

Dear Fellow:

Please find the RSA East of England May '08 Newsletter together with booking information for May and June Events and some 'Dates for your Diary' on page three. Guests are welcome at all events. If you receive this Newsletter by email you will find it easier to read the attachment copy, where you will also find the booking form. For further information please refer to the contact given with each item or contact Gladys Jones, Programme Secretary, on 01638 500404 or email gladys.jones@virgin.net

RSA

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION Newsletter May 2008

Regional Chair's Message

Our recent annual dinner was a great success. It combined several important elements- a pleasant place to dine, an interesting tour/visit, an informative and thought provoking speaker, and first class catering and management. We are always looking for new venues around the region. If any Fellow knows of somewhere which might be suitable, please let our Programme Secretary Gladys Jones know (gladys.jones@virgin.net or 01638 500404) or contact the in-coming Chair, Paul Dickson (isis@globalnet.co.uk or 01603 666011) or me (g.bell.56@cantab.net or 01245 478487).

Events continue to be an important part of RSA life in the region. So far no event in the new region has been cancelled because of low numbers. The Committee is continuing to work on the programme, and we hope Fellows will find it sufficiently interesting to continue their support.

Gordon Bell

RSA in Hertfordshire

As promised at the AGM we are engaging with Fellows and Guests in the south west of our region. Here is your opportunity to support and participate with a local venture.

'Our Communities 2012.'

'How do we view our future and how can we effect change?'

On Wednesday 21st May 2008, 6.30 p.m. Free, but booking required.

At The Priory, High Street, Ware, Herts. SG12 9AL

An opportunity to network for change by promoting innovative and positive discussion, with an audience of young people and representatives of the community. The event aims to jointly consider how we can change attitudes towards and learn from each other and use positive engagement to improve relationships. Refreshments will be available.

Directions: The Priory, Ware is approached by the A10. Using www.multimap.com will provide the location on Ware High Street (A1170), opposite St Mary's Church. Parking is available.

This interactive event is free, but **must be booked** by emailing jo.linney@ntlworld.com or by telephoning Jo Linney on 01920 460100 by **Friday May 16th 2008**.

RSA in Essex

Our June, full day, event combines historical exploration with a two hour sail and a two hour guided walk. We welcome suggestions for interesting events from Fellows. Topsail Charters was established in 1987 by Paul Jeffries and Fellow Stephanie Valentine, who recommended this opportunity to experience a past era of barge sailing on the Blackwater River. The guided walk, lead by local historian Stephen Nunn, is an exploration of Maldon through the eyes of the 'Founding Fathers', taking in points of interest throughout the town.

'Helping The Past Sail Into The Future'

Sunday 1st June 9.30 a.m. Maldon –The Hythe Quay, Cost £15

Maldon is a tidal town at the top of the Blackwater River and is home to many of the remaining barge fleet. Timing is therefore dependent on the tides. It is essential that you meet at the Hythe Quay at 9.30 am. prompt, to sail on the barge 'Hydrogen' at 9.45 a.m. We hope summer will have arrived for the day, but it is important to wear appropriate clothing for a trip on an historic sailing vessel and it is always cooler on the water, with rain a possibility. It is also recommended that sensible, non-slip shoes are worn.

The approximate time of return to the Hythe Quay is 11.45 a.m. Details of barges, www.top-sail.co.uk

Lunch: You may like to picnic, or there are a number of venues in Maldon where lunch can be obtained. See www.maldon.gov.uk and go to Visiting the District, Eating Out, Eating in Maldon April/May/June 2008, or contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01621 856503, open 10.00 – 4.00 p.m. Mon-Sat. It may be advisable to book if considering a hotel or similar.

‘The Founding Fathers’,

**A guided walk through Maldon lead by Stephen Nunn, a local historian, Cost £3.00
Sunday 1st June 2.15 p.m. start at All Saints Church, top of the High Street**

The walk will include a brief introduction to the history of Maldon by Stephen Nunn, who is an author and historical and antiquarian researcher, with an on-going commentary and handout. It will last approximately two hours, ending around 4.15 p.m. The walk includes quite a steep climb up market hill at one point. As with the morning sail, suitable clothing and foot wear should be appropriate for the activity and weather.

Please note numbers for these events are limited, first come first served, book separately.

Please use the Booking Form on page 3. **Booking dead line, Thursday 22nd May**

Further details, directions and parking will be provided on booking.

Contact Gladys Jones on 01638 500404 or gladys.jones@virgin.net

RSA Norwich Group

A well attended meeting in April welcomed a number of new faces, and a whole range of topics for discussion. As is the nature of change, the course of the meeting provided valuable stimulation, but little by way of continuum of the arts topic pursued previously. It will be explored further at the May meeting and we will keep those who have expressed interest informed.

Congratulations to Richard Barnes on the publication of ‘Boswell’s Norwich’ which we reported on while in production last year. I notice Richard is author of several books, see www.frontierpublishing.co.uk. Also, currently an exhibition of the work in Boswell’s Norwich will be held at the Crome Gallery on Elm Hill, Norwich from Saturday, 26 April until Saturday, 3 May, 2008. The gallery is open every day except Sundays. If too late for the exhibition, catch paintings and commentary on BBC Norfolk - www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk/content/articles/2008/03/25/art_boswells_norwich_march08_feature.shtml

Boswell was the spark which fuelled the whole exploration of the ‘A in RSA’, we need to keep the discussion going towards action. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on -

Tuesday May 13th at Pulse Café Bar, The Old Fire Station Stables, Labour In Vain Yard, Guildhall Hill, Norwich, Phone/Fax 01603 765562 (Parking at St Giles multi-story or The Forum)

From 5.00 p.m. Discussions. Free Coffee 7.00p.m. Supper, for those who wish to stay. Vegetarian food, wine etc. To book a place, please contact **Robert Ashton** via PA: Anne Smales on **01953 605000** or at anne@robertashton.co.uk

The ‘Stuff Stigma’ Conference, which those of you in the Norwich area may well have attended, was a resounding success. Congratulations are due to Robert Ashton for this initiative which was sponsored by East of England RSA. If you want to keep up with the continuing progress of the project log on the the website at <http://www.stuffstigma.org/homepages/public>

Fellows may be interested in the following event-

A new exciting and inspiring event for social entrepreneurs is being held soon. SHINE: the Unconference for Social Entrepreneurs, 9th -11th of May. UnLtd is one of the lead partners in the production of SHINE and the event is being held at The Bargehouse on London’s South Bank from the 9th to the 11th May 2008. Tickets are £20 a day or £45 for a three day ticket.

www.shineunconference.com An online platform for socially minded people. Connect, join, find, share, trade, inspire, grow. www.unltdworld.com

Forthcoming Events, mark these Dates in your Diary

Saturday 5 July 2008 10.00 a.m. ‘The Challenges of Organic Farming’, Stanley’s Farm, Yaxley, Peterborough. Further details tbc.

New Sunday 6 July 2008 Noon onwards Theme- sustainable communities and integration, Quay Theatre, Sudbury. Details tbc.

Saturday 20 September 2008 AGM, Ely Cathedral Centre 10.30 for 11 a.m. Speakers on Great Fen Project and Wicken Fen Vision followed by Buffet Lunch and then talk and tour of Glass Museum & Cathedral.

Other events will be added over time. Remember that we welcome Fellows suggestions for topics to explore across the region.

‘Helping The Past Sail Into The Future’

Sunday 1st June 9.30 a.m. Maldon –The Hythe Quay, Cost £15
And
‘The Founding Fathers’,
A guided walk through Maldon lead by Stephen Nunn, a local historian, Cost £3.00

To: Gladys Jones, Clare Cottage, 16 The Sounds, Dalham, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8TJ
Telephone; 01638 500404 Email: gladys.jones @virgin.net ([Booking deadline Thursday 22 May 2008](#))

Please reserve places for the sail on ‘Hydrogen’ on Sunday 1st June 2008, at £15/person

Please reserve places for the ‘Founding Fathers’ Walk on Sunday 1st June 2008, at £3/person

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 Fellows/s:.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode:

Telephone:..... e-mail address:

Name/s of Guest/s:

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