

Dear all

I hope that you will be interested in taking part in these summer events:

A Poetry Picnic

A geopoetics gathering will take place on **Saturday 22 July at 12 noon at The Stones of Scotland in Regent Road Park Edinburgh** where we will read poems and enjoy the food of life. Artist LesleyMay Miller who helped create The Stones will be there and it is hoped that Tessa Ransford will join us and read some of her poems. Please let LesleyMay know if you can come (and bring along your favourite poems (if you wish) and something to eat and drink.

To get there go east from Princes Street along Waterloo Place into Regent Road past the former Royal High School and Regent Road Park is on the right hand side.

Walking the Coast

A stravaig along the south coast of the Firth of Forth is provisionally planned for either **Saturday 5th or 12th August, or (and) 23rd September**. It is not specifically a bird outing but, since this is the period for autumn migration, a pair of binoculars would be an asset. We are planning to car-share and stop/stravaig at several places between Musselburgh and Dunbar. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eddie (weddie1@staffmail.ed.ac.uk) for further details, indicate your preferred date, and whether or not you can provide a car.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

On Tuesday 15 August at 12.30 pm Jim McCarthy will be discussing with Georgina Howell his latest book about the life of Selim Aga, a Sudanese slave who ended up lecturing to fashionable London society.

On Sunday 27 August at 7.30 pm Kenneth White will give a talk on *Along the High Lines* – figuring out the way towards a world culture. His new book *On the Atlantic Edge* is now out and available from Sandstone Press or from me.

Book early for both at 0845 373 58888 or online at www.edbookfest.co.uk.

On the evening of Saturday 26 August Kenneth White will also give a reading at The Bakehouse, Gatehouse of Fleet. Cars will be going from Edinburgh (contact Bill Eddie) and from Glasgow (contact me).

Other News

Mouth of Silence, a new play by Gerry Loose about exile and return and how peace is not a magic word, it needs to be worked at, is touring Scotland Banchory to Gigha by way of Harris after its successful premiere at the Tramway.

See www.birdsofparadisetheatre.co.uk for dates and venues. Not to be missed.

In Search of Stansylvania Forty-Two Poems by Stan Bell is just out and available from Schiltron 419 North Woodside Road Glasgow G20 6NN price £5.99 including p&p made out to Stan Bell. It is thematic insofar as it is an invitation to explore a specific domain, establish some co-ordinates, some contour lines, reconnoitre the lay of the land and consider some rather diverse landscapes. Well worth locating and reading.

Our next Newsletter will be in late July so please send any items to me for consideration for inclusion by 18 July. Hope you have an enjoyable summer.

All very best

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