

East of England

Newsletter October 2009



In Brief, Dates & Events for the Autumn

Following a very busy September in the region the RSA East of England explores activities in the south west this autumn, as well as continuing to build on those established last month. We report here on some of our recent successes.

We hope to attract many Fellows and Guests as well as people in other organisations, especially in Herts. who are keen to engage with us in developing local interests. Please remember we welcome everyone from across the region to all events. Message to all Fellows, but particularly if you live in the east of the region, what are your interests, what would you like to hear about, would you be willing to organise an event with our support, do you know of an ideal venue? Don't moan that nothing happens near you! Act now, be involved, this is your organisation, tell us what you would like to be happening and together we can work on it and make it a reality.

Tuesday 20 October 2.00 p.m. at Writtle College, School of Design, Urban Territory Project

Saturday 31 October 10.30 for 11.00 a.m. 'It's All Happening in St Albans', The Town Hall, St Albans, Herts.

Friday 6 November 2.00 p.m.—4 p.m. Progressing the Forum, Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Chelmsford

Tuesday 10 November 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. 'Architecture and Sustainability', an illustrated talk, Norwich

Monday 23 November 7.00 p.m. Art to Die For—The Triangular Trade, King's College Art's Centre, Cambridge

Monday 23 November 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. 'Community Engagement in Peterborough', presentation Sam McLean
Chelmsford Waterfront Place

Saturday 12 December 2.00 p.m. Silk, Squalor and Scandal, Hogarth, Prints, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury

Tuesday 20 October 2.00 p.m. Urban Territory Project at Writtle College, School of Design



An Ariel View
Writtle College Campus

Continuing our reporting of the progress of the work at Writtle College:- The Advanced Design Studio—Urban Territory Project is underway. There are fifteen postgraduate students working on the project in the School of Design at Writtle College, on the Campus pictured left. Their instructors are Professor Jeff Logsdon and Dr Saruhan Moser with Guest Lecturers and critiques from a client/stakeholder panel. The students begin by working in teams to examine Chelmsford from many aspects, for example, the ecology, history, culture, aesthetics, and economy of the town. They will then go on to develop individual design projects with emphasis on the development of the Chelmsford riversides.

A panel, including Patricia Gupta MBE, CABE representative for the East of England and Gordon Bell RSA Treasurer, East of England Region will meet with students to view progress on 20 October at 2 p.m. If you wish to join the panel contact Malcolm Noble, mnooble321@yahoo.com by Friday 16 October.

It's All Happening in St Albans

Saturday 31 October 10.30 for 11.a.m. at the Town Hall with Buffet Lunch

St Albans Town Hall is one of the city's landmarks. Grade II listed and situated alongside the Market Place, it is at the centre of the city. Built in 1831, the venue presents an impressive Palladian façade, painted cream and decorated with a columned first storey balcony. The building has recently been refurbished throughout to a very high standard and is becoming the focus for an exciting and innovative programme of activities from cutting edge art to jazz or chamber music, from dance to cinema, from performance poetry to burlesque and is set to become the focus for the arts and culture in St Albans.

We are privileged to have the use of the Regency Room at the front of the building, looking out on to the balcony, for our first meeting in St Albans.



It is all happening in St Albans where people in the community are actively involved in the issues which are important to them. This meeting, lead by RSA Fellows from the region, is intended to allow people to hear what is going on in St Albans, share their ideas and encourage others to become involved. It is also an opportunity for discussion and to plan for future development with regular meetings, so come and join us, see how St Albans does things and take in the considerable wealth of history the city has to offer.

There will be four presentations:-

Developing St Albans? A quizzical view of the Council's emerging 'Strategy' for the City.

Peter Trevelyan Chairman St Albans Civic Society

www.stalbanscivicsociety.com

A brief review of the issues and conflicting choices currently facing St Albans City and District as exemplified in the consultation on the Council's 'Emerging Core Strategy' and the 'City Vision Master Plan'.

How can St Albans prepare itself for peak oil and a changing climate ?

Rick Holland Transition St Albans

www.transitionstalbans.org

We are a community-led movement that responds proactively to the twin challenges of peak oil and future changes in our climate. We aim to empower our community and our local council to promote grassroots initiatives involving all key areas of life. For instance, growing food locally, making public transport more commonplace, and advocating ecologically sensitive and energy efficient buildings. This presentation will summarise the science and show how you too can play a part in the transition of St Albans to a sustainable future.

'the kitchen sink drama'

www.thebigV.info

Morgan Howell and Andrew Carruthers The Big V Project

A presentation and discussion about the proposed controversial piece of public art, The Big V. To witness the unwrapping of a new maquette, and a plan to involve school children and the public in providing the very substance of the art itself.

STARTS — St Albans Arts

Joel Baillie-Lane CEO STARTS

St Albans Arts is a registered charity that has in just three years substantially influenced and broadened the cultural life of St Albans. Situated in the iconic 19th Century Town Hall building in the centre of the city it provides an ideal venue for an endless variety of cultural activity as described in the introduction above.

Buffet Lunch Cost £9 at 1.00 p.m.

There will be every opportunity over lunch to network, meet new people and share aspirations. If you are new to St Albans the adjoining Tourist Information Bureau can provide ample information for an exploration of the city in the afternoon. Contact for enquiries gladys.jones@virgin.net or on 01638 500404 To attend please complete the Booking Form on the last page. **Closing date Monday 26 October.** Confirmation and further details will be sent on receipt of Booking Form and payment.

Progressing the Chelmsford Forum, Council Chamber, Chelmsford Civic Centre 6th November 2.00—4.00 p.m.

The next steps in progressing the Forum will be discussed and the way forward decided at this meeting. There will be a key note speaker. All those who attended the Conference, (see following report), those who were invited to attend, but were unable to do so and anyone who missed out altogether last time will be invited to this meeting. If you missed out last time and wish to be invited to the meeting on 6th November, please contact Malcolm Noble mnooble3211@yahoo.com



Conference Report:

Promoting Community Engagement in Chelmsford Town Centre

Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the RSA, addressed a well attended conference held in the Chelmsford Civic Centre on 11th September. He told us that we should have regard to the town's historic identity when planning for the future and he placed emphasis on the life of the town as being as important as the built environment. The RSA has led moves to establish a Forum where residents, business and voluntary organisations will work with Essex County and Chelmsford Borough Councils in the development of the Town Centre.

Head of the Built Environment at Essex County Council and an RSA Fellow, Barry Shaw described how the Essex Design Initiative with which he is involved might support the Forum.

Derek Stebbing, Chelmsford Council's Planning Policy Manager explained the aims of the Town Centre, Area Action Plan. He took two groups of delegates on a walking tour of the key sites in Chelmsford.

The Writtle Project was introduced by the Head of the School of Design, Professor Jeff Logsdon. This is a joint initiative between the RSA, the College and the Chelmsford Society. Postgraduate students are working on designs for the improvement of the Chelmsford riversides area. (as described on the first page).

The conference ended with an 'open space' discussion. A panel, the members being Roger Estop, Chelmsford Council's Planning Design Manager, Barry Shaw, and Patricia Gupta, who is the regional representative of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and is an RSA Fellow, responded to questions and comments,

A Forum will be established and all off the participants at the conference will be invited to a first meeting on 6th November. A steering group, drawn from the organisations responsible for this initiative, the RSA, Essex County Council, Chelmsford Borough Council, Writtle College and the Chelmsford Society, will make the necessary arrangements. The overall impression from the conference was that people like living and working in the town and wished to be involved in shaping its future.

RSA Norwich Tuesday 10 November 6.00 for 6.30 p.m.

Maids Head Hotel, Tombland, Norwich NR3 1LB

Architecture and Sustainability

An illustrated talk by Trevor Price FRSA, Principal Members LSI Architects who are based in Norwich.

LSI Architects have an 'Environmental Ethos' which states 'LSI Architects LLP is strongly conscious of the role that the construction industry needs to play in mitigating future environmental degradation. We seek to promote responsible stewardship of the environment at all times—in terms both of the way we operate and of the designs we produce.' www.LSIarchitects.co.uk

Trevor will talk about the environmental issues that face us, particularly in this region and how LSI Architects' current projects are responding to this challenge.

Please **book a place by 3 November** by contacting Paul Dickson, tel. 01603 666011, mob. 07801 103737, email isis@globalnet.co.uk

Car Parking is available at the Hotel www.foliohotels.com/maidshead tel. 0844 8559120

The Hotel is a 10 minutes walk from the Norwich Railway Station. Tel. 08457 48 49 50 for train times, maps and other information can be found at www.visitnorwich.co.uk or on 01603 213 999



RSA Cambridge Monday 23 November 7.00—8.00 p.m.

King's College Art's Centre, Cambridge

ART TO DIE FOR - The Triangular Trade

Deanna Tyson FRSA invites you to take part in discussion and explore through her textile based art the themes of exploitation, repression and regeneration. 'Textiles are omnipresent and convey huge amounts of information about wealth, status, age, class, culture and climate. In many cultures textiles are virtually the only art form available, so for me, working with textiles has a universal appeal. Society often regards textiles in the form of clothing as either functional or frivolous my kimono challenge this response being deliberately unnerving and provocative.

I want the observer to understand the significance of textiles and not be dismissive of the powerful means by which they communicate.'

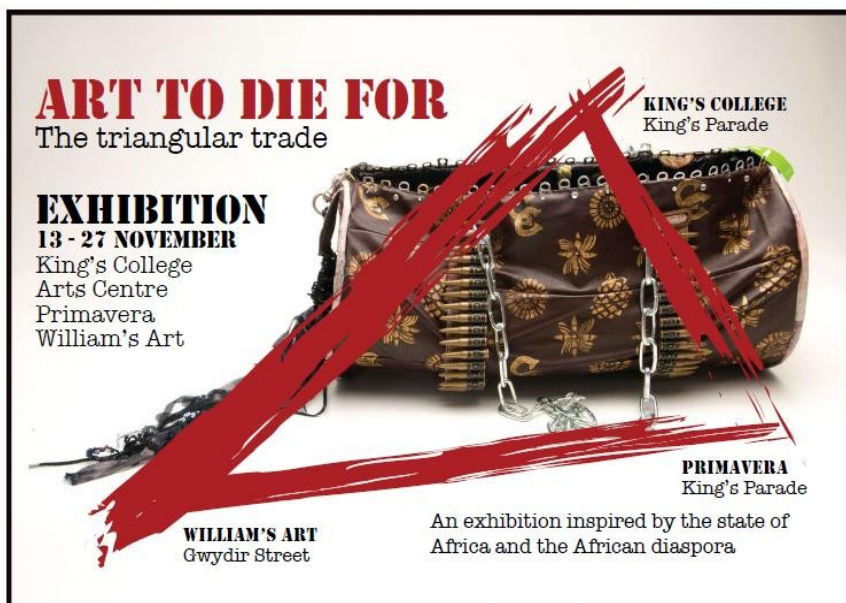
Deanna will be joined by Theodore Menelik of Menelik Education who will explain the important role art has to play in developing a sense of pride and cultural identity amongst African youth. Theodore says ' Society needs the arts to grow and thrive and for many decades the people and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been denied this basic right. Today, once again liberated, artists, children and others, are expressing their thoughts and wishes through the arts. Arts is also a fantastic tool for winning hearts and minds.'

www.menelikeducation.org

Inspired by Africa and the African Diaspora, artist Deanna Tyson brings her narrative, textile - based artwork to King's. Why textiles? Because the history of mankind can be found in the garments man wears and the textiles he weaves. Textiles are a universal art form available to every one.

Her work, strongly influenced by political cartoonists from Gillray to Scarfe, takes the form of kimono, wall hangings and soft sculptures.

Africa at King's is part of a tripartite exhibition that references the consequences of The Triangular Trade that linked three continents.



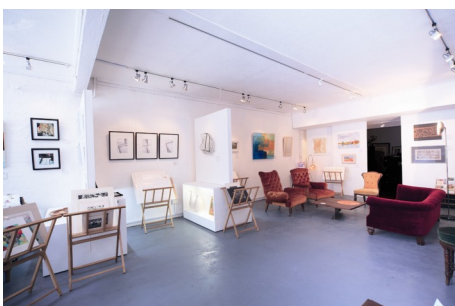
Deanna has exhibited widely with solo exhibitions in U.K. The Netherlands, Bali, Jamaica and Mexico.

She works mainly to commission but some pieces will be for sale. www.deanna-tyson.com

This event is free, but we need to account for numbers, please complete the Booking Form on the last page and send electronically to gladys.jones@virgin.net by **Monday 16 November** if you wish to attend.



CAM, The Cambridge Arts Movement, consists of a growing number of the city's most talented artists who meet and display their work together. The home gallery is Williams Art in Gwydir Street but CAM artists' work appear in locations all round Cambridge.



When you become a CAMarade member, whether as an artist or art-lover, you get advance invitations to our private views and events and special discounts on much of our work.

CAM is about contact with the community and encouraging creative involvement from everyone in and around Cambridge, a dynamic new 'movement'. Art-lovers, visual artists or even non-visual artists (poets, writers, musicians, thespians etc.) can be part of this exciting new endeavour. You can find out more by visiting our website (see below). CAM @ Williams Art, 5 Dale's Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LJ . Tel: 01223 311687. <http://www.williamsart.co.uk>

RSA Chelmsford

'Community Engagement', Monday 23 November 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. at Waterfront Place

We will review progress with the new Chelmsford Forum following the meeting on 6th November at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford.

Sam McLean, the RSA's Director of Public Participation, will present an account of community engagement in Peterborough. For details of this project see the RSA web site www.rsa.org.uk



Please contact Malcolm Noble, mnoble3211@yahoo.com by **Friday November 20** if you wish to attend.

Saturday 12 December Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk 2 p.m. Cost £7 SILK, SQUALOR AND SCANDAL: HOGARTH PRINTS

William Hogarth's innovative 'modern moral subjects', including 'The Rake's Progress' and 'Marriage-A-la-Mode', introduced new and controversial subjects to British art. They explored the manners and morals of early eighteenth century society and satirised the politics of the day. Trained as an engraver, Hogarth was the first major artist in Britain to realise the potential of the print trade in disseminating & selling his work. This touring exhibition of Hogarth engravings includes nearly all his major print series and other well-known graphic works, such as 'Gin Lane' and 'The March to Finchley'. The collection is from the Southwark Art Collection and the exhibition has been organised by the Cuming Museum.

A Tour of the exhibition will be preceded by Tea or Coffee on arrival and a Talk or Film (tbc) which provides background to the times of William Hogarth.

To attend please complete the Booking Form on the last page. Contact for this event Gladys Jones at gladys.jones@virgin.net or on 01638 500404. Booking **closing date Friday 4 December**.

Confirmation and further details will be sent on receipt of Booking Form and payment.

Reporting from 'Opening Minds'

RSA Norwich welcomed a number of school leaders to the session on 29 September to hear about, and discuss the implications of embarking on a competency-led curriculum, such as the RSA's 'Opening Minds' project. In an informal setting, senior staff from 4 schools, including a primary, talked briefly about their own projects. Each gave an individual rationale for taking such a radical approach to the curriculum, explained their modus operandi, and each was honest about the challenges and rewards of the work they had done. Not least among the challenges was to change the mind set of teachers through a structured and thorough programme of preparation, accustomed as they were to a 'target-led' approach to learning. Lively discussion followed. It quickly emerged that 'Opening Minds' had proved to be a very effective initial catalyst for change, which schools took on, but in due course 'customised' to meet their particular circumstances. Four quite different models were described. Opening Minds was not an end in itself, but a means to an end, enabling pupils to develop as independent and self-managed learners. There was much evidence of success in this respect around the room. Pupils felt much more comfortable in the transition from primary to secondary school, meeting far fewer teachers in year 7 than they might have done. Schools felt freer in how they handled curriculum content. Cross-curricular skills could be developed more easily. Learning was integrated across disciplines. Pupils were better motivated to learn.

We were reminded of RSA's historical stance on this, when the key word was 'capability' as opposed to 'competence', the latter implying some kind of measurement of success, generally felt to be unnecessary for such broad categories as 'learning' and 'managing situations'.

Finally, all those present agreed that much could be gained from a more direct local engagement between Fellows and the schools physically near them, possibly through some form of mentoring. **Any Fellow who might be interested in offering their expertise through mentoring in a school is welcome to contact Claude Scott by email at cjscott@talktalk.net.**

Reporting on two events attended and supported by RSA East of England:

Development of the East of England—How can we avoid throttling the Goose?

This one day event on 17 September at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge was applauded as highly successful by the many representatives who attended. It was disappointing that more Fellows were not present as they missed a rare opportunity to hear excellent speakers well versed and up to date in the range of issues which are of considerable concern to all of us who live in the East of England. Work has already begun to review the meeting and consider the feedback with a view to moving forward to progress priorities. Please see the next Newsletter page for more detailed information.

Keeping Our Region Special



An all-day meeting in the Elizabethan Marriott's Warehouse at the Green Quay in King's Lynn, on Saturday 10th October proved to be very successful in informing societies from all corners of the region on the proposals for the formation of a society to take the place of the Civic Trust.

Tony Burton, Director of the Civic Society Initiative, gave an excellent talk outlining some of the options for the future.

Information can be obtained www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk an extract from the website is provided below.

Outside the Green Quay the first group about to set off to visit True's Yard Fishing Heritage Museum where Dr. Paul Richards FRSA gave a fascinating insight into the history of the Fisherfolk of the North End of King's Lynn. A tour of the town took in the many splendid buildings and their historical stories.

Extract from www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

Civic Society Initiative—connecting communities

In essence the purpose of the Civic Society Initiative is a simple one—to establish the means within twelve months to ensure provision of a national voice and support for the civic society movement.

The loss of the Civic Trust has prompted a groundswell of support for the civic society movement. Messages of support and practical offers of help have been received from a large number of professional bodies, local authorities, voluntary and charitable organisations and others. Over 650 civic societies have already said they want to be kept in touch with the future arrangements for supporting societies and providing a champion for the movement.

It is clear that many share the view that the civic society movement is too important for it to lose its national voice. The role of societies and local community action is as important now as it was when the Civic Trust was set up. This is the sentiment at the heart of the package of measures now being put in place to allow a range of options for the future health of the civic society movement to be explored and assessed.

A full range of options will need to be examined but three things are clear:

- The civic society movement needs an independent champion
- The movement needs to be supported as a network where the voice of the individual societies and local groups can be strengthened
- The future needs to be rooted in what the societies want and they need to drive the way forward

Read more on the web site and see **October 15th—16th Blackpool Civic Trust—
a Future for a movement—Civic Society Convention**

There is wide agreement that, given the quality of the talks at the symposium on 17 September, we need to make sure that somehow they make an impact. The slides, together with a summary by John Worthington, are on <http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/pvll/GOOSE/>

We are discussing the following suggestions. Other ideas will be welcome: email P.V.Landshoff@damtp.cam.ac.uk

- Nigel Brown, who chaired the symposium, has suggested that we produce a written report for "the right desks" and coffee tables. We have recordings of all the talks and these would first need transcribing and then knocking into shape. Cambridgeshire Horizons and EEDA each have agreed to contribute towards the cost, provided we can create a consortium of other organisations that will do likewise. Can we identify other players?
- Several people would like further exploration of Richard MacCormac's ideas of denser low-rise development. Others say they are unrealistic, and yet others say "we do it already".
- Sir Richard is also offering to lead a drive to get ordinary people more involved with planning.
- We might organise a round table with elected members and officers of councils in appropriate areas. Gareth Dalglish of Natural England is particularly interested in educating them in the need to pay regard to landscape in planning.
- Gareth Dalglish also says that it would be useful to agree on some common messages and on some of the bright ideas which came out of the symposium, so we can all speak with one voice in our submissions to consultations on the regional plan.
- Cambridge City Councillor Lewis Herbert suggests identifying 10 future challenges. He mentions -
 - locating future housing to follow the jobs, rather than the other way around
 - sustainable transport, linking development to existing built environment, and
 - achieving combined net zero carbon processes that integrate the complex strands
- Several people favour smaller focused workshops around the region, on issues such as transport, energy reduction and carbon footprint, water supplies, waste, landscape, funding models etc.
- Also better-designed and more varied housing, aiming at standards achieved in other European countries.
- We are contemplating a study, along the lines of the one for Cambourne -- see <http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/FileAccess.aspx?id=953> -- to establish whether Accordia, which recently won RIBA's Stirling Prize, really was designed for architects rather than people.
- We might also study Orchard Park as an awful example of what not to do – see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global/2009/oct/11/orchard-park-germaine-greer>
- We are also minded to mount a workshop to share good practice in the region on how a town can make good use of its river.

at



ISO Fine Art & Interiors

Decorex International 09

The Decorex 09 exhibition was, as always, a spectacular event showcasing the absolute cream of the Interior Design world.

The organisation and presentation was supremely handled by the Decorex team, removing all those behind-the-scenes headaches normally associated with major exhibitions. First class!

The ISO collections received phenomenal response from fellow craftsmen and designers, interior designers and specifiers from across the globe. Cymbidium Exotica stopped people in their tracks uttering . . . Wow . . . Gorgeous . . . Beautiful . . . Magnificent!

Cymbidium Exotica



All in all we had a fabulous show and are monumentally pleased with the generous welcome and response from everyone who approached us. We're looking forward to our solo exhibition where we can show more of our collections in the fabulous vaults of The Royal Society of Arts House, ISO Fine Art & Interiors

Solo Exhibition

Vault 3

29th & 30th October 09

11am - 7pm

Laura Frances FRSA

(This exhibition was postponed from September)

If you are visiting London Helga Fox FRSA invites you and guest/s to a solo show by our London artist **Richard Batty 'FUNKY AGGREGATED INFORMATION OVERLOAD' 13 - 25 October 2009**

PREVIEW and JAZZ CONCERT by Jason Simpson Group: Tuesday 13 October 7.30-9.30pm

VENUE: HF Contemporary Art,

Lauderdale House, Lower Gallery, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, London N6 5HG

www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

Exhibition opening hours: Tue-Fri 11am - 4pm Sunday 12noon - 5pm Saturday closed

RSVP to Dr. Helga Fox info@hfcontemporaryart.com +44(0)7768 794272

We very much look forward to welcoming you at Lauderdale House.

Our next major exhibition is at the London Art Fair 12-27 January, 2010 with a solo project in the Project Area by our Asian artist Sarawut Chutiwongpeti and a separate Fine Art exhibition in G48 with works by Vincenzo Balsamo (Italy), Christoph Schmidberger (LA), Helen Steele (Dublin) and Glory Charles (Antigua).

and Glory Charles from Antigua

We shall also hold an Asian Art Exhibition with our Chinese artists Wang Guangyi, Wang Fu, Daisaku Kawada from Japan and Sarawut Chutiwongpeti from Bangkok at the Vienna Fair in May 2010.

Best wishes,

Helga Fox

Saturday 31 October 10.30 p.m. For 11.00 a.m. St Albans Town Hall

It's All happening in St Albans

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 It's All happening in St Albans and Buffet Lunch £9 per 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 Fellow/s:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Name/s of Guest/s:

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

**Monday 23 November 7.00—8.00 p.m. King's College Art's Centre, Cambridge
ART TO DIE FOR - The Triangular Trade A Free event.**

Complete and return electronically to gladys.jones@virgin.net

We need to know numbers attending & phone no in case of cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances. Confirmation and further details will be sent on receipt of booking.

Name/s of Fellows:

Name/s Guests:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

**Saturday 12 December 2.00 p.m. Gainsborough's House, Sudbury
SILK, SQUALOR AND SCANDAL: HOGARTH PRINTS**

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 Hogarth's Prints £7 per 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 Fellow/s:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Name/s of Guest/s: