

BARS Blog – Conference Excursions BARS 2019

Our latest blog explores the conference excursions that are on offer for the Saturday afternoon. Hopefully this will help you make the difficult choice between them!

Newstead Abbey:

July 2019 is an exciting month for Newstead Abbey, and not just because of the visit of a party of BARS delegates!

As Lord Byron's ancestral home, it is obvious that the links to the 'mad, bad and dangerous to know' poet abound at Newstead. The Abbey already holds in their collections one of Thomas Phillips's famous portraits of Byron from 1813. Excitingly, Phillips's portrait of Byron wearing Albanian costume will be on loan from the National Portrait Gallery to Newstead Abbey during July, giving unrivalled access to these two contemporary depictions of Byron viewed in his family home together for the first time.

Also on loan from the British Museum is the spotlight exhibition 'The golden age of satire? Late-Georgian satirical prints', which features a large range of prints and cartoons including some by the great satirists Gillray and Cruikshank. Alongside the British Museum's collection, Nottingham Museums will display their own satirical manuscripts, including Byron's own letters. As this opens on the 27th July (the day of the excursion) BARS delegates will be among the first to see this exciting exhibition.

After the conclusion of the conference on Sunday 28th July, Newstead Abbey are hosting an outdoor theatre performance of *Wuthering Heights* by Heartbreak Productions. The gates open at 5pm, with the performance starting at 6pm, and tickets for this event from Nottingham Council's website can be found here:

<https://www.newsteadabbey.org.uk/events/?date=2019-07-01>



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Derby Museums & Pickford House:

Derby Museum and Art Gallery is home to the world's largest collection of paintings by renowned artist, Joseph Wright of Derby, and features twenty-seven of his finest works, alongside a number of smaller works loaned from private collections. Paintings on permanent display that may be of interest to BARS delegates include *A Philosopher Giving that Lecture on an Orrery, in which a Lamp is put in the Place of the Sun* and *An Alchymist*.

Derby Museum also has a number of other varied and eclectic exhibits on display, including a large amount of natural history and taxidermy, Egyptian mummies, and a number of archaeological finds dating from prehistory to the eighteenth century. From May, including at the time of the excursion, there will be an exhibition all about the wonders of Lego, entitled 'Brick History: A World of Lego Awaits', featuring famous moments in history immortalised in Lego form!

Pickford's House is another of Derby's museums, located within the beautiful family home of the architect, Joseph Pickford, who was active during the Georgian period. The museum displays the changes that the house has undergone during its 250 year history, whilst demonstrating life in Derby from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. In July, Pickford's House will be playing host to the wardrobe of Grace Elzina, Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston. There will be gowns on display from the 1920s and 1930s from the likes of Chanel and Worth, giving a sense of the glitz and glamour of the Roaring 20s.



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Kedleston Hall:

Kedleston Hall is one of Derbyshire's finest country houses, now owned by the National Trust who care for the house and extensive parklands in which it is situated. The home of the Curzon family from the twelfth century until the present day, Kedleston is a fine example of a neo-classical mansion containing Robert Adam interiors.

Built as a rival to the Devonshire family's Chatsworth House, Kedleston Hall was built in 1765, and intended as a show palace to show off the family's furniture and many paintings and sculptures. Kedleston's Eastern Museum holds the large collection of artefacts collected by Lord Curzon whilst Viceroy of India, from a range of countries including Tibet, China and Nepal. The collection holds everything from samurai swords to Mary Curzon's delicate Peacock dress, which was worn to the Dehli Durbar ball in 1903. Its shimmering nature is not from sequins or actual peacock feathers, but is due to the dress being embellished with thousands of beetle shells!

2019 marks two-hundred and fifty years since the first tours of Kedleston by its housekeeper, and the first published guidebook. Tours are available on the day, but the house is also free to wander around at your leisure.



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Wollaton Hall:

Only a short walk away from the University Park campus is Wollaton Hall, an Elizabethan mansion built in the 1580s, and now home to Nottingham Museums' huge collection of natural history specimens. Built by Robert Smythson, the architect of Longleat and Hardwick Hall, Wollaton Hall was built for the Willoughby family.

This Grade 1 listed grand home is set within five hundred acres of parkland, and home to herds of red and fallow deer and the oldest cast iron glasshouse in Europe in its extensive gardens. From the heights of the Prospect Room, a ballroom situated at the very top of the mansion and accessible by private tour, these wonderful grounds are in view. Also, for Batman fans, Wollaton Hall had a starring role as Wayne Manor in 2011's *The Dark Night Rises*.

Entry to the house and grounds are free, and Wollaton Hall boasts a number of walks around its large lake, perfect for relaxing and getting outside. Inside Wollaton Hall is a Natural History Museum, whilst in its grounds there is the Nottingham Industrial Museum which is open from 11am-4pm and has a nominal entry fee of £3.



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BARS Romantic Facts and Fantasies Exhibition: Culture and Heritage of the Romantic Age, c. 1780-1840:

To tie in with the BARS Conference, the University's Lakeside Arts Centre is displaying an exhibition focused on the Romantic Age, and Nottingham's role as one of the heartlands of British Romanticism. Lakeside Arts Centre is located only a short walk away from the East Midlands Conference Centre.

The exhibition is free, and features manuscripts and artefacts from leading writers and figures of the period including Lord Byron, Mary Howitt, Robert Southey, Henry Kirke White, Sir Walter Scott, Sir Richard Arkwright and Amelia Opie.

Romantic Facts and Fantasies: Culture and Heritage of the Romantic Age, c. 1780-1840, has been jointly curated by the organisers of the BARS Conference team from the School of English, Professor Lynda Pratt, Dr Máire Ní Fhlathúin, Johnny Cammish, Colette Davies, Ruby Hawley-Sibbett, Jodie Marley, Amy Wilcockson and Dr Charlotte May, alongside Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham.

Also on offer during the conference on Friday 26th July at 1pm is a public talk linked to the exhibition entitled 'Paupers and Poetry: The Workhouse at Southwell', to be delivered by Dr Charlotte May. The talk is free, and will be taking place in the Djanogly Theatre at Lakeside Arts Centre.

Find out more about the exhibition here:

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/special-collections/event/4031/romantic-facts-and-fantasies.html>

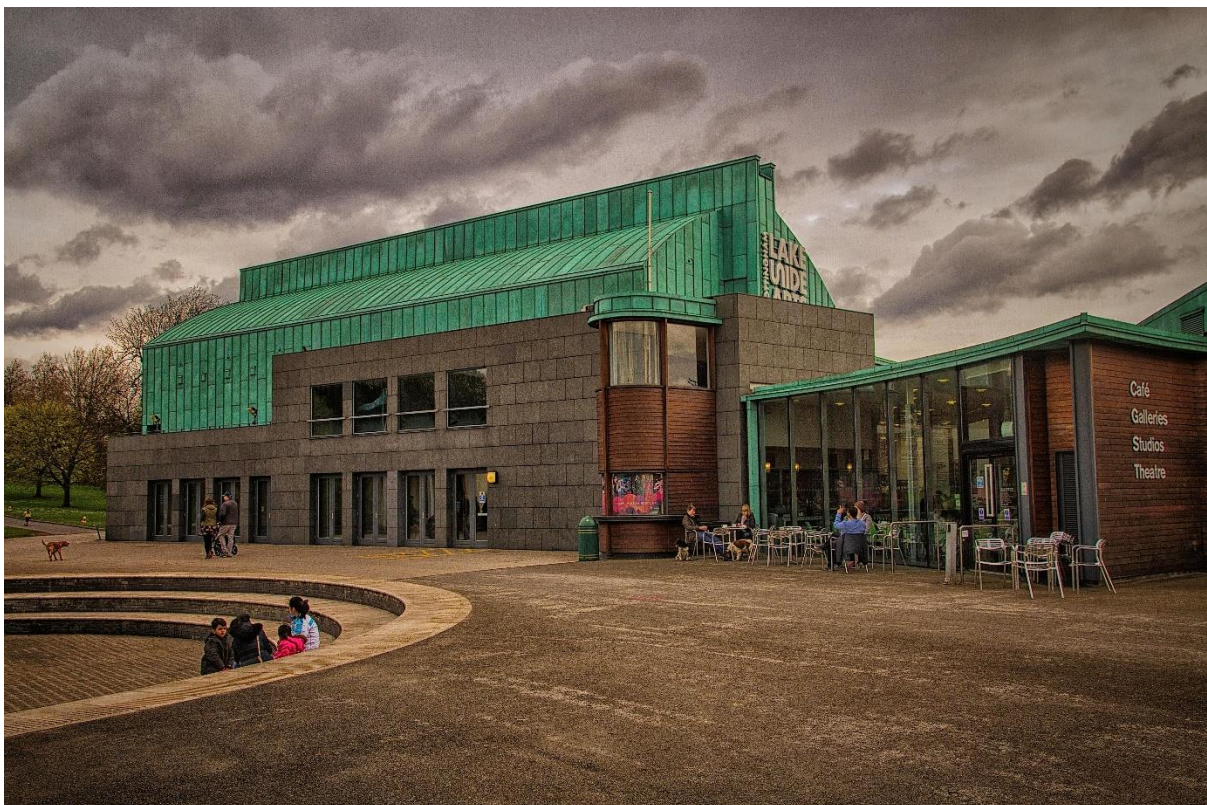


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