

## East of England

Newsletter February 2009

New Year

New look for the Newsletter

We are working hard in the East of England to keep you up to date with the developing website at the RSA and to communicate with you via our web page on that site.

We have designed a Newsletter to be posted on our web page and accessed via a link for your convenience. This allows us to be more creative and we hope you find it informative as well as more attractive. It will still contain all the news of developments in the region as well as our events.



**Attend and support  
events with your ideas  
Take an active part?  
Lead an activity?  
Contact Paul Dickson  
isis@globalnet.co.uk  
01603 666011**

## Annual Dinner with Tour Friday 3rd April '09

### Christ's College, Cambridge



Our Annual Dinner coincides with the Darwin celebrations, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of biologist, naturalist and Christ's alumnus Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and the 150th anniversary of the first publication of 'The Origin of the Species'. Charles Darwin is seen here as a young man.

See [http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/distinguished-alumni/charles\\_darwin](http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/distinguished-alumni/charles_darwin) for the College celebrations. You are invited to share these celebrations with a tour.



#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Annual Dinner 3 April '09**

**RSA Norwich 5 March '09**

**'Opening Minds'**

**Dragon Hall 12 March '09**

**'Behind the Scenes .....**

**Garden Party 4 July '09**

**& Art Exhibition**

**Murray Edwards College  
Cambridge**

**AGM 19 September '09**

Before Dinner we will visit the Old Library to view an exhibition of books and manuscripts associated with Darwin, including material from the 1909 centenary celebrations. There will be an opportunity to visit the room, now furnished and decorated in the style of the late 1820s, which was occupied by Darwin as an undergraduate. We will also view the new Darwin Garden and a Darwin 200 exhibition in the portico area, which includes a bronze bust of Darwin donated to the College in 1909. In addition we will see the new sculpture of Darwin as a young man crafted by Anthony Smith, which is to be unveiled in February.

Our guest at the dinner is David Norman, who is Director of the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Reader in Vertebrate Palaeobiology and Odell Fellow in Natural Sciences at Christ's College. He will talk about Charles Darwin and the Galapagos Islands.

While continuing to work primarily on dinosaur palaeobiology, systematics and evolution, David Norman's Darwin-related responsibilities have been much to the fore in recent years. He is Director of a museum that houses Darwin's Rocks (collected on the Beagle voyage) and is on the University

Darwin Festival Committee, with its major scientific conferences in July 2009 as well as being involved at Christ's College. In 2007 David led an Expedition to Isla Santiago ( James Island in Darwin's time) in the Galapagos to review Darwin's original geological work and collect new samples for scientific investigation. A description of this pioneering trip to Isla Santiago, rarely explored since Charles Darwin landed there in October 1835 can be found at [www.sedgwickmuseum.org/about/news/070906\\_darwins\\_footsteps.rtf](http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org/about/news/070906_darwins_footsteps.rtf)

The Charles Darwin and Galapagos Islands Fund promotes scholarship linked to present-day aspects of the work originally undertaken by Charles Darwin. The fund will provide support for the activities of persons who have shown evidence of distinction in their chosen research field. It is envisaged that, as far as possible, these activities will promote the scientific understanding, conservation and long-term welfare of the Galapagos Islands. In order to continue this important work donations are welcomed.



Christ's College Gate

Annual Dinner Tickets are £39 per person. Dress formal, lounge jackets acceptable.

The ticket includes, tour, drinks reception, wine with three course meal and coffee.

Times: 6 p.m. Tour, 7.15 p.m. Reception in the Buttery, 8.00 p.m. Dinner in The Hall

Further details including access to Public Transport, Parking and Hotel Accommodation will be provided on booking. Disabled access is available on ground floor level, the tour involves one steep staircase with rails, but this can be omitted if necessary.

Please use the Booking Form on the last page. **Closing date Friday 13th March '09.**

Contact Gladys Jones [gladys.jones@virgin.net](mailto:gladys.jones@virgin.net) or 01638 500404

## Behind the scenes at one of the city's heritage gems

### Dragon Hall, Norwich

**Thursday 12 March '09 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. Start**

Joint event with the Chartered Management Institute Norfolk Dragon Hall is a magnificent Grade I listed medieval trading hall in the heart of Norwich. The Hall dates from around 1430, but the building has a much longer history.

The Hall reopened in April 2006 following a £1.8 million Programme of restoration and development, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Displays on three floors tell the fascinating tale of Robert Toppes, the wealthy merchant who built Dragon Hall and the building's place in the story of Norwich.

Following tea and coffee on arrival, Stephanie Potts, the Manager of Dragon Hall, will talk about the development project that has brought the Hall back to life and the management of such an important heritage asset. From 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. there will be a guided tour of Dragon Hall with a light Buffet, sandwiches, fruit and juices, at 8 p.m. and depart at 9.00 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity, also enabling networking and meeting with CMI Norfolk members.

Cost £14 — please use the Booking Form on the last page. **Closing date Thursday 5th March '09**

Contact Gladys Jones [gladys.jones@virgin.net](mailto:gladys.jones@virgin.net) or 01638 500404



#### [Networks platform](#)

This is a marketplace for new thinking and a space where Fellows can discuss and develop new ideas.

Page 2 Log on to [www.thersa.org/fellowship](http://www.thersa.org/fellowship) to access the networks platform

**RSA Norwich** The group, which has been meeting for the last three or more years in Norwich, changed venue last month to the Maids Head Hotel in the heart of the city centre. Meetings will be on a two monthly basis with a focus for each meeting, nights will vary, so note in your diary. At the 27th January meeting Eve Stebbing, Artistic Director of Spin-Off Theatre Company, told us that as a second generation RSA member, she loved to talk! And this enthusiasm had fired her love for Norfolk dialect and storytelling. Her interest in the vernacular



grew when she was a student of drama, observing people in the streets of Norwich. She was excited to find that they had a real language and a unique way of expressing themselves, where one thought lead to another in a way that wasn't necessarily 'logical', people weaving fiction and reality together to make stories of themselves. Eve soon had her RSA audience joining in, telling 'stories' and thoroughly enjoying the humour of the stories she has collected throughout Norfolk. Her Theatre Company, Spin-Off specialises in collecting the stories she hears and turning them into live drama. What they do isn't a simple representation, the tales are woven into epic tall tales, musicals and plays that have their own unique characters and situations and always a great deal of humour, not to say 'Squit', the dialect word for dubious truth!

**To hear & enjoy more-  
Visit**

**Spin-Off Theatre  
Norfolk Non-Stop!**



**A Festival of  
Norfolk  
Inspired Drama  
April 2-5 2009**

See [www.spinofftheatre.co.uk](http://www.spinofftheatre.co.uk)

"Those potatoes o' your look rather large, Ted."

"That's because they're not for your mouth, they're for moine."

## Next RSA Norwich Meeting Thursday 5 March 'Opening Minds' Seminar, led by Lesley James

An opportunity to learn more about the RSA's innovative secondary curriculum project from Lesley James, RSA national Head of Education.

Lesley will give a talk which will also refer to the RSA Academy at Tipton and the RSA's new Education Charter. Discussion will follow.

**Free Event, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. at Maids Head Hotel, Norwich, Coffee & Tea on arrival.**

**If you wish to attend Contact Claude Scott [cjscott@talktalk.net](mailto:cjscott@talktalk.net) or 01603 455686**

**Directions** for Hotel at [www.foliohotels.com/maidshead/location/index.htm](http://www.foliohotels.com/maidshead/location/index.htm) Parking at rear of Hotel

**Opening Minds**, developed at the turn of the millennium, is a broad framework through which schools can deliver the content of the National Curriculum in a creative and flexible way. It is based on five sets of competences, Citizenship, Learning, Managing Information, Managing Situations and Relating to People and is currently being used in 200 secondary schools nationally.

**The RSA Academy** in Tipton opened to students for the first time in September 2008. It is the first school to be designed entirely around the principles of Opening Minds. The Academy Trust and governing body are chaired by Sir Mike Tomlinson, ex UK Chief Inspector of Schools.

For more information on these and all other RSA Education Projects please go to [www.thersa.org/projects/education](http://www.thersa.org/projects/education)

**Lesley James** has been involved as a teacher of Economics and Business Studies education for much of her working life including a 6-year spell at an international school in Abu Dhabi.

She joined the RSA in 1990 as Head of Education. In addition to her work on 'Opening Minds' and the RSA Academy, she has been responsible for a variety of projects, including: Education for Capability, Start Right (the importance of early learning), Parents in a Learning Society, The National Advisory Council for Careers and Educational Guidance and Redefining Work.

Lesley now splits her time between the RSA and the RSA Academy in Tipton.

# RSA Chelmsford Update and Next Meeting

We had a successful meeting with a number of staff members of the Design Department at Writtle College on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. They are keen to be involved with RSA Chelmsford's response to the 'Town Centre Action Plan'. The College has excellent facilities, for Post Graduate and Undergraduate Design Courses, which we were privileged to tour. More information at - [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk)

The Design Department have an exhibition at Braintree Library, now to 23<sup>rd</sup> February, more information on their website as above.

We look forward to welcoming staff from the College to our next meeting.

Those wishing to attend **immediately** contact [mnoble3211@yahoo.com](mailto:mnoble3211@yahoo.com)

**The RSA and the Chelmsford Town Action Plan—the story so far**



Writtle Campus

## First meeting 24th September 2008

Presentation from Derek Stebbing Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Policy Manager following the adoption of the Town Centre Plan on 28th August 2008. Group agreed to focus on, Access across Chelmsford; Use of waterways; Distances from rail and bus stations to proposed new Chelmer Waterside development; A democratic deficit? Energy sustainability; Arts and Culture; Community needs:

## Second meeting 10th November 2008

Group sought to refine our approach to the focus established. Determined to emphasize the shaping of the built environment and public space. Next steps—seek advice on design of buildings and urban spaces; develop a working relationship with local authorities, Chelmsford Borough and Essex County Councils; establish a link with the School of Design at Writtle College.

## Next Meeting

*'How we might develop our response to the Chelmsford Town Centre Action Plan.'*

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** in the Horizon Suite at Waterfront Place, Wharf Road, Chelmsford CM2 6LU. Coffee and biscuits are available from 6.30pm for a start at 7pm. We aim to finish at 8.30pm.

Directions: From the Army and Navy roundabout, take the exit for the Town Centre (A1060). At the first roundabout take the third exit (Springfield Road), then right again on to Wharf Road. Waterfront Place is situated 150 metres on your left. There is parking on site.

## Design for the built environment and urban landscape

The presentation by Barry Shaw MBE Head of the Built Environment Section, Essex County Council: The Essex Design Initiative will be introduced by Fellow Trisha Gupta MBE Regional Representative of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Chairman of the Chelmsford Chapter of Architects. Malcolm Noble, RSA East of England Committee will chair the meeting, questions and discussion. Invited participants include Derek Stebbing – Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Policy Manager, Jeff Logsdon - Head of the School of Design, with Steve Terry, from Writtle College Centre for the Arts and Design in the Environment, Bryan Foster – Chairman of the Civic Trust, Chelmsford Branch, Maureen Carlomagno – Outreach worker assigned to the region by the RSA, John Adam Street, London.

## Wealth Check or Health Check?

How we respond to the challenges of the recession

A seminar organised by Chaplaincy to People at Work & Anglia Ruskin University

At Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1PT

February 19th 2009 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. £5 **Book by 12th February**

Further details and booking- [admin@workplacechaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:admin@workplacechaplaincy.org.uk) or 01223 276657

Annual Dinner with Tour Friday 3rd April 2009 Tickets £39 per person

Complete and send to: Gladys Jones, Clare Cottage, 16 The Sounds, Dalham, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8TJ

Enquiries to Gladys Jones at gladys.jones@virgin.net or 01638 500404

Please reserve ..... place/s for the Annual Dinner, Reception 7.15 p.m. with Tour 6.00 p.m.

I/We wish to go / do not wish to go on the Tour at 6.00 p.m. (Delete as applicable)

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **RSA East of England Region** and **e-mail address** for confirmation of booking and further details **OR** - a **stamped addressed envelope** if you require confirmation of booking and further details by post.

Name/s of Fellow/s:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Name/s of Guest/s:

Do you or any of your guests have special dietary requirements? Please specify:

Please state if you and/or your guest/s are wheelchair users/have impaired mobility:

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Dragon Hall, Norwich Thursday 12 March 2009 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. Cost £14

Complete and send to: Gladys Jones, Clare Cottage, 16 The Sounds, Dalham, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8TJ

Enquiries to Gladys Jones at gladys.jones@virgin.net or 01638 500404

Please reserve ..... place/s for the Visit to Dragon Hall

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **RSA East of England Region** and **e-mail address** for confirmation of booking and further details **OR** - a **stamped addressed envelope** if you require confirmation of booking and further details by post.

Name/s of Fellow/s:

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