

ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTS & SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION



Patron: Prince Nicholas von Preussen

President: 2023 – 2024 Ashley Courtney RIBA AABC

25th March 2024

Dear Colleague,

EASA SPRING CONFERENCE 2024: - KING'S LYNN

Dates: Sunday, 19th May 2024 to Tuesday, 21st May 2024.

Theme: “Is there Holiness in Beauty: - does Image matter?”

Hotel: The Knights Hill Hotel and Spa. South Wootton, King's Lynn. Norfolk. PE30 3HQ.

Booking Deadline: **Wednesday, 24th April 2024**

Introduction and Booking Period:

Ashley Courtney and I are delighted to announce the EASA Spring Conference for 2024 with this mailing letter, at the end of which I have attached the directions to the hotel and a location plan. The preliminary programme and a booking form will be sent as attachments for you to fill in and return promptly. We have had a few IT problems with our website of late, which is why you have received this mailing by email. There is a tight timetable to return your booking forms, due to the involved nature of bringing this conference together, but we feel it has been very much worth the effort and I look forward to your support for it by returning your booking forms by:

Wednesday, 24th April 2024.

The Conference:

Ashley Courtney says “that his conference title of ***“Is there Holiness in Beauty: - does Image matter?”*** covers the issue of whether our church buildings are actually beautiful advertisements of Christian faith?” He will also ask “Has our appreciation of ancient fabric, from Morris and Ruskin, to SPAB principles led us to maintaining our churches in a crippled state – failing the fabric and worshippers alike?” and “Does the Church of England even care and does it matter?” He will go into more detail on this subject in the forthcoming Journal, which will be with you shortly.

For those able to come early we shall walk around King's Lynn, as part of the Early Bird visit on Sunday, 19th May 2024, to look at the town and King's Lynn Minster, the new works of re-ordering at All Saints Church, South Lynn and then return to St Nicholas' Chapel by way of a river and quayside walk. Please see further notes about the arrangements for this below.

The main conference will begin with Ashley Courtney setting the scene. His talk will be followed by lectures by Matthew Godfrey, (Historic Churches Support Officer of Lincoln Diocese) on the ***“John Claude Nattes Archive*** of historic drawings of local churches, William Whyte (Professor of Social and Architectural History at St John's College Oxford) who will address ***“Victorian Attitudes of Sacred Space”*** and Alison Henry (Joint Head of the Building Conservation and Designed Landscape Technical Conservation Team at Historic England) who will look at ***“External Surface Finishes: Re-discovering Traditional Character and Performance”***.

That afternoon we will then travel out to St Andrew's Church, West Dereham, where Ashley Courtney will take us through the work he did re-rendering this church. The afternoon will conclude with a visit to St Andrew's Church Northwold, where Nick Warns will describe the work he carried out to make this church dry and more comfortable. It is perhaps an example of a direction of travel in making churches more hospitable. We shall also look at the fine carvings and wall paintings there, before we return to the hotel for the evening's Formal Dinner.

Hon. Secretary

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The Conference Continued:

The conference will take to the road again on the Tuesday, starting with a visit to St. Mary the Virgin, Anmer. Here we will see the newly restored nave screen, donated by Queen Mary, and recently redecorated by Aidan Hart. The new epistyle was also added at the same time, which was commissioned at Dumfries House by the King. Look out for further royal connections as the conference proceeds! From there we will travel west to the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Tydd St. Mary. This is a small but thriving church who are very pleased to welcome us to their country church, where refreshments and lunch will be provided by the ladies of the Altar Guild. During the morning there we will also hear from David Wiggins (Conservation Engineer and Director of Clach) who will speak about ***"Mortars for Damp Towers"***. He will be followed by Domenico D'Alessandro (Joint Head of the Building Conservation and Designed Landscape Technical Conservation Team at Historic England with Alison Henry) who will talk about ***"Historic England Research – Paints and Coatings"*** amongst other matters. He has asked that if anyone wants to raise a case study with him during his talk he would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the conference. The morning session then concludes with the ***Open Forum***.

From Tydd St Mary we will progress to St. Peter's Church, Upwell St Peter to look at another fine Norfolk church, and its rendering issues. The conference's final visit will be to St Peter's Church at Walpole St. Peter. This is a large Norfolk church, with some royal connections, which we could not miss. It is in good order, but worth a visit to discuss its condition and how that was achieved. The conference will conclude here and we will then travel back, via the railway station for rail travelling members, to the hotel for a final cup of tea and coffee.

Early Birds:

For those able to come on the Sunday afternoon the Early Bird visits will be very worthwhile as an introduction to Norfolk. Full logistical details will be circulated once the size of the party is known, as I plan to ask members with cars to help out with the transporting of members back into King's Lynn from the hotel. However, if numbers rise to any size we may consider hiring a coach to move us around, which will be charged as an extra to the booking fee if required.

Please note that I have already gained some feedback into the challenges of getting to King's Lynn by train that Sunday morning, so if you are having difficulties in meeting the proposed timetable please let me know when you send in your booking form and we may be able to collect you from the railway station as you arrive, rather than asking you to try and get out to the hotel by 13.45 hrs.

We plan to visit a local hostelry in the evening, probably within walking distance of the hotel. Members will be asked to pay their own food bills for this directly with the pub concerned.

Cancellations and Booking Fees:

We do not normally refund booking fees once a booking has been made, because within four weeks of the conference starting, we will have already contracted with and paid the hotel and other providers all funds due to them. This is normal practice. Of course, Covid-19 did change the way we operated during the pandemic, but I hope that now we will not be affected in the same way again.

Covid-19:

While Covid-19 seems to be almost behind us, can I ask you please to be conscious that we still need to be careful and, as and when asked, to abide by any current Covid requirements at the various venues we are visiting. I would also ask you to ensure that if you have any doubts about your health before you arrive in King's Lynn, that you take appropriate action and then let Mandy Gosling, or myself know of your predicament.

If required, all delegates will be sent a Covid-19 briefing by email a few days before the conference. This would arise if anything has changed in any way, or if there are any specific procedures we will need to administer to run the conference, which may have arisen since I wrote this letter.

Travel Insurance:

Can I also ask that each Delegate takes out his or her own travel insurance for the event to cover cancellation, because EASA as an Association cannot take out this type of cover on your behalf.

Bookings and Payments:

These conference papers will reach you by an email with attachments. As we are unable to take electronic bookings via the website will you please send your Booking Form, once completed, by email to Mandy Gosling. We have sent the booking form as a Word document to ease this process, so you can fill in the form on your computer and then email it back, preferably having made an electronic payment, as we shall soon be abandoning any form of postal bookings and payments by cheque.

Can I please encourage you to react immediately to this mailing in view of the short timescales we are working to? This is to ensure that you have a place booked, as there is an upper limit to the numbers we can take at various venues. We also have to release any rooms that have not been booked at the hotel immediately after the booking deadline date, after which time any late bookings may have to be refused if there are no rooms available, so you have been warned!

Also, when you come to send your payment electronically, please ensure that you send it to the correct account details shown on the Booking Form, because there are two EASA bank accounts, one for your subscription payments and one for conference bookings, so please do not muddle them up. Can I also please ask you to make sure you state your correct personal booking reference when making your payment, all as set out on the booking form, so we can track your booking. Finally, can I remind you to make sure that we have your bookings before the deadline of **Wednesday, 24th April 2024.**

The Knights Hill Hotel and Spa:

The Knights Hill Hotel itself is on two floors and is laid out as a series of pavilions linked by glazed corridors. As such some of the rooms are quite a long way from the hotel's Reception and there is no lift to the first floor. If this may prove challenging, please let me know by ticking the tick box on Page 3 of the Booking Form when making your booking and we will try and accommodate you in rooms nearer the front door on the ground floor. Hotel guests have the use of the swimming pool and other facilities at the Spa and parking is free on site for residents.

Travelling between venues:

We shall be travelling between venues in small coaches, due to the narrow lanes we shall at times traverse. At most locations there is no parking and so the coaches will be dropping us off and then going on to park elsewhere, before returning to pick us up later. This is to avoid blocking the local lanes around the churches. Therefore, when the call goes out to return to the coaches will you all please make careful haste back to the pick-up points.

Final Thoughts:

Ashley Courtney and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our Spring Conference and to showing you around King's Lynn and its churches and environs. This will be a significant and thought provoking conference, which we hope you will enjoy, along with the fellowship of the assembled company as we look to consider the theme of **"Is there Holiness in Beauty: - does Image matter?"**

With best wishes,



Andrew S. Wood.
EASA Hon. Meetings Secretary.

Attachments: Preliminary Programme.

Booking Form.

EASA SPRING CONFERENCE 2024: KING'S LYNN

LOCATION PLAN AND DIRECTIONS TO THE KNIGHTS HILL HOTEL AND SPA South Wootton King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 3HQ



Please note that the colour coding of the various venues relates to **green** for the Early Bird Visits, **pink** for those on Monday, 20th May and **blue** for the Tuesday, 21st May 2024 visits.

Directions to the Hotel by Car:

King's Lynn has a southern ring road (A149) that everyone coming by car should use to get to the hotel. For those coming into Norfolk from the west on either the A17 or A47 you will join the A149 at a roundabout just before you cross over the River Great Ouse. Once over this bridge ignore the left slip road signed for King's Lynn and continue on the main road under this roundabout, following signs for "The Docks".

Continue east to where the road splits into a left lane signed for A149, Cromer, Hunstanton and King's Lynn and a right one for Norwich. Keep in the left lane and then on the "slip road" move into the middle lane signed for King's Lynn and the A149. Avoid the temptation to take the slip road to King's Lynn itself as that is for another day! Then take the second exit on this roundabout signed for the Docks. This is an involved roundabout where those driving north, up the A10 and A47, will eventually join the A149 and you will all take the exit for the A149, signed for Cromer if the sign has been put back! This is now The Queen Elizabeth Way, or the A149, which you should now follow north eastwards.

Directions to the Hotel Continued:**By Car Continued:**

From the roundabout continue along the A149, the Queen Elizabeth Way, for about 3.5 miles or just over 5 Km. Several roundabouts later you may encounter traffic queues as the last roundabout you come to is often quite busy. Keep in the lefthand lane as you come to this roundabout and you may catch a glimpse of the brick built hotel on your left. At this roundabout, the A149 continues to Hunstanton and the A148 goes on to Cromer, but take the first exit signed for King's Lynn, North and South Wootton and the Docks.

The hotel entrance is then about 100 – 150 m on your left immediately after leaving the roundabout. Progress down the driveway and you will see the reception entrance immediately in front of you. There are drop off parking bays here and the hotel car parks are spread around the site. The hotel extends much further back behind Reception, so in due course you may want to relocate your car to a door nearer your room to unload, but please check with Reception before you open any door as they are all alarmed! Parking is free here.

Arriving By Train:

There is a direct service from London to King's Lynn station (**KLN**) and from other directions, but you will probably need to change trains where cross country routes are involved.

Those coming on Sunday, 19th May 2024 should be aware that engineering works in the Cambridge area will result in extended transit times, as bus replacement services are involved. Please check when you buy your tickets as this will have implications for your arrival times.

For those coming by train on Monday, 20th May 2024, you will need to get up early, but I am told that there should be no delays due to planned engineering works!

On arrival at King's Lynn Station you will need to take a taxi to the hotel, which is about a 15 to 20 minute journey. There is a taxi rank at the station. Bus services also run to South Wootton, but check on the web for further information.

Leaving at the end of the Conference by Train:

We shall return to the hotel via King's Lynn Railway Station at the end of the Tuesday afternoon visits to drop off everyone who has asked to be set down there. I expect to be able to drop you off with time to get the 17.10 hrs train south, but it may be prudent to catch the 17.40 hrs train if you have tight onward connections. Please ensure that you have all your luggage with you when you board the coaches that morning.

Early Bird Arrivals:

For those coming for the Early Bird tour of King's Lynn, I will circulate a more detailed set of instructions before the conference and after we firm up on the numbers coming. That evening we are planning to have supper in a local hostelry adjacent to the hotel and so we will meet in the hotel Reception prior to walking around to the restaurant at 19.00 hrs.

Many thanks.

Andrew Wood.

EASA Hon. Meetings Secretary.