The Beaches Symposium – 21/22nd September 2015

 Hotel Continental, Whitstable.

**Travel to/ directions for:**

If you are coming from outside of Kent, we suggest you travel by **train** – from London there are fast services out of St Pancreas, and (much) slower ones out of Victoria. Travelling by train is a good way to be introduced to the area and to our meeting: although the North Thanet coast in the late 18th and 19thC was very well connected to London by boats coming down the Thames and then along the coast (and on over to the continent), it was really the building of the railway line which opened up Thanet’s beaches to mass tourism.

There are (of course!) google maps to give you directions from the station (and see the hotel website), but this is basically how to walk from train station to seafront:

Come out of Whitstable station, and turn left on Railway Avenue; walk down to Cromwell Road, and turn right into Cromwell Road. Walk down the road to the end - the intersection with Tower Parade (Whitstable Habour Office is opposite). Turn right into Tower Parade and cross over road. Walk past swimming blow and bowling alley on the left. Then turn left at small car-park for Continental Hotel, and take road down to the beach. The Continental is on a corner and the entrance is on the sideroad.

This walk is an interesting (c 20 min) route in that it takes you through ‘back Whitstable’ of little beauty, rather just an everyday worn down environment with little of ‘real’ ‘interest’. It is not what you expect if you have read or been told of fashionable ‘Chelsea on Sea’. The pavements are pretty broken so, even though it is flat, a back pack is easier than a ‘roller’ case. If you would rather be picked up or the weather is awful – we will give you a phone number to ring for one of us to come and collect you.

If you come by **car**, there is car parking in the hotel car-park immediately on your left as you turn off Tower Parade (avoid parking in front of the hotel - it is pay and display and frequently patrolled.)

If you are coming from Canterbury, then you could take the **bus**, and ask to be dropped at the Habour bus stop.

By whatever transport you use, but especially if travelling by train – we suggest you download and listen to Claudia Molitor’s ‘**Sonorama**’ an audio work for the train journey between London St Pancras and Margate. Sonorama can be experienced on this train route via a downloadable App.: appstore.com/sonoralabyclaudiamolitor (Download it on other devices with 3G reception at: sonorama.org.uk).

**Sunday Arrivals:**

Check in is after 3.00pm – one of us will be at the hotel to meet you. Please, if you can, arrive before 4.30. We plan a walk on Whitstable beach from 5.00, followed by a supper of moules and chips at the hotel.

**Monday:**

**The Symposium:**

**Registration** will be from 10.00 – we will start at 10.15.

The morning session will last until 12.45.

**Lunch** at 1.00.

The afternoon sessions will begin at 2.00 and finish at 5.00.

There will be a walk along Tankerton Beach for anyone who wants fresh air!

**Dinner** is at 7. We need to tell the hotel, as far as we can:

1. How many people wish to stay for dinner, and:
2. What people are ordering for supper (2 courses per person) from a menu of:

Starters:

• Chicken, Pistachio and Pork Terrine

• Today’s Soup of the Day served with bread

• Pane Brie with Onion Chutney

Mains:

• Duck Confit with Cassis Sauce

• Baked Cod with vibrant Parsley sauce

• Mushroom Stroganoff served with Rice

Desserts:

• Crème Brulee

• Sticky Toffee Pudding

• Dark Chocolate Torte

• Local Cheeses with Fudge’s Biscuits

 **Please email us as soon as possible with your choice of food!**

 **After dinner**, there will be readings etc…

 A detailed programme for the day will be sent out to you soon.

**Tuesday:**

**The Field Trip:**

We will be **leaving** from The Continental at **10.15**. Luggage (if you have been staying at the hotel) can be left for collection later.

We will return by **4.00pm.**

Spaces are very limited (the size of the bus!) – so please tell us (asap) if you want to join the trip.

We will be traveling first to Pegwell Bay, and then working our way back along the coast. If weather permits, we will walk from Ramsgate to Broadstairs (not more than half an hour), and will be taking short stops at North Foreland, Birchington and Cliftonville, before a longer visit to Margate.

A map of the trip, and some introductory notes will be available.

Looking forward to seeing you all, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries:

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