet lunch – 3-minute walk from the hotel.
- 14.00 Walking tour of the town's Regency Spa architecture with a local guide.
- 15.30 Arrive at North Hall, Spencer Yard, Leamington Spa, CV31 3SY  
Talk on the town's regeneration projects in conjunction with Warwick District Council - Leamington Creative Quarter, the greening of the town centre, High Line park proposals etc.
- 16.30 North Hall - Annual General Meetings UFBA and UFBA-FBUA.
- 17.45 Return to the Hotel and check-in if required.
- 19.30 Walk to Taverna Meraki, 97-99 Regent Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4NT (10 min walk from the hotel).
- 19.45 Dinner at Taverna Meraki – Greek food.

## Friday 15th May

- From 07.00: Breakfast at the Hotel
- 09.15 Coach to the Vitsoe factory, Old Warwick Road, Royal Leamington Spa, CV31 3NT.
- 09.30 Factory tour and talk. Factory designed by Dieter Rams (Braun's industrial designer) where they make his Vitsoe 606 shelving system.
- 11.00 Coach to the Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GS.
- 11.30 Tour of the Grade II listed 1958 theatre and its later extensions and refurbishment by Stanton Williams Architects.
- 12.30 Introductory talk in the Burbage Room on Coventry Cathedral by Rev'd Dr Allan Doig, author of "A History of the Church through its Buildings".
- 13.00 Buffet lunch in the Burbidge Room.
- 13.45 Coach to the Cathedral Church of St Michael Coventry, Priory St, Coventry CV1 5AB
- 14.00 Guided tour of Sir Basil Spence's Grade 1 listed cathedral, two groups, including the John Piper stained glass, the Graham Sutherland tapestry, and Jacob Epstein sculptures, and the ruins of the medieval church destroyed in a bombing raid in WW2.
- 15.30 Coach to College of The Arts and Society, Coventry University, Cox St, Coventry CV1 5PH.
- 15.45 Visit to this major refurbishment of an existing Brutalist building by Building Design Partnership (RIBA West Midlands Award winner 2025).
- 17.00 Coach back to hotel – break to change for Gala Dinner.
- 18.15 Coach to The Lord Leycester Hospital, 60 High St, Warwick CV34 4BH for the Gala Dinner.
- 18.30 Tour of the Grade 1 listed medieval hospital with its Master. Built by Queen Elizabeth 1st's suitor Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.
- 19.15 Drinks reception in the Hospital garden or its Guildhall depending on the weather.
- 20.00 Gala Dinner in the Hospital's medieval Hall which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 22.30 Coach return to hotel.

## Saturday 15th May

- From 07.00: Breakfast at the Hotel
- 08.30 Coach to St Mary Magdalene Church, Tanworth-in-Arden, Solihull B94 5AJ
- 09.10 Visit to the Grade 1 listed church. Dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it was restored and extended by George Edmond Street in 1880 (the young William Morris trained in his office). We will also see the recent re-ordering of the West end of the interior by Communion Architects, which won an RIBA West Midland's Regional Award in 2024.

- 10.00 Coach to Compton Verney House, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ.
- 10.30 Visit to the Grade 1 listed house, guided visit concentrating on the restoration and conversion of the house to a gallery and time to explore, which dates from 1442, remodelled by Robert Adam in the 1760s with a Capability Brown landscape and which now houses a modern art gallery, and the sculpture park. Refurbishment by Stanton Williams / Rodney Melville - Civic Trust/Europa Nostra/RIBA Awards 2004-6.
- 12.00 Coach to the village of Chipping Campden in the North Cotswolds.
- 12.30 Arrive in village for lunch at the Red Lion Inn, Lower High Street, Chipping Campden GL55 6AS
- 13.30 Visit to the Court Barn Arts and Crafts Movement Museum, Church Street, Chipping Campden, GL55 6JE 2 groups of 20, alternating with time to explore the medieval town and its Market Hall (1627).
- 14.30 Coach to Hidcote Garden, Hidcote Bartrim, near Chipping Campden, GL55 6LR.
- 14.45 Visit to the Grade 1 listed Hidcote Garden, an Arts and Crafts garden designed by Lawrence Johnston from 1903-38.
- 17.00 Coach to The Hatton Arms, Birmingham Road, Hatton, Warwick CV35 7JJ.
- 17.45 Drinks and chat, with a chance for the more energetic to visit the famous flight of 21 canal locks dating from 1799.
- 18.45 Dinner at the Hatton Arms Pub.
- 21.00 Coach to the hotel.

### **Sunday 17th May**

- From 07.00: Breakfast at the Hotel
- 09.30 Coach to Kenilworth Castle, Castle Road, Kenilworth CV8 1NG. Those departing from Leamington Spa Station to take luggage.
- 10.00 Self-guided visit with audio guides provided in French and English. The castle's origins date back to a Norman Keep built in the 1120s. The current ruins date from 1563 when Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester (Lord Leycester's Hospital) took over the castle.
- 11.30 Coach to Warwick town centre.
- 12.00 Walk through the town to St Mary's church.
- 12.30 Church visit and tower.
- 13.30 Lunch at the Tilted Wig, 11 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA.
- 14.30 Coach to Royal Leamington Spa Station for drop off.
- 15.00 Return to Angel Hotel.